



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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## Inside...



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James Langton connects with a right in his boxing fight. See page 17.

# Are we losing sight of polytechnics role

“The most important role of the polytech’s is to serve the community”, said Deputy Leader of the Labour Party Grant Robertson adding that this was perhaps being lost sight of.

He was speaking at a meeting in New Plymouth. Andrew Little MP also addressed the meeting held on Monday March 4 at St Joseph’s Church Hall, Powderham Street. A hot topic was the situation of polytechnics in NZ, with particular reference to WITT and Richard Handley, who was not re-appointed as CEO of WITT when his five year term was up. The CEO was in the audience. He was told he was welcome to reapply for his position but chose not to.

Mr Robertson pointed out that in 2009 the National-led Government changed the way polytechnics are run with reference to their governance. The changes were not for the best, he thought, as representation was less comprehensive. Mentioning that he had just visited WITT with Andrew Little, he said that concern amongst the staff was “very widespread”. He added, “What the governing body are doing is not accepted”, he said. Students also had concerns about the situation “We really care about what is happening” was the prevailing feeling.

Earlier, Mr Robertson lamented the fact that 1,900 students had left school before the age of 16, which was permitted by way of an

‘exemption’. “We have no idea where they are now”, commented Mr Robertson. He added, “We can’t have them just drifting around”.

He continued, “As a country we need to be more ‘hands on’ adding “This Government is hands off”.

He had some comments on the economy, notably in connection with affordable newly-built houses. “We need new ways to look at the economy” He pointed out that only 5% of the homes built in the last 12 months could be termed “affordable” – that is around the \$300,000 mark.

As regards job creation he said that Mr Key had promised 170,000 new jobs, but instead, “There were 30,000 jobs lost in the last year”. Returning to the earlier theme he repeated, “We need to be more hands on”.

A missed opportunity was giving the contract to build new NZ Rail train carriages to overseas manufacturers (in China), instead of the Hillside Workshop in Dunedin who “lost out” by the move.



Grant Robertson, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, speaking in New Plymouth recently.



## Devouring the news

Hudson Simons (4 months) devouring the latest news - “after we had read it of course” says proud grandmother Gail Simons from Inglewood who sent in the photo. “There was a tantrum when we took it away from her.”

He highlighted the importance of the regions, as opposed to just the large cities, such as Auckland. “It is the regions that make New Zealand the great country it is”, he observed. “We need to invest in the regions”, he concluded.

Mr Robertson outlined some policies a Labour-led government would legislate

for, if elected. One was a capital gains tax (of 15%) on a second house – not the family home. With respect to employment, a subsidy would be offered to employers as an incentive to take on people who are on the unemployment benefit.

Mr Robertson dealt with a

*Continued page 3*

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Next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is on March 28 -get your contributions in early

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**Letters to the editor**

**Fluoridation of water supplies**

Good on you for publishing arguments both for and against in the same issue.

Those on either side are invariably highly qualified and quote some pretty impressive research back up. They are also professionals and not the sort of people likely to push their barrows for personal gain. We hope - unlike the spin doctors from the drug companies or those with political agendas.

So where does it put we lay people when even they can't agree on whether it's a good thing or not? Up the creek without a paddle I'd suggest. The same creek as the self important Councillors or Politicians who are none the wiser yet seem to think they are better placed to make a decision for us - which is pretty arrogant, given that we were trusted with enough intelligence to put them where they are.

Although in retrospect, in some cases maybe it just proves how gullible we are.

It should be decided by public vote. End of story.

*John Leith JP Oakura*

I was interested to read Dr Keith Blayney's reply to the fluoride debate stating it was "NOT mass medication; it is adjusting a trace element already present in the water to the ideal level." That statement is untrue!

In fact the element added to the Hawera, Okaiawa, Ohawe, Normanby and probably Waverly and Patea

water is hydrofluorosilicic acid (supplied by Orica). I doubt very much that this "toxic waste" is already in our water.

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act classifies Hydrofluorosilicic Acid as "persistent", "bio-accumulative" and "toxic". Environment Canada classifies it as a "hazardous substance". Transport Canada classifies it as a "dangerous good".

The US Environmental Protection Agency classifies it as "class one hazardous". Dr J William Hirzy (2000) Senior Chemist at the US EPA Headquarters states; 'If this stuff (hydrofluorosilicic acid) gets out in the air, it's a pollutant; if it gets into the river, it's a pollutant; if it gets into the lake, it's a pollutant; but if it goes straight into your drinking water system, it's not a pollutant. That's amazing". The U.S. EPA staff refuse to drink fluoridated water in their workplace and have to be supplied with unfluoridated "bottled water".

The answer could be here: Rebecca Hamner (1983) Deputy Assistant Administrator For Water US EPA states: "In regard to the use of fluorosilicic acid as a source of fluoride for fluoridation, this agency regards such use as an ideal environmental solution to a long-standing problem. By recovering by-product fluorosilicic acid from fertilizer manufacturing. Water and

air pollution are minimized". In other words the solution to pollution is dilution!

How many would know that the majority of European countries (not Third World) except Britain and Northern Ireland refuse to fluoridate their drinking water

Could I respectfully suggest that those community leaders who advocate water fluoridation check out an article by a "former" advocate John Colquhoun. Former Principal Dental Officer for Auckland "Why I Changed My Mind About Water Fluoridation" who said: "I had fiercely-and, I now regret, rather arrogantly - poured scorn on another Council member (a lay person who had heard and accepted the case against fluoridation) and persuaded the Mayor and majority of my fellow councillors to agree on fluoridation of our water supply".

*Bill Hazeldine Normanby*

**I just can't accept**

I often read Pastor Richard Oliver's opinions if for no other reason than I have a morbid fascination at how irrational individuals can become once blind belief overcomes common sense. His latest musings about the 'Day of the Lord' are a mix of amusing and absurd statements. The Taleban are currently getting a bad rap for lashings and chopping

off the hands of sinners but here we have, in a conservative rural newspaper, a local pastor advocating that these same folk will soon 'get their just rewards'. That's Bible speak for being put to death. Exterminated not by fellow men but by the God he worships and extorts us to worship as well (or suffer the fate). The good Pastor claims to know that the Lord's day is close due to the fact the world is apparently having bigger storms, earthquakes and general catastrophes. All sent by the Lord as a forewarning - and bugger the collateral damage to believers and non believers alike.

I'm sorry Mr Oliver, I just can't bring myself to "take grace" and accept your vengeful, harsh and cruel (your words not mine) God. According to you this is the bloke who is going to murder anyone who has ever stolen, cheated or even told a lie - unless of course you accept Christ, because that makes it all OK.

I imagine after the "distress and destruction" - the genocide of the general public this entails - it's going to be a very lonely world for the righteous.

Unless - of course - just like all the other times, he fails to turn up.

*B.Davies Okato*

**BBC Rejected again**

He was rejected. The One who had created the World, had spoken to Abraham, and had led Israel as a pillar of cloud through the wilderness, was now in human form. He was rejected.

His crime?

Jesus pointed back to the Bible. This showed where the historical church had gone astray. But rather than say, "Sorry" and accept the written Word of God they crucified the Living Word of God.

The Scribes and Pharisees had got things wrong. They controlled the people by saying they had the historical truth. Only they could judge what was right or wrong.

But we wouldn't do that today, would we? 'Wanna bet?

The Christian church has

gained traditions by the tonne. It also has a range of standardised beliefs and dogma. Just as with the scribes and Pharisees, some of these are different from the Bible. The issue is, if Jesus came and pointed out the errors would they say, "Sorry" and accept the Bible as the final authority?

Jesus came as a carpenter, not through the church training colleges. He did miracles but He taught things differently. He was outside the system.

God sent a simple man, William Branham, whose world ministry went from 1947 to 1965. There were healings, miracles, raising of the dead, more than is listed for Jesus of Nazareth. (It isn't the man, but it is God in the man that counts.)

Jesus promised He would live through His Believers. He also promised that He would send Elijah the Prophet to restore all things. Was this man the one with the Spirit of Elijah sent to forerun the secret coming of Christ?

Well the test has to be does he point us back to the Bible just as the original Elijah did on Mount Carmel and Jesus did with the Pharisees?

And the answer is yes. The message brought by this prophet does exactly that. But now there is a choice once again. Shall we sing praises in church on Sunday just as the people did on Palm Sunday and shall we then cry "Crucify the Message" on Friday like good Pharisees?

Or will you determine to

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accept the Bible as God's Word and check out the truth about the Message? After all, it could just be the Word of God for today!

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From left are Whina Waiariki, Ariarna Hickey, Jaydene Transom and Siobahn Manuel. These young women are the student leaders at Coastal Taranaki School.

# Head students Coastal Taranaki School all girls

Whina Waiariki and Ariarna Hickey share the role of Head Student. Both are aged 17. The Deputy Head students are Jaydene Transom (17) and Siobahn Manuel (16).

### Whina Waiariki

"It took me a while (for it to sink in). It was overwhelming" – was her reaction to her appointment.

This year she is studying Hospitality, Biology (Levels 2 and 3), English, Performing Arts – and her favourite – Te Reo Maori.

In her role as leader she intends to encourage closer integration of the Junior and Senior parts of the school. She also hopes to promote more sports within the school, including games such as netball.

When not studying, music and her friends occupy her time.

When Whina leaves school she will train to become a nurse.

### Ariarna Hickey

"I was surprised and excited and a little bit shocked," said

Ariarna at hearing the news she was to be Head Girl. She added that she was pleased to share the role with Whina as she is a good friend and they should work well together.

This year she is studying English, Chemistry, Physical Education, Drama, as well as her co-favourites Social Studies and Biology.

As a student leader Ariarna is keen to strengthen the link between the Senior and Junior school. She also intends to ensure assemblies – which the student leaders run – are fun and enjoyable.

Her interests include surfing and, in winter, snowboarding.

When she leaves school she intends to attend university (Otago or Victoria) to study Marine Ecology or Geology. "I'm looking forward to (the rest of) this year", she concludes.

### Jaydene Transom

Jaydene explains that last year she was Arts Captain. "I was surprised they gave me two leadership roles. I was quite pleased – it gave me variety on the spectrum", she commented.

This year she is studying her two favourites English and Media Studies, as well as Drama, IT, Hospitality and Art.

In her role as a leader she is keen to get the school involved more in charities. She feels that there is room for improvement in this respect. She hopes to promote a stronger link between the Junior and Senior schools to "create that bond".

For relaxation, art and music are her focus. She enjoys

playing the acoustic guitar and is self-taught.

As to the future she intends a career in journalism, which she expects will require university study.

### Siobahn Manuel

Her reaction to being appointed a student leader? "I was really surprised as I am younger than the others at 16 and in Year 12". She adds, "I was really happy".

This year she is studying English, Mathematics, Biology, Art, Hospitality and her favourite – Drama. She says she is involved in running the school productions and has always been "interested in the film business".

As a leader she intends to publicize the school more. "They know we're here, but not how we compare with other schools".

In her spare time she plays the acoustic guitar. She also enjoys interacting with her family, a close unit.

When Siobahn leaves school she intends to train as a paramedic.

# Are we losing sight of polytechnics role

Continued from page 1

number of questions from the floor. One was why was the Government so popular (according to opinion polls) when there had been a number of mishaps. He likened the electoral landscape to a tactical 1500 metres race and concluded, "The General Election is the only poll that matters".


In response to a question regarding education, he listed several government initiatives or proposals as "distractions". Examples included league type tables and "the class size nonsense last year". "We must stop the stupid distractions", he stated.

The Novopay debacle was aired. "It is showing no signs

of improving. This cannot go on". He thought a possible way forward was to reinstate the previous Datacom system, which had been dismantled (but would need reactivating) and run it in parallel with the Novopay system.

There was a petition on the asset sale programme to be signed by those who wished. It read, "Do you support the Government selling up to 49% of Meridian Energy, Mighty River Power, Genesis Power, Solid Energy and Air NZ.

It continued. To the House of Representatives we, the undersigned, pursuant to the Citizens Initiated Referenda Act 1993 ask that an indicative referendum be held on the following question.



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## Contributors to the paper

Please could contributors, if emailing their articles, send the article as a Word attachment - preferably without logos etc included, just the text and also labelled. eg., Timbuktu Golf News etc. Also please don't put a space between paragraphs.

It's also helpful if photos accompanying articles are also identically labelled so they don't get become dissociated from the article (there is less likelihood of them being accidentally left out). It is also helpful if captions for photos accompanying articles are writ-

ten at the bottom of the article and not sent separately. This format is much easier for us to process and minimises mistakes occurring.

Your co-operation in this is most appreciated. Also please note the email address on the inside cover (bottom of page 2). Some people are still using our old gmail which we are trying to phase out.

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Editor

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## COUNCILLORS COMMENT



Alex Ballantyne

It's funny how little phrases can take hold if they're repeated often enough. It must be election year because 'too many councils' has reared its grizzled head again, and now

'cultural centre' has been coined by a recent visitor from the beehive to describe New Plymouth - based on an expensive footpath, some imported events, and the upcoming construction of a giant urinal.

Frankly, if we must have clichés, I prefer 'common sense', which really just means 'experience'. It's what retained our bank and port, and what reminds us that rule from the top by a self-appointed elite has never worked, anywhere. It's what warns us that hocking off profitable assets that make energy out of rain might not be the best idea in the world, and that paying individuals

squillions doesn't guarantee great results.

Thankfully, South Taranaki is common-sense heartland. 'Greed is good' never took root here, and we fought and kept our Community Boards and grass-roots spirit. Our coastal walkways remain the glorious expanses God made, and in Rotokare Sanctuary we have the only oasis in the entire country for the last 800 years in its pristine, pest-free, pre-human state.

Eltham's Chew Chong pioneered the dairy industry (and invented share milking), from Parihaka came the peaceful resistance example to Gandhi and billions thereafter, and from the back-

blocks of Waitotora Rewi Alley brought Gung Ho to China, the English language, and South Taranaki's country-leading volunteer heroes.

Innovation, steadfastness, selfless humility, honest go-for-it endeavour: the birthplace of good ideas and inspiration to all humanity forever. Now that's what I call a cultural centre. And common sense tells us it's not a bad place to be. Rotokare working bee every Sunday 9.00am, good company, free mouth-watering tucker, please check your car for mice first.

Alex Ballantyne, Councillor  
Eltham-Kaponga ward.

## Lions Christmas cheer for Hospice

**RIGHT:** Opunake Lakeside Lions President, Kaye Mourie was delighted to present a cheque to Kevin Neilson, from the Rangimaire Hospice. The money was from the very successful Christmas Homes project. Some of the other people who helped this Lions project were, from left, Rosalie Drummond, Wilma Crawford, Lynley Lark, and Kelly Langton. This presentation was at the Opunake Lakeside Lions Club's March tea meeting at the Club Hotel in Opunake.



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## Design competition for Okato's festive lights

A design competition will see Okato's identity depicted in festive streetlights.

The Kaitake Community Board is calling for entries to the Okato Festive Street Lighting

Design Competition, where people can submit designs based on the town's unique character.

Board member Teresa Goodin says the competition is in response to public requests over the last few years for Christmas lights in

the town.

"It costs about the same to build these lights from original designs as it does to buy them off the shelf, so we thought we'd take the opportunity to have Okato reflected in the four curtain lights that will hang from lamp posts," she says.

"We want people to submit designs that are unique and reflect the character and identity of Okato."

The entries will be judged by a panel of local residents.

Entry forms are available from Coastal Taranaki School's community library, and the competition closes at noon on 28 March.

In addition to the competition, the community board is looking at having festive lighting installed on the clock roundabout (subject to approval from Transit New Zealand), and is talking with the RSA about lighting the War Memorial Cenotaph.

## District's water sources lowering every day

The district's water sources are continuing to drop as rain stays away from Taranaki.

Manager of Water and Wastes, Mark Hall, says the Waiwhakaiho River's water flow has reduced by eight million litres per day during the last seven days.

Okato's Mangatete Steam is causing the most concern, with the town close to having a prohibition on all water use except for essential use.

"Water is a scarce commodity throughout New Plymouth District and we expect that to only worsen over the coming fortnight, given the weather forecast," says Mr Hall.

"We really need residents

to cut back their water use

as much as possible. Let the car stay dusty for a few weeks, make sure washing machines and dishwashers are full before you use them, and water your gardens only once or twice a week and in the early mornings and late evenings to reduce evaporation."

The district's water restrictions prohibit the use of sprinklers, irrigation systems and unattended hoses. Residents may use only handheld hoses on the odds and evens system: Odd-numbered houses on odd-numbered days, and even-numbered houses on even-numbered

days.

Last Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March the district used 42.7 million litres of water. On Sunday, when about 10mm of rain fell in some areas, water use dropped 18 per cent to 35 million litres - which also saved \$8,000 in water treatment costs.

"Reducing water use not only helps conserve our water supplies but also save money," says Mr Hall.

"Unfortunately the water use has crept up again this week. We would really like residents to make water saving a family project: Identify where you can use less water around the home and encourage each other to cut back."

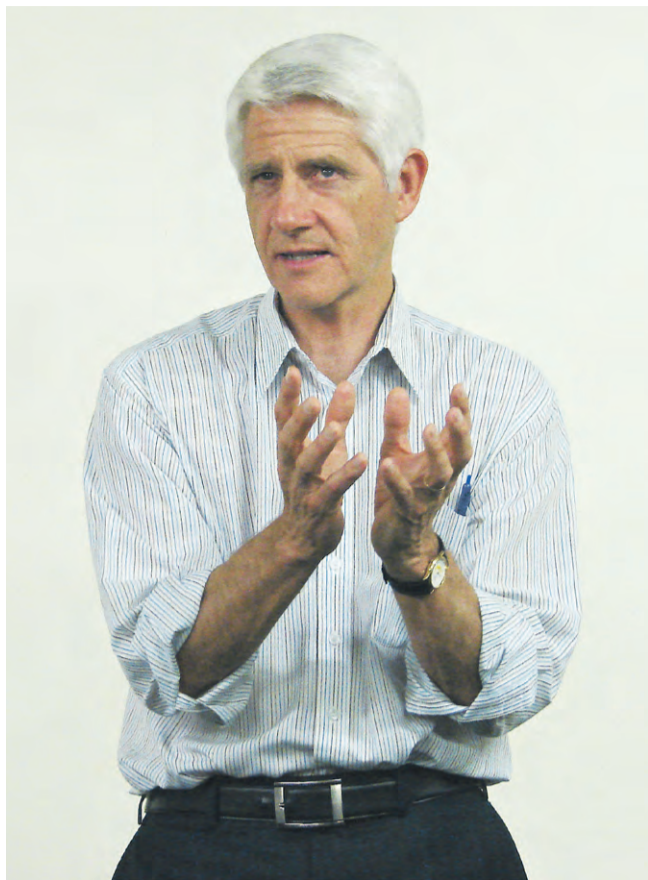
# International effort needed to save the planet

Dr Kennedy Graham MP spoke in New Plymouth at Community House, 32 Leach Street on Tuesday March 5. Dr Graham is the Green Party Spokesperson for Global Affairs, Climate Change, Trade and Foreign Investment, Constitutional Issues, Defence, Disarmament, Population, as well as Associate Finance and Economics.

Dr Graham was introduced by Dr Stuart Bramwell Convenor of the New Plymouth branch of the Green Party Aotearoa.

Dr Graham who became an MP in 2008 and is Vice Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He was formerly a lecturer in International Politics at Canterbury University. He has also worked as a diplomat and been involved in negotiation on behalf of the United Nations, notably the South Pacific nuclear issue. "It's wonderful to be back", he said, explaining that he hadn't been in New Plymouth for some time.

Extremely well versed in statistics and information, Dr Graham argued that NZ, as well as other nations, must put an international stance ahead of narrow nationalistic interests in focusing on helping the world with its global issues such as climate change. He showed a time line going back several hundred years showing how the world had changed from monarchical empires to nation states to 1919 when the advent of international organisations such as the League of Nations (1919). The key year he said was 1981 - "The most significant year in human history". This is the year when man's 'ecological footprint' exceeded the envi-



**Green Party Aotearoa MP Kennedy Graham who spoke in New Plymouth recently.**

ronmental safeguards. From 1981 the global community had to be seen as the prime considerations, rather than narrow nationalistic aims. A "psychic change" is needed for people to grasp this imperative change. He outlined various indices, such as 'earth share'.

He felt there was too much emphasis on GDP and growth. He described several members bills he had drafted to include other important indices.

These days he explained "Scientists are leading the way now" as regards global sustainability and he felt this was a good thing, as opposed to just politicians.

Key Planetary Boundaries must be highlighted more, which included climate change, biodiversity, ozone

depletion, ocean acidity, chemical pollution, aerosol loading, land use and the availability of fresh water. "When are we going to start collaborating?" asked Dr Kennedy. "It is logically impossible to solve a single global problem through the pursuit of competitive nationalistic interests".

He stressed there was some urgency about the global problems. If things do not improve we face six degree increase in global temperature and all the negative consequences that would follow, such as flooded low lying lands. As regards emissions of greenhouse gases Dr Graham lamented, "We are among the worst countries".

He concluded we should be global, not nation-orientated, collaborative not com-

petitive, with our eye on the long term - not short term gain.

Dr Graham a series of of questions.

In the answer to one question as to whether there was hope he replied, "Yes, the youth (at a conference) Boy, are they committed and they know their stuff at least as well as I do".

He was asked about UN leadership, including the UN Security Council. He was disappointed that resolutions are not binding, not enforceable. "What is missing is charismatic leadership at the UN".

Dr Graham concluded on an upbeat note. "Get stuck into climate change - that's democracy".

Dr Bramhall commented after the meeting, "I learned a lot about global affairs - things I didn't dream were happening. She added, "I felt it was very good that he focused on climate change needing to be solved at the international level".

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For further information please see the Trust's website [www.tsbtrust.org.nz](http://www.tsbtrust.org.nz) or contact the Trust Office Phone 06 769 9471 or email [info@tsbtrust.org.nz](mailto:info@tsbtrust.org.nz)



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## COASTAL COPS Eltham



David Lindsay

Hello people,

Still no rain again since the last issue, some of the farmers I've been talking to are getting a bit worried now, you can see the paddocks getting browner by the day. I can't remember a summer like this ever. I'm sure it's

got to give soon and get back to the good old green and wet South Taranaki.

Business has been steady around town lately with a few of the regular customers doing their usual business (and getting caught) and one not so regular.

We had an interesting incident with a 2 year old heifer that decided to go on a rampage through Eltham last week.

The beast was bulling and not interested in anything else. It climbed out of its paddock and made its way around the town, including the main street, chased a few cars, and people, and then left its mark in a few gardens.

We managed to get the animal

into a nearby paddock with some other beefies, however half an hour later it decided to climb back over the fence and go for another tiki tour, finally putting itself in a paddock on Stanners Street.

It was held at bay for a while, but unfortunately after three hours of being out on the town, it was still not satisfied staying in a paddock and the animal met its maker.

Fortunately we had a local butcher good enough to save the meat once the animal was shot (thanks Hilton) and all ended well for the public and the owner. It's not very often you see a cow climb an 8 wire, hot wire, barb wire and timber fences with ease. Just goes to show they are very capable when they have the urge.

Traffic speed and intersection behaviour is still proving an issue at the moment, it's all been said a lot of times before, everyone knows the rules, the zero tolerance will be staying and tickets are flowing. It's all up to you people. In saying that, there are a lot of good courteous and safe drivers out there and to those people - thank you.

If anyone knows any good rain dances, conjures or rituals then now would be a good time please!

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

Const. David Lindsay,  
Eltham Police

## Maureen's rambles 2008



Maureen Gatenby

2010 started in January with a visit back to New Zealand for Manuela, our exchange student from Switzerland. Her plan was to spend up to six months cycling around New Zealand including the Otago Rail Trail. Amongst her gear she carried 12 Kg of camera equipment so when she was fully equipped during her cycling journeys everything was precariously balanced as she is only 150cm tall and the bike was not very big. Before she started the Otago Rail Trail she had visited Stewart Island and been fortunate enough to see a Stewart Island Kiwi outside the hostel one evening. In February we had a family reunion at Riversdale in the Wairarapa to celebrate Naomi's 30th birthday. All three grandchildren were present, but not all the adults as is often the case with family gatherings as the family grows. This is a

good reason to make sure efforts are made to keep contact with all family members, despite the fact that families everywhere are becoming more widespread as people travel the world in search of work or adventure and then settle in places far from their roots.

During February, Colleen and Khyle made the move to Tasmania. They purchased a veterinary practice in Scottsdale, which is in the north east of the island. No more visits to New South Wales with its dry arid areas as Tasmania has a very different climate. In parts it is similar to New Zealand where there is dairying but there is a lot of cropping. They grow onions, potatoes and poppies (for legal opiates), but have a lot of under developed areas as well. There are areas of forestry but there are problems associated with milling as the Green Party is determined to prevent it. Dairying is growing and the climate is usually not too hot in the summer, but this is not always the case.

On our previous visit to Tasmania ( I think about 1996) Maurice and I had experienced a heat wave with temperatures in the 40s and drought conditions including competition for water for irrigation. (Does that sound familiar?) Crops were irrigated and the dairy increase was adding to the issues during dry summers. While searching for some information in March I noticed a position advertised in Ashburton so I decided to apply. Although we were enjoying our time in Southland, the cost in time or money to visit family in the North Island or Tasmania was an incentive to move nearer to Christchurch with its international airport. I was successful so the move was planned for Queen's Birthday weekend. April had been earmarked for a trip to Japan to visit our students and take in the Blossom Festival. This

was certainly an interesting experience. Simryoung Cho lived in Osaka and Marcus was based at Osaka University so they both made time to escort us around during the weekend. We all squeezed into a train to travel to Kyoto for the day. The number of people squeezed into these train carriages would not be permitted in New Zealand. The blossoms were certainly very pretty, but as with most blossoms they do not last very long. We visited pagodas and temples as well as a castle and had a very interesting time.

We also managed a trip to Nagoya, Mt Fujiyama and then on to Tokyo. Working conditions are less structured than in New Zealand so Aya was only able to spend a short time with us and share a meal. Work finished when the boss decided not at 5.00pm so she could not guarantee what time she would arrive but we had a lovely evening although brief. Another difference is that there are no set holiday periods included in their employment contracts and certainly not eight hour days. We returned to Osaka on one of the bullet trains to spend our last weekend with Marcus and Simryoung before returning home.

May was a wake-up call. One does to tend to take one's health for granted, but no-one ever knows when it will be their turn to face a major issue. Joint problems pale into insignificance compared with life threatening illnesses but I was fortunate that an early diagnosis, followed by surgery when we moved to Ashburton has resulted in a successful outcome. We managed to sell our house in Invercargill and purchased one in Ashburton, which was a relatively new brick home with no lawns but room to park the campervan. July announced the arrival of grandchild number 4 as Ronald and Heather's Charlie was born. About the same time Ronald decided

to look for a new employment opportunity. This resulted in their move to New Plymouth so we now had no family in the South Island.

As a new challenge I had learnt to ride my Vespa scooter and was using it to get to and from work. Ashburton is all flat and it was 7.2 km each way so was more economic than using the car. Most people are aware of the major event which occurred in September that year. We were woken with a sharp jolt from the earthquake which was the first one and it caused plenty of damage in the farming area near Darfield as well as Christchurch city. We were fortunate not to suffer any damage.

We were affected by the snowfall in the same season. We did not lose any production days, but I had to be driven to work one day as there was 20cm of snow around the house. This was the only snow we experienced during our time in Ashburton.

In November we welcomed number 5 grandchild as Colleen and Khyle's Archie was born in October so naturally a trip to Tasmania was scheduled for Christmas and the year ended with a barbecue attended by South Africans, Aussies, and Kiwis all farming in the area and now calling Tasmania home.

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# Harrismment hilarious

There's just one word for Hawera Repertory's latest production - 'hilarious'. Next in line is the word - 'unexpected'.

The season for Harrismment ran from March 2 to 9 and the show was held at Repertory House, Collins Street, Hawera. It involved three one act plays by Richard Harris. The British playwright has been involved with such TV programmes as 'The Avengers', 'The Saint' and 'A Touch of Frost'.

The Production Manager was Lorraine Wilkie and the Stage Manager Sandra Richards, who've done a great job.

First up was 'Plaster', directed by Hollie Weir. Mike Avery played a bedridden husband being visited by his wife (Linda Jefferies). He's been involved in an accident, but the situation is unusual. Why has he got another woman in the crashed car with him and why are his pants elsewhere? Luckily, Husband has a logical answer for every one of Wife's persistent questions and she seems to accept them - or does she? Well-acted, very funny with an unexpected twist right at the end.

The second play was 'Keeping Mum' and this is also directed by Hollie Weir. Samantha Turner is the careworn middle aged daughter engaged in delivering a monologue to an old lady in bed (Lorraine Wilkie) - is it her mother? All sorts of stuff emerges - love, resentment, anger, angst over lost opportunities. The ending is startling. How did Samantha



Mike Avery (husband) and Linda Jefferies (wife) in 'Plaster'. Albert is acted by Donnella Weir (the au pair), Clive Cullen (Italian) and David Rei Miller (Englishman).

manage to learn her huge part with such panache - word perfect. Excellent.

After a brief interval was the third and last play 'Albert', which is directed by Shane Martin. The cast is a Finnish au pair (Donnella Weir), an Italian (Clive Cullen) and an Englishman (David Rei Miller). The trouble is one of the three speak the others language and much guessing takes place - not much of it accurate. Misunderstandings are the order of the day in a hilarious manner. Great effort by all three players culminating in the most startling ending of all three plays.

Excellent acting by the players - and superb performance by Samantha Turner

and Clive Cullen.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Much credit to all who were involved in the production.

Don't miss Hawera Repertory's next production 'The Wizard of Oz', directed by Russ Standing. The season runs from June 28 to July 6.

Rolland McKellar



'Keeping Mum' features Samantha Turner as the daughter. The lady in bed is Lorraine Wilkie.

## Mentoring programme at primary school

Just last week Opunake Primary School started a mentoring programme for boy students in the school. The adult mentors are Beau Le Prou and Curtis Wright. However, the more able students also fulfil a mentoring role as they guide and instruct others. "It's hard you have to try to help", commented John Ison (11).

"He's a pretty good mentor", conceded Tyrel Jones (11) who was working with John.

On the first day - Tuesday March 5 the focus was the maintenance of bicycles. "Absolutely amazing" was Beau's reaction to how the programme was faring thus far. "I'm so impressed", he added. He said that 24 bicycles had been gathered up and were being worked on by the students.

Curtis was also pleased. "It's the enthusiasm", he said. He was especially impressed with one student Isaac King (aged 11), adding that the student was "very hands on".

Isaac himself was certainly enjoying himself. "It's fun and interesting. (although) I already knew about bikes", he said.



Two students hard at work.

What exactly were they doing to the bicycles? "I'm taking this apart and am going to put different wheels on and parts if needed", explained Jamie Tito-Collins. Another student Jacob Symons (12) had this to say about the programme. "It's been very interesting. I've learned a lot already. Curtis has showed me some tricks".

The mentoring programme will continue on a once a fortnight basis and will occupy the whole school day. Other activities in the pipeline include making kites, rafts and using kayaks. Looking forward to next year, the Opunake Lions Raft race could well be something to work towards, according to the mentors.

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## The Contribution of Local Saints

On Saturday I was with hundreds of others celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Tot Town Train at Kowhai Park. I wonder how many hundreds of thousands of children, parents, and grandparents have photographs filling albums depicting smiling faces on this most iconic of New Zealand's railways. The train, like the rest of Kowhai Park, is an incredibly simple idea yet in this age where so much of the entertainment we provide for young ones is technical, expensive and exclusive the park is cheap, simple and inclusive. There are plenty of cities who did the same thing in the 1960's and parks were built with much enthusiasm but over time they have been dismantled and replaced. But Kowhai Park lives on. I can't think of another which has enjoyed such universal support even from those living outside of the province.

In fact, the therapy of playing on concrete animals, swings, slides and trains is that it is best done with somebody to push the swing, chase round the dinosaur and wave to from the train. So friendships formed, birthdays celebrated, arguments settled and (in our modern domestic situation) access visits held. The language of play is multi-lingual, cross-cultural, ethnically diverse, and ignorant of social status. The Lions and Jaycees who built the park are among a smallish group whose legacy is priceless and enduring. They are like Bushy Park, Rotokare Reserve, Tawhiti Museum, Nowells Lakes, Bason Reserve and some others in and around our electorate where people of vision and altruism have bitten off an idea and turned it into a project, convinced others of

the merits of turning the dream into a reality and have left their mark indelibly on our landscape in the best possible way and largely without personal gain. Some would argue that unless a project can turn a profit it must not be done and unless an amenity can directly pay its way it is a loss. These people would never grow flowers because you can't eat them and would not keep an animal that would never make its way into the pot for the same reason. They would never hang a painting on the wall that wasn't truly and historically representative or important or read a poem they couldn't fully understand for at least the second time.

The value of these projects is not measured by the fees they generate, though many are directly profitable or at least pay their way, and their value is not even in their indirect profit such as fish and chip meals bought to picnic beside the swings and slides at Kowhai Park, though I bet the indirect profit is huge. The value is in the amenity nature of the project; the cultural values of the art, the social value of the playground; the ecological and conservation values of bush reserves; the historical values of museums and galleries.

Each community thankfully has its saints who come up with their ideas and have the will to put their time, money, and energy where their hearts are. We are grateful to them and forever shall be.

Chester Borrows

MP for Whanganui

021722636

## Mighty River sell-off good for the few



Andrew Little, List MP

So, apparently the country has gone wild over registering for Mighty River Power shares now the green light has been given for the sell-off by the Supreme Court. I don't buy the hype.

Around 240 000 people have registered to buy shares. That's about ten per cent of all wage and salary earners in New Zealand. These will be the people who can afford

it. Ninety per cent can't.

The arguments about why selling our power companies isn't a good idea haven't changed. If anything, a couple of things have confirmed the suspicions many of us have had all along.

Firstly, the rush to queue up for shares is consistent with every other float of a government-owned business here and overseas - many are people who know there is a strong market amongst corporate investors like insurance companies and super-annuation funds for utilities like Mighty River Power. The corporate investors won't get much of a look-in first up as the government desperately shows that 85% of the shares go to New Zealand investors.

That figure will be right for about a week or two. Then the offers will fly thick and

fast from the corporates. Many initial investors will sell and get a fantastic return on their initial outlay.

The wealth locked up in the business that you and I and every other taxpayer funded to set up will end up in the hands of a few.

The second thing that's been happening is in the behaviour of Mighty River Power and its directors.

Up until the company is listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange, it is a state-owned enterprise and comes under the public scrutiny of bureaucrats, cabinet ministers and members of Parliament. Admittedly, the oversight of bureaucrats and ministers didn't stop the state coal company, Solid Energy, from teetering on the brink. But the oversight of other MPs in Parliament is important.

When faced with this last week, Mighty River Power directors treated the process with contempt. They refused to answer written questions they have answered every other year in many previous reviews.

The directors also announced they will pay more of the company's net profit out in dividends than they've ever done before rather than use it for on-going investment in power plant to ensure security of power supply for New Zealand.

These are the same directors who are paying themselves more in fees for the partial sell-off.

They know who they are there to look after. Under privatisation, it won't be you and me. It'll be their small number of owners.

## Reducing Government debt and growth the focus

We need to remember that many countries are facing an intensifying debt crisis and the Government's minority share offers programme will reduce the need to go further into debt to volatile overseas markets, all while ensuring that Mighty River Power remains in government control with a minimum of 51% ownership.

Reducing government debt and improving the country's economic growth are two big items on the government's agenda. Our plan is helping New Zealanders and their families to get ahead here in New Zealand, encouraging personal responsibility, and rewarding people for hard work and enterprise.

Added to helping New Zealanders in their everyday lives, the Government is also on target to get back to surplus in 2014/15. This will mean we can start repaying debt, reducing our vulnerability to overseas lenders, and building a buffer against future shocks. All of this ensures people have a sense of

security about the future.

Here are some things that have improved in New Zealander's lives:

- In 2012, our economy grew faster than at any time since 2007
- After-tax wages up 20% since 2008 - almost twice the inflation rate
- 3 in every 4 income earners pay no more than 17.5% income tax
- Record low interest rates: a family with \$200,000 mortgage is \$200 a week better off
- The average family pays about \$25 a week less in tax
- Household disposable income up almost a third since 2008
- 65,000 net new jobs over the past 3 years
- 28% company tax, lower than Australia
- Lowest rate of inflation since 1999

- NZ Super up 22% since 2008. Married couples receive \$194 more a fortnight.

That has got to cheer you up. In terms of New Zealanders feeling safer in their homes and streets, we have seen the lowest crime rate in 30 years. We have 600 more frontline police. There are 3000 fewer victims of crime in the past year and 4000 crime victims getting better support services. This is through the \$50 offender levy which is funding 13 support services for victims. We have seen 6000 families protected by police safety orders. New Zealander is a safer place today than it what it was when National came into office.

The National-led government is working hard to see results that are improving your way of life. We intend to turn this country around so you and our young people have a brighter future in a land where opportunity increasingly abounds.

## Zero demand for private charter schools

The latest Government announcement calling for expressions of interest in running Charter schools has met with a barrage of criticism from several quarters. The President of the New Zealand Principals' Federation (NZPF) Philip Harding is dismayed at the haste with which the Government is trying to push through the latest private school model.

"No one is calling for Charter schools," said Mr Harding. "I don't hear parents out there lobbying Government

for Charter schools, the professional educators aren't calling for them and the academics who have critiqued Charter schools' performance overseas give them the thumbs down," he said.

"I am concerned that we have yet another reform in front of us which, like increasing class sizes, has not been properly thought through and does not emanate from any sound evidence base for improving the education of Kiwi Kids," he said.

"It is not the time to start rushing through another unnecessary, unsupported and unwanted educational reform," said Mr Harding. "Let's first get the Novopay shambles sorted then we can sanely explore ways to address the Government's goal to improve learning outcomes for our struggling kids. Let's not leap headlong into Charter schools which could well prove to be a disaster every bit as bad as increasing class sizes or Novopay itself," he said.

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# New sun shelter and soft fall matting for Kindergarten

A large crowd of parents, grandparents and others gathered on Friday March 8 to see Opunake Communities Kindergarten's new outside play area officially opened. There are two important safety features. There is a translucent curved covering to keep the rain off, but let the light through. This was provided by NZ Shades, as well as a soft fall artificial grass provided by Numat (Wanganui) a safety precaution in case of any falls from the outdoor equipment.

Firstly, there was an opening welcome by Head Teacher Diane Chapman. She thanked the people who had turned up, "To celebrate this spectacular outside play area". She thanked various people such as Claire Hunn and Leanne Keller, as well as various organisations, but reserved special praise for Suzi Pentelow for coming up with the idea and working so hard to make it happen.



Suzi Pentelow cuts the ribbon to officially open the new play area.

Pastor Murray McEwan blessed the play area. He said a prayer and sprinkled holy water on the children. He pointed out that there was no kindergarten when

his children were growing up, such as this "lovely facility". He admired the fact that the children were "all dressed up - a lot of super heroes".

There was also a brief address by Mel Thompson, Chairperson of the Governance and Management Committee. She mentioned that fundraising was continuing, "We are still fundraising for it", she explained.

There were two delightful musical items by the children 'Galoop Went the Little Green Frog' and "If You're Happy and You Know It Clap Your Hands".

The official ribbon was cut by Suzi Pentelow who had put a lot of effort into bringing the proposed project to fruition.

The project wasn't cheap - in fact it cost about \$60,000. To raise the money there were raffles, and a Market Day amongst other activities organised by the PTA. The NZ Community Trust and TSB Community Trust also made generous donations.

Final word goes to a parent Shinade Fraser. "It's fantastic. Just a wonderful achievement for everyone". Her son especially liked the fireman suit, incidentally.



Opunake Communities Kindergarten's outdoor play area at the official opening on March 8.

# Low stream prompts Okato hose ban

A hose ban will soon be in place in Okato as the town's water source continues to lower.

The Mangatete Stream has dropped to a level that requires Okato to reduce its water demand. As a result, from midnight on Wednesday (13 MARCH) there will be a ban on the use of all hoses in the town.

"We can still draw water from the Mangatete but we're required under our consent to reduce the demand from users, and stopping the use of hoses will be an enormous help," says Manager Water and Wastes Mark Hall. "The stream has never been this low before."

The use of sprinklers and irrigation systems is already prohibited throughout the district. Residents outside Okato may use hand-held hoses only on the odds and evens system. Anyone who is reported for

breaking a water prohibition will receive a letter from the Council to remind them of the restriction. If they continue to break the prohibition, the Council will consider restricting the flow of water to their property while the water prohibition is in place.

"We've never had to restrict a flow during a dry spell before - people have always responded pretty well to the first reminder," says Mr Hall.

Water use in many areas of the district flattened off last week, but has since risen again.

"We've had a spike of use in Oakura, which is concerning as one of the town's two reservoirs is out of service for repairs.

"We need to maintain fire-fighting capacity in that reservoir so conservation efforts are needed in the town." Water levels in the Waiwhakaiho River have

continued to drop, by six million litres per day during the last week.

A hose ban might not be needed in New Plymouth, Bell Block, Waitara, Tikorangi, Onearo and Urenui - which are all supplied by the Waiwhakaiho River - if residents in these areas maintain their water conservation efforts.

"Inglewood's source stream is doing OK - the issue there is sediment in some of the old pipes being stirred up by the drawing down of a lot of water. The lower the town's water demand is, the clearer the water will be," says he says.

• Car wash businesses are not required to stop their activities during the prohibition. "These businesses are more efficient with water than they look - particularly those that recycle water within the car wash system," says Mr Hall.

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# Opunake Dairy under new management

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Opunake Dairy at 148 Tasman Street is under new management. The new lease-holders are Michelle Taupo, Anthony Taupo, Anne Paparoa and Wendy Weiler. It's early days but so far the venture is, "Very hectic but enjoyable". The new management team hail from Auckland, but were drawn to Opunake by the friendliness of the people here, coupled with the scenic beauty of the local environment. They mention the attractive coast and Mount Taranaki.

The members of the management team have complementary skills which allow a multi-faceted approach. Michelle, for example, has



Wendy and Zoe Kruse (aged 6).

accountancy abilities, as she has a Bachelor of Commerce degree. Her mother Wendy has worked in HR (Human Relations), has accounting skills, as well as being a former psychologist. Anthony and Anne have a background in transport, which is useful as the business has a mobile food trailer, which will regularly visit such venues as the TSB Hub in Hawera to provide beverages and food for the hungry rugby fans and players. "Although this is a new area all our different skills mesh together", explains Wendy.

The team do not intend any major changes just yet, although they have some ideas for the future, such

as the provision of freshly-baked gluten free food for those who require it, such as pizza bases and bread. For the time being, they want to maintain the high standard of their predecessors. However, they are keen to listen to the community they serve. "If there is anything we can change, we are open to feedback", Anthony points out.

A wide range of food will be prepared daily on the premises, including sandwiches, pizzas and wraps, along with hot food such as chicken and chips.

An inviting basket of fresh fruit will be kept on display and replenished as needed.

One of the challenges is the long hours the dairy demands, which they admit can be tiring, along with learning to operate a new business venture and all its

intricacies. The three staff members get a positive mention as being very helpful and supportive. "We've come in green and they've been a great help", comments Wendy.

They are most impressed with the customers and other locals. "They are very supportive. One of the reasons we came was the nice welcome we got", explains Michelle. Although time is precious and relaxation not a priority just yet, Michelle said wistfully, "We look longingly at the beach". They look forward to getting to know the community and taking part in local events and organisations.

Opunake Dairy is open seven days 6am to 7pm, as well as public holidays (Apart from Christmas Day).

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## Artist demonstrates her skill to Kaponga WI

A small group of members enjoyed the interesting talk given by Sue Morton, Director of the Percy Thompson Gallery at Stratford.

Sue spoke about the Exhibitions which will be coming to the Gallery this year, and her enjoyment of drawing cartoons. She demonstrated step by step how she works on a cartoon. Sue's ideas come from topical happenings every week, which means she produces exactly the right subject for the Daily News Thursday Farmer.

### Best off the Net

One day a policeman stopped a motorist who had just gone through a four-way stop sign. He was about to give him a ticket when the motorist said: "Officer, you can't give me a ticket for that!" "Why not?" asked the officer. "Although I didn't stop, I slowed right down and it's almost the same." "But you didn't stop"

WI business was discussed, and names taken for this year's committee.

It was decided to hold the March AGM on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, at the Pioneer Village Café, at 11am. There will be no competitions.

### Competition Results:

3 carrots from own garden; 1<sup>st</sup> Fiona Collins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Diane West

3 Potatoes from own garden; 1<sup>st</sup> D. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> F Collins

3 Decorated Cup Cakes 1<sup>st</sup> D West, 2<sup>nd</sup> F Collins

## Slow Down

replied the officer, "and the sign says STOP." "But the way was clear and it was safe" replied the motorist. The officer then pulled out his baton and started hitting the motorist's fender. "What are you doing?!" yelled the motorist in surprise. "I'm hitting your fender," the officer calmly replied: "Do you want me to slow down or stop?"



# Opunake's burning!

A fire callout and what looked like smoke over the town looked like some of Opunake was ablaze had some confused motorists and pedestrians wondering where the fire was. In fact the phenomena was due to smog. It wasn't just confined to Opunake. Wellington Airport was closed. It was an intriguing and unusual sight and lasted for several hours.



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# Value for money and art deco in Okato

A great buy is on offer for serious home buyers in the Okato area. The property is located at 46 Carthew Street – on the corner of Carthew and Gossling Streets. The property is being marketed exclusively for Pat McFetridge of TSB Realty.

There is something for everyone in this 1939 property with its huge section 2036m<sup>2</sup> (about a half-acre), which is graced by many established trees. Offers need to be in the \$335,000-\$345,000 range.

Although much of the original charm has been kept, such as the plaster ceilings, the owners have spent much time and money in

strategic renovation, notably the kitchen which has been completely modified and updated. Also, the entire house has been recarpeted.

A feature of the house are the large windows, which ensures the house is bathed in considerable natural light to complement the well-placed light fixtures.

The lounge is spacious with a tiled open fireplace, which looks welcoming. The room has been built on to provide a good play area for children.

The kitchen adjoins the dining room, which has a wood burner to keep the area cosy. It has a moisture master system which conveys

heat to other parts of the house. The dining room has a good view of the attractive garden.

The kitchen has lots of cupboards and is well-lit by recessed lights. There is a good-sized stainless steel sink and bench area. The polished wood (matai) floor is most attractive. The walls of the kitchen were insulated when it was remodelled, as well as the ceiling insulation that the rest of the house has. A large cupboard opens to reveal the laundry.

The master bedroom still has the original ceiling rose. Like the rest of the house the large windows ensure that much natural light can enter. A built-in wardrobe and storage cupboard is useful in this and the other two bedrooms.

An important safety feature are smoke alarms, which all rooms are provided with.

The bathroom has both a bath and a shower cubicle. There is a headlamp system with an extractor fan to spirit away steam. The stained glass windows are appealing, as is the polished wooden floor.

Outside is intriguing. There is a nice children's playhouse. A double garage-come-workshed, as well as an adjoining carport is at the



Tranquillity and charm.

end of the concrete driveway. Several raised gardens with prolifically growing vegetables will appeal to the gardener. There is even an underground well, which could prove handy in these days of watering restrictions. There is even an outdoor sink and bench arrangement; could be used to clean vegetables from the garden. What was once a cattery, has been converted into a serviceable greenhouse.

Overall, this is an appealing property with character and lots of space with something for everyone. Contact Pat McFetridge to see for yourself. Phone 06 752 4816

(work), 06 752 4219 (home) or 027 2733 940.

Alternatively, try 0800PATSELL (0800 728 73557) Open2view.com 282366



An attractive servicable kitchen.

# A lot for your money in Opunake



50 Gisborne Terrace, Opunake

Pat McFetridge of TSB Realty is marketing a great buy in the house for sale at 50 Gisborne Terrace, Opunake. The 1920s house has been newly painted, (exterior and roof), has smart new-looking guttering and a cared for look.

The first thing you notice when you walk inside is the interior is considerably larger than it appears from the outside. Also striking is the varnished panelling and rimu ceilings in many parts of the house.

Rod, the vendor has owned the home since 1994 and will be sad to say goodbye, but with his family off his hands it is time for something else, including an extended bus tour of New Zealand.

This house had been obviously loved and much has been done to it. Notably, the kitchen has been totally upgraded, with new ceramic cook top, dishwasher, modern bench top and brand new oven. There are lots of cupboards including two pantries. An extractor fan keeps the room smoke-free. The kitchen has a waste master and inbuilt water filter.

The kitchen's open plan style allows food preparations to allow the cook to talk to guests in the adjoining dining room/family area.

The carpeted lounge is quite striking with its varnished panelled walls and ceiling. Although the original fireplace has been disestablished, removal of the cover allows ready access to the kitchen wiring if the electrician needs to visit.

The master bedroom has an attractive ceiling, is wallpapered in a neutral colour and is a suntrap in the afternoon. The other two bedrooms are also double and also sunny. They share several of the features mentioned earlier, such as attractive ceilings.

The bathroom has a shower cubicle and bath, as well as a

Continued page 14

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16 HEAPHY ROAD, OPUNAKE

**NEW LISTING**



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This delightful property is immaculately presented inside and out. The Lockwood home is surrounded by mature delightful and well manicured gardens which were admired by many when on show for the Fringe Festival. The very tidy large home has bedrooms office, hobby room, good size lounge and dining, awesome sunny conservatory and modern kitchen plus two modern bathrooms of which one is an ensuite.

Negotiating Range \$340,000 - \$360,000  
www.tsbrealty.co.nz NP4280

25 PARK LANE, KAPONGA

**NEW LISTING**



**MORTGAGEE TENDER**

This property is being sold as is where is. There will be no access to the house until it is sold. The level section is 2,023m<sup>2</sup> (approx 1/2 acre) with great potential. Please contact Pat for more information and Tender documents.

Tender closes 4pm, Wednesday 27th March 2013, at TSB Realty Office's, 120 Devon Street East, New Plymouth

www.tsbrealty.co.nz NP4292



16 FOX STREET, OPUNAKE

**NEW LISTING**



**WELL PRICED - OKATO**

This three bedroom home is a great buy, at the end of a cul-de-sac in the middle of Okato township. The section is well fenced on 940m<sup>2</sup> with a large 9m x 7.3m shed which would be great for cars plus a workshop.

Negotiating Range \$230,000 - \$240,000  
www.tsbrealty.co.nz NP4290

157 TASMAN STREET, OPUNAKE

**NEW LISTING**



**UPMARKET AND MODERN**

A fantastic family home with a great price reduction. The living area of this home is huge and the renovations truly stunning. The kitchen is very modern with a gas cook top and electric oven and the two bathrooms (one an ensuite) are truly luxurious with modern fittings. The huge car shed can hold up to four cars and is complimented with a studio at the back all this is on 1,012m<sup>2</sup> well fenced section.

Negotiating Range \$380,000 - \$420,000  
www.tsbrealty.co.nz NP4282

6928 SOUTH ROAD, OKATO

**NEW LISTING**



**COMPLETELY REFURBISHED & RENOVATED**

Everything is nearly new - carpet, electrical, plumbing, piles, decking, painting etc. This relocated home is just waiting for someone to live in and develop the 1948m<sup>2</sup> section. Awesome views at the mountain from the deck adds to the delight of this property, situated on Surf Highway 45 making it a desirable place to live or buy for renting.

Negotiating Range \$180,000 - \$200,000  
www.tsbrealty.co.nz NP4283

158 TASMAN STREET, OPUNAKE

**NEW LISTING**



**DELIGHTFUL**

It's time for my vendors to move and make way for a young family or for an investor to rent. This very tidy three bedroom home, open plan living home has a large level section which is well fenced for children and pets. Plenty of sheds for the car, tools and toys.

Negotiating Range \$180,000 - \$220,000  
www.tsbrealty.co.nz NP4281

9 PONDEROSA PLACE, OPUNAKE



**A REALLY TIDY LOCKWOOD**

This four bedroom home is very tidy and warm. The layout of the house is the 1980's Lockwood plan with a modern kitchen and open plan dining/lounge. The internal access garage is a bonus, a great 1st home for a family.

\$215,000  
www.tsbrealty.co.nz NP4215

68 GISBORNE TERRACE, OPUNAKE



**BUY A GREAT FAMILY HOME**

- Four bedrooms
- Two living areas
- Four plus car garaging
- Great for entertaining
- 1012m<sup>2</sup> fully fenced section
- Viewing by Appointment

\$285,000  
www.tsbrealty.co.nz NP4216

50 GISBORNE TERRACE, OPUNAKE



**TIMELESS AND TIDY**

This home on a 1012m<sup>2</sup> flat, well fenced section has been recently renovated and a new kitchen added with all the modern appliances. There are still many of the original features eg: wooden floors, rimu ceilings, rimu to dado line in the passage and bedrooms, wooden joinery. 3 double bedrooms and a good size sunroom makes it great for families. There is a double car shed and separate studio, both with power.

\$190,000  
www.tsbrealty.co.nz NP4176

58 FOX STREET, OPUNAKE



**CHOICES, CHOICES, CHOICES**

This property is suited as a holiday home, family home or rental. The home is very roomy and tidy inside. Not far from the beach this home has three bedrooms, kitchen/dining area and separate lounge. The outside is roughcast and the home has been recently redecorated.

\$205,000  
www.tsbrealty.co.nz NP4217

46 CARTHEW STREET, OKATO




**'TRUE ART DECO'**

A rare opportunity to own a sound & elite property in Okato. Built in the 1940's this property is situated on the corner of Gossling & Carthew Sts. It still has many of its original features: plaster ceiling & wooden joinery & now has a brand new kitchen, polished floor in the dining/kitchen area & new carpet. The large windows allow you to look out at the 2,036m<sup>2</sup> flat section with beautiful mature trees & shrubs - an excellent play area for the children & pets.

Offers over \$315,000  
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# A lot for your money in Opunake

Continued from page 14

new WC. The headlight extractor fan ensures that heat is maintained, but steam is removed. A ceramic hand basin and vinyl floor completes the bathroom. At the back of the house is a good-sized sunroom which could be used for many purposes such as a games room. As you leave the sunroom a pleasant patio area is encountered which allows both shelter and fresh air as you

sip your drink. Outside, a sleepout/games room is encountered. It has been used as a music room in the past. It is lined, has electricity and even a phone jack. The house is well-served by ceiling insulation, with Infinity gas heating as required. Safety features include smoke alarms in every room. The house has been recently rewired and replumbed. The 'Versatile' double garage is a real asset and has two door access, as well as the tilt door to allow cars in off the concrete driveway. The building has a solid concrete floor. There is good bench space and storage facilities. Security lights ensure that the yard is well lit up if anybody approaches in the dark. They are also helpful if arriving home if its nightfall. The house is well priced at \$190,000. It has a RV of \$165,000 and rates of \$2,172.27 per annum. Land area is approximately 1012m<sup>2</sup>. Pat McFetridge welcomes your inquiries. You can



A totally renovated kitchen with all the mod cons.

contact her at 06 752 4219 (work), 027 273 3940 (mobile) or 06 752 4219 (home). Or try 0800 PAT Sells (0800 728 73557). Her email is pat.mcfetridge@xtra.co.nz

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The wood paneling is echoed in the lounge.



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# Happier cows could be one solution to industry's employment issues

With more and more dairy farm staff entering the industry from urban backgrounds an animal husbandry expert says there has to be more emphasis placed on stockmanship skills, which start with managers and owners having farm policies that put animal welfare first.

DairyNZ's animal husbandry expert Chris Leach and farm dairying specialist Mel Eden share a passion for interpreting cow behaviour and helping farmers get "inside the cow's head." By understanding their animals, they say farmers will improve job satisfaction for farm staff, animal health and the bottom-line.

In March the two experts will present a workshop called 'Interpreting cow behaviour' to more than 300 dairying women at the Dairy Women's Network annual conference in Nelson – most of them farm owners and managers.

Mr Leach said the workshop would at times take a light-hearted view on a serious subject that was relevant even if people didn't handle stock themselves, because farm policy is what dictates practice.

"Understanding that a cow is hardwired as a prey animal, which makes it naturally fearful and influences how it sees and reacts to the world around it, is not only a fascinating subject - we can use that information to help us become better stock people and have happier staff and animals.

"Research shows that happy cows produce more milk and decrease farm working expenses. If a cow is stressed in the yard, her milk let down can be affected for as much as 30 minutes. If milk let-down is compromised the likelihood of her getting mastitis increases and stressful situations such as overcrowding in the yard or being forced down the race can contribute to lameness.

"So understanding and allowing for the speed and formation in which cows walk to the shed will improve cow flow into the bail area, the cows will be happier, there'll be less dung and less kicking. If there is a reduction in those two things milking becomes less of a chore, your staff are going to be much happier and more likely to stay in the industry longer," said Mr Leach.

Co-presenter Mel Eden is considered a guru on the subject, having travelled around the world advising on dairy shed design

to improve animal welfare and production, and mastitis control. He has worked in South America and Fiji, and presented in Australia and the UK. He is an independent farm consultant and also works closely with DairyNZ on its Milksmart programme, which aims to improve the wellbeing of animals and people by creating greater milking efficiencies in New Zealand.

"Farmers don't deliberately mistreat cows by not considering their behaviour and environment – it's just that it's not necessarily front of mind in terms of operating the business. Some of the changes farmers can make are so small but make a big difference to the entire milking experience for both animals and people.

"For example cows remember clothing, not people – so if you are doing a job that is going to cause discomfort or pain for the cow like calving, don't wear the clothes you wear to the milking shed, or suddenly milking is going to be a fearful experience for the cow and a totally different experience for you," said Mr Eden.

"The cow is a complex animal. Yes, it learns to do as it's told, but it doesn't necessarily do it happily if it is not being treated well – and there are usually things that can be improved in its environment.

"Most importantly though we need to get inside our bovine business partner's head because we have more and more staff joining us from urban areas that haven't grown up with cattle. Understanding cow behaviour will make their jobs, and yours, a lot easier."

The 'Interpreting cow behaviour' workshop will provide practical learning for taking back to the farm including understanding the principles of bovine behaviour, discussing tips for handling bulls and recognising unusual behaviour that requires closer attention.

The Dairy Women's Network conference kicks off in Nelson on March 20 and 21, with a world-class line-up of speakers covering subjects as diverse as environmental constraints, time management and developing future leaders. The conference theme is 'Taking down the boundary fences'.

A sampling of other speakers include Olympian Mahe Drysdale; Hon Jo Goodhew, Associate Minister for Primary Industries and Minister of Women's Affairs; Hin-

erangi Edwards, Trustee Parininihi Ki Waitotara (PKW) Farms Limited; and the international queen of time management, Robyn Pearce.

To learn more about the Dairy Women's Network conference visit [www.dwn.co.nz](http://www.dwn.co.nz) or phone 0800 396 748.

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# Everybody wants to be SBW



**James Langton**  
It was a Super Rugby weekend that most New Zealand teams would rather for-

get. The Highlanders lost to the Cheaters 19-36, the Chiefs lost to the Stormers 36-34, the Blues lost to the Bulls 28-21 the Hurricanes played poorly and yet still managed to beat the Crusaders.

It was hard to watch sometimes. Option taking was poor with the Highlanders being the worst of them all as they just kept doing 50-50 passes. This even continued after half-time where I'm sure Jamie Joseph would have said, "Keep

the ball in hand, get some go forward and don't pass the ball under pressure".

But we saw the same errors with all New Zealand teams; for example everyone wants to be a Sonny Bill Williams and do the one-handed offload.

I've got some concerns with New Zealand rugby at the moment. We are seeing the same type of rugby with most of the New Zealand teams - there is no originality, no team coming up with a different option to play

the game. It's just the same old same old every week. Sir John Kirwan's Blues and David Rennie's Chiefs are the only two teams playing attractive rugby and keeping the opposition guessing.

To understand why you can start by looking at the coaches. Todd Blackadder, Crusaders coach, Jamie Joseph, Highlanders coach and Mark Hammett, Hurricanes coach all played rugby at a similar time, advanced through

the New Zealand rugby system and had limited coaching experience before advancing to Super Rugby coaching. This seems to be a trend in New Zealand rugby and could make our game very predictable.

Sir John Kirwan and David Rennie are coaches of the two best teams in New Zealand rugby at the moment. These coaches spent a lot of time coaching club rugby, provincial rugby and coaching

overseas before they were ready for Super Rugby. More Super Rugby coaches should follow this path.

**Disappointing Warriors**  
The Warriors produced another disappointing result on Saturday night. The one thing that did catch my eye though was the number of Warriors' players smiling and laughing after the game. When you see that happening you start to wonder if they really give a damn about winning.

## Opunake Ladies Golf

Feb 7<sup>th</sup>  
Opening Day Stableford  
M. Gibson 54 pts  
L. Offord 42 pts  
L. Langton 39 pts

Feb 12<sup>th</sup>  
R1 Brennan Shield Stableford  
M. Gibson Net 57 49 pts  
L. Langton Net 64 44 pts  
D. Williams Net 65 40 pts

Feb 19<sup>th</sup>  
R3 Brennan Shield  
L. Simpson, K. Williams Net 67

R2 Brennan Shield Putting L.G.U.  
W. Vickers Net 64  
L. Langton Net 70  
Putting  
L. Simpson 28  
D. Forsyth 31  
M. Wellington 31

9 Hole Stableford. M. Brandt, D. Fisher.  
Summer Cup Winner  
L. Simpson

D. Williams, J. Deegan Net 70  
Winner Brennan Shield  
L. Langton

## A big one

**Alan Aitken's 7.28kg king fish landed surfcasting [well done Al].**

*Paddy Walsh.*



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## Go Coastal



Coastal Rugby boys in action at last year's final at Yarrow stadium the Coastal Seniors have a Pre season game on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Okato 2.30 pm kick off come out and support the team.



# James Langton gives good account of himself in first boxing bout

James Langton lost his first professional boxing match on points, but gave a good account of himself against his opponent Asher Derbyshire (Shailers) and lasted the six rounds. The fight was held at Rongotai College, Upper Hutt on March 1 and was the main event of the card and the one professional fight.

James said he was shocked at the support the other boxer had – crowds cheering, posters, hats with Asher's name inscribed, t-shirts - you name it. "It soon woke up your ideas for what you're in for", James said.

Both boxers weighed in at almost identical weights – James on 98kg and Asher a kilogram lighter. Before the fight there was a medical check-up by a doctor, the weigh in then several bouts on the undercard. Of the amateur boxers James said he saw, "Some fantastic ones". Some amateurs were trying to qualify for the next Olympics.

After a brief wait in the changing room it was time for the bout. James had perhaps seven or eight supporters, including his keenest supporter wife Kelly. However "500 or 600" people were roaring and clapping for Asher. It was somewhat "overwhelming", admitted James. He added, "It really motivated me to be honest with you".

During Round 1 "I had to settle myself", commented James after the first 30 seconds or so. James thinks he probably won the round.

During Round 2 James admitted, "I started to feel puffed". In fact, "We were both puffing a bit".

Rounds 2 to 5 didn't go so well and James thinks he lost them all. "In Round 4 he really ripped into me". James went down on one knee and took a 10 count. Going down was "tactical" he said. A lot of thoughts went through James mind – do I stay down? Get up? He got up in time.

"He just ripped into me. He needed a knockdown". James kept him out. "I guarded up and I'll see this round out to the bell", explained James.

James ended on a good note. "Round 6 was my best in the whole fight. I won Round 6".

When the final bell sounded and the fight was over, "Straight away there was a mutual respect for each other", said James. His op-



James Langton lands a hefty right to his opponent's head.

ponent invited him to come and have a drink with him.

Looking back James said that although he felt he had the heavier punch, "Inexperience cost me the fight",

He was impressed with how the event was run. "I

didn't expect it to be so big and so well organised."

Regrets? "A lot of work went into it, but it was well worth it", says James.

James wanted to thank all those who helped him prepare such as trainers Terry

Simpson and Mo Morgan, Diane from Health Haven and, of course, his wife Kelly.

James Langton has one further ambition: to organise a professional boxing match to be held in the Opunake area. He said he would be prepared to step into the ring again to be a contestant against a suitable opponent.



The fight reaches a very tense stage with neither giving an inch.

## On this month in history

On March 17, 1897 Bob Fitzsimmons, born in Cornwall, England, but brought up in Timaru, won the world heavy-weight boxing title by beating 'Gentleman Jim' Corbett in Carson City, Nevada, USA. He scored a knockout in Round 14.

Earlier in the bout Corbett, the favourite, was having the better of the fight, until Fitzsimmons shifted his attack to concentrate on Corbett's body. His strategy worked well.

On March 17, 1990 Richard Hadlee became the fourth cricketer and first New Zealander to attain the double - 3000 runs and 300 wickets in test cricket.

The test was played against the old foe - the Australians at the Basin Reserve in Wellington. New Zealand won easily by nine wickets, no less. Richard Hadlee took 5 wickets for 39 runs in the Australians paltry total of 110 runs. He retired in the same year after being knighted.



The two boxers warily size each other up.

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# Celebrating a painting partnership at Dawson Falls

Wednesday was painting day at Dawson Falls in the Egmont National Park. The start of a partnership between Dulux and DOC that will spruce up huts around the country, involve the public and add funds to crucial biodiversity projects.

John Hooker, Chair of Nga Ruahine, led the whakatauta and welcomed DOC's Al Morrison and Dulux's Julia Myers. Guests found out just what this partnership means, the kids from Stratford Primary School told us what this part of the park means to them and by the end of the day the only unfinished

wall at Konini Lodge had a little more fresh paint.

MC Tim Fraser, DOC's Commercial Portfolio Manager explained how this partnership began. "Dulux creates the colours of New Zealand and DOC preserves and protect them. Is there a better base for a partnership? Now the partnership has strengthened to become all about protecting our place."

Al Morrison, DOC's Director General reminded guests that DOC has 973 huts and recreational buildings that cost \$18.7 million to maintain. "We look after them on behalf of

New Zealanders and this partnership will help us do that even better. The value for DOC's is obvious and the public will see Dulux playing an active role in the environment and the things that define New Zealand -the love of the outdoors and pride in our unique environment."

Julia Myers, General Manager for Dulux said that our huts were worth treasuring and Dulux was excited about the partnership. "Dulux has been inspiring kiwis about colour choices for more than 70 years and



Julia Myers, Dulux New Zealand general manager launches the partnership.



now they'll be inspired by the places we all love and cherish. We'll even involve the public in colour choices and designs as huts receive a make over. We also have an opportunity to test the durability of our products in some of the Al Morrison and Julia Meyers apply some finishing touches

harshest elements of the New Zealand climate." Ethan, Georgia, Doug and Orian from Stratford Primary School reminded guests just how special the Dawson Falls Area and Konini Lodge is. "Many have stayed to take in the wonder of Mt Taranaki and it's not something we can do every day. So when we are here it's important

to enjoy it and make the most of it. The landscape is unique from the range of native trees to Wilkies pools and the tracks make it accessible to all. The maunga is in our hands and if we care for and treasure it, then it will be shared by generations forever."

And with that, the painting began!

## Arts in Taumata Park popular



Linda Terrill with her craft work including art using recycled serviettes.

Events Organiser Jody Bloor was very pleased with how the Eltham event went on Saturday March 2. She estimated that about 250 people had come along. "There's been kids everywhere", she added. Face painting was a big hit with the youngsters. Daphne Bland said she had painted 35 little faces. "It's nice. You

see their eyes open and their grins get wider and wider", she explains with a smile. "There was something for everyone". as Jody commented.

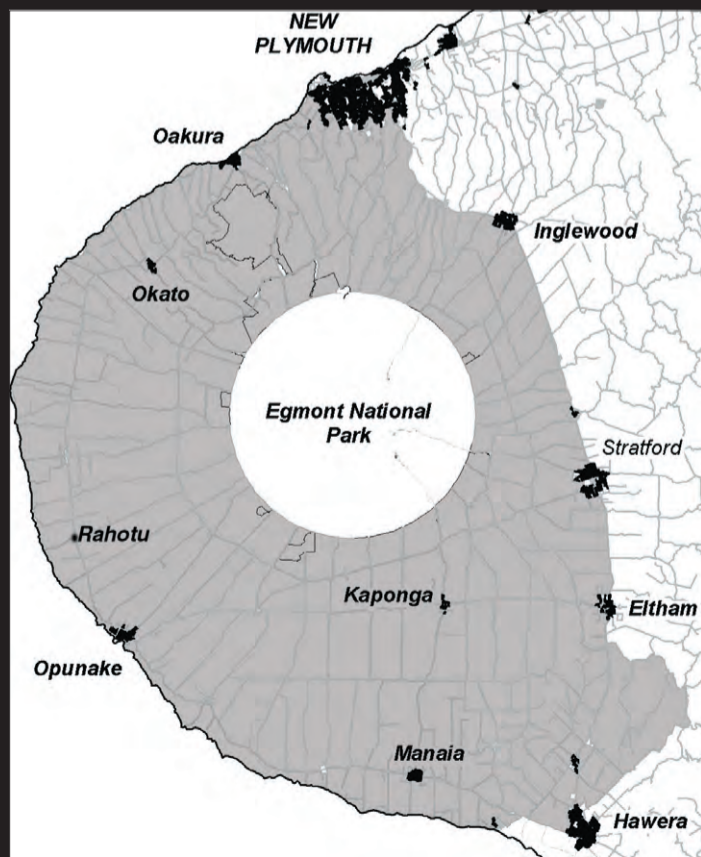
There was a great variety of stalls with food aplenty from stalls such as Wendy's Kitchen. Eltham Kindergarten was another which kept people fed with a variety of home baking. The stalls were not just from Eltham but came from as far afield as Waverley and New Plymouth.

Artists were well represented with their quality art. Erryn Willcox and Carl Fairweather were from Hawera.

Recycling was also in evidence. One stallholder has crafted a nest of table taken from timber (mat-tai) from the old Hawera Hospital. Another example of recycling was the attractive artwork made from old serviettes, crafted by Linda Terrill. She sells her work overseas in countries such as Australia, Sweden and the USA.

One lady from Waverley was selling honey and home-made soaps. She said it perhaps best of all, when describing her soaps, "They are all natural - getting away from all the additives. Looking after the planet instead of polluting it".

## WANT TO DO BUSINESS IN OUR AREA? TALK TO US



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

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# New Outdoor Environmental Centre underway at Oakura School

A new outdoor environmental centre is in development at Oakura School. The environmental centre will feature an outdoor classroom where students will experience pathways to foster connections with native trees, local birds and wildlife.

In the planning stage is a habitat corridor from the Kaitake Ranges - to the school - to Matekai Park and through to the beach - for native bird and animal life like the endangered Gold Striped Gecko. Beyond its use for daytime classes it will include a community orchard which will involve students and the community in its establishment, ongoing development and maintenance.

To support the build of this new outdoor environmental center, Oakura School is holding a Gala on Sunday 14 April, 11.00am-2.00pm.

"The gala is set to be the biggest yet and we've already had a great response with regards to sponsorship

from local businesses. However, to enable us to reach our goal of creating a fully functioning environmental centre that promises to deliver so much to our community we would appreciate the help of more businesses," says Anne Clough, Chairperson of Friends of Oakura School (FOOS).

Catering for everyone in the family, the Gala is a draw for anyone who wants all the fun, food and entertainment that the Oakura School Gala has to offer as well as having a day on the coast enjoying the beautiful Oakura beaches. The School Gala committee members are thrilled with the support and response from the community. "We're well underway. We have services, merchandise, and raffle prizes donated from several Taranaki businesses.

Contact Nicky Thompson, coordinator of the Sponsorship committee, to donate a raffle prize or sponsor a stall on 06 752



The area being developed.

7742 or [foos@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:foos@hotmail.co.nz) and the Gala Event Page on [www.facebook.com/OakuraSchool](http://www.facebook.com/OakuraSchool).

## Very little rain in the region

Rainfall for February ranged between 31 to 107% of normal, with a maximum of 7 rain days being recorded, although most locations were lucky to see rain on only 2 days of the month. 95% of the rainfall recorded in February occurred on the 4th and 5th of February. Dawson Falls and Ngutuwera (Waitotara) were the only sites to record above normal rainfall with 102% and 107% respectively, while the rain gauges from Inglewood North to Motunui (including New Plymouth) only had rain on one day for the month, hence the very low rainfall totals for those areas (between 29.0 and 63.0mm). Year to date rainfall ranges between 46 and 97% of normal for all sites.

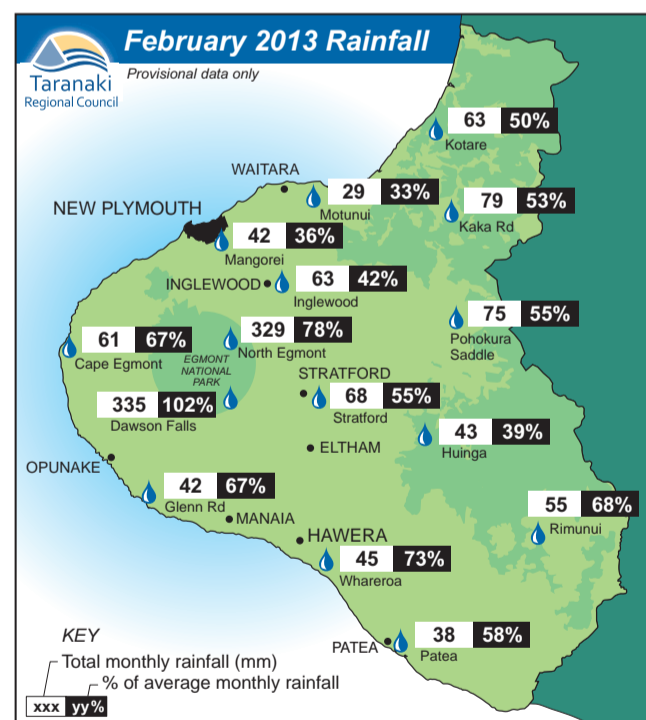
All of the rivers recorded

below normal flows, but none recorded new minimum flows. The Waitara River at Bertrand Rd recorded less than half of its mean February flow for the month, averaging a flow of 16,063 L/s, compared to its historical February average of 34,365 L/s.

Water temperatures were above average for the Waingongoro River (Eltham), and the Waitara River, while the Patea River, Kapuni Stream and Waiwhakaiho River all recorded below average water temperatures. The Patea and Waingongoro Rivers recorded new minimum February water temperatures with 12.00 degC and 11.70 degC respectively.

Soil moistures were below normal for the month for all of the sites, except Te Kiri.

However, the soil moistures were still above the minimum recorded soil moistures from previous years



## The good old ways

I remember the cheese of my childhood,  
and the bread that we cut with a knife,  
When the children helped with the housework,  
and the men went to work not the wife.

The cheese never needed an ice chest,  
and the bread was so crusty and hot,  
The children were seldom unhappy  
and the wife was content with her lot.

I remember the milk from the billy,  
with the yummy cream on the top,  
Our dinner came hot from the oven,  
and not from the fridge in the shop.

The kids were a lot more contented,  
they didn't need money for kicks,  
Just a game with our mates in the paddock,  
and sometimes the Saturday flicks.

I remember the shop on the corner,  
where a pen'orth of lollies was sold  
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic,  
or is it....I'm just getting old?

I remember when the loo was the dunny,  
and the pan man came in the night,  
It wasn't the least bit funny  
going out the back with no light.

The interesting items we perused,  
from the newspapers cut into squares,  
And hung on a peg in the outhouse,  
it took little to keep us amused.

The clothes were boiled in the copper,  
with plenty of rich foamy suds  
But the ironing seemed never ending  
as Mum pressed everyone's duds

I remember the slap on my backside,  
and the taste of soap if I swore  
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of  
and we hadn't much choice what we wore.

Do you think that bruised our ego?  
or our initiative was destroyed  
We ate what was put on the table  
and I think life was better enjoyed.

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Our present operation is overseen by a farm consultant and a highly motivated farm committee. If you are considering your position and options for next season, we would like to talk with you.

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**Daryl Hickey - PH: 06 761 7147**  
**Ray Barron - PH: 06 752 8073**  
**Dan Morgan - PH: 06 763 8424**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**TANGATA WHENUA LIAISON FUND**

The Tangata Whenua Liaison Fund was established to support projects and initiatives which help develop positive relationships between Tangata Whenua, Council and the community as a whole.

This could apply to:

- Marae or other community facilities;
- Cemeteries/urupa or wahi tapu sites; or
- Performing and visual arts.

Applications for grants from this fund are invited from marae committees, hapu or other interested groups or organisations.

Application forms are available from Council's website www.southtaranaki.com, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hawera, any LibraryPlus facility, or the Community Funding Advisor.

Closing date for applications is **Wednesday 3 April 2013 at 4.30pm.**

For further information or one-on-one advice on completing an application form, please contact the Community Funding Advisor on 0800 111 323 or maryse.ropiha@stdc.govt.nz

Top advertise phone (06) 761 7016

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**ARAHU NETBALL CLUB**

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**A.G.M TE NAMU ITI AHUWHENUA TRUST**

**Sunday 14th April 2013 - 10.00am** Headlands, Fox Street, Opunake

**AGENDA**

- Fencing of Northern Boundary of Tamarongo No. 6.
- Heritage Sign for Te Namu Pa.
- Community Developmental Advisor (STDC) attending.

**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 **ALL WELCOME**



**KAHUI OUTDOOR PURSUITS & ALPINE CLUB A.G.M.**

To be held at the **Pungarehu Golf Club Rooms** on Tuesday 26th March 2013 at 7.30pm - All welcome **Contact W. Gibson 06 763 8768**

**Come one Come All Coastal Opunake Junior Rugby Registration for 2013 Season**

Friday 15th March 6.00-7.30pm  
Saturday 16th March 10.00-11.30am  
Sandfords Event Centre

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**LOCAL HANDCRAFTS Inc, CRAFT FAIR** Presbyterian Hall, Argyle Street, Hawera

**March 16th 2013**

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PERFORMING ARTS GRANTS**

Your invitation to share the dream!

The **Dame Malvina Major Foundation** is proud to provide funding opportunities to talented young Taranaki performing artists.

Applications are now being invited for the first annual funding round, closing at 5pm on Sunday 31st March 2013.

Grants are available in three categories to support the cost of education, training and development in the performing arts in New Zealand or overseas:

**Secondary:** For Taranaki secondary school students aged 12-18 years.

**Elite/Tertiary:** For performers from Taranaki pursuing a career in the performing arts through tertiary qualifications.

**Group:** For groups whose student members are based in Taranaki and are providing training and/or development opportunities in performing arts.

For an application pack and further information please contact Heather Cooper 06 7573155 or [dmmf@staplestaranaki.co.nz](mailto:dmmf@staplestaranaki.co.nz) [www.damemalvinamajorfoundation.org](http://www.damemalvinamajorfoundation.org)



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12 people that complete this course will win a full day Advanced Driving Course at Manfeild track, Feilding.



**PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY**  
(Never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mt Carmel, fruit of the vine, splendid of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here in you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity. There are none who can withstand your power. O show me here you are my Mother. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. **AMEN**  
*This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.*

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**OPUNAKE DISTRICT R.S.A. INC.**

**Annual General Meeting** to be held in the Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade Rooms on the 22nd March 2013 at 1300.

**AGENDA**

- Welcome
- Apology
- Roll of Honour
- Minutes 2012
- Accounts 2012
- Reports
- Election of Officers
- General Business
- Secretary
- Rev. Geoff Williams

To advertise phone (06) 761 7016

**OPUNAKE SPORTING SHOOTERS (Incorporated) AGM**

Tues, March 26th Opunake Surf Inn, Maui Bar, 7.30pm. All welcome. Any queries phone (06) 272 8636 or (06) 761-8649.

**MANAIA RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Registration Days**

Saturday 16th March 10am  
Saturday 23rd March 10am

All players welcome, see you at the Manaia Sports Complex.

Any queries ring **Simon Guthrie on 06 278 5608 or Megan Peters on 06 272 6644**



**PERCY THOMSON GALLERY EXHIBITION**  
'Tentative Connection'. Runs until March 28. Refer advert.

**ARAHU NETBALL CLUB TRIALS**  
March 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Contact Macy on 06 761 8927.

**TE OHU PAI MAHI O PARIHAKA**  
**Permaculture in action.** March 11 to 15. Refer advert.

**OPUNAKE HIGH SCHOOL GALA DAY**  
Thursday March 14.

**HEALTH HAVEN'S FIFTH BIRTHDAY GIFT**  
From March 14 to March 31 be in the draw to win prize worth \$300. See advert.

**OPUNAKE RAHOTU VETERINARY TRUST**  
Applications in by March 15 please. Refer advert.

**NPBHS HOSTEL OPEN DAY**  
Friday March 15. Refer advert.

**COASTAL OPUNAKE JUNIOR RUGBY REGISTRATION**  
Friday 15th and Saturday 16th March. At Sandfords Event Centre. Refer advert.

**LOCAL HANDICRAFT FAIR**  
March 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 starting at 9.30am at the Hawera Presbyterian Hall.

**MANAIA RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**  
Registration days - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Refer advert.

**TARANAKI ROSE ENTRANTS MEET JUDGES**  
Sunday March 17 at Rosie O'Grady's Irish Pub, New Plymouth.

**WOMAD**  
15-17 March

**ST PATRICK'S DAY**  
Sunday March 17.

**VILLAGE GALLERY**  
Celebrating the Seasons - Members Easter exhibition runs March 18 to April 12.

**OPUNAKE DISTRICT R.S.A INC.**  
A.G.M. to be held at the Opunake Fire Brigade Rooms, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013 at 1300.

**ORIMUPIKO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Orimupiko Marae, Eltham Road, Opunake on March 23 at 10am.

**KAHUI OUTDOOR PURSUITS & ALPINE CLUB AGM**  
Tuesday March 26 at Pungarehu Golf Clubrooms (7.30pm). Refer advert.

**COASTAL TARANAKI SCHOOL**  
Parent Interviews Yr 1-13, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Refer advert.

**BNZ NZ SURF FESTIVAL**  
From Friday March 29 to April 7. Various venues such as Fitzroy Beach and Arawhata Road. Refer advert.

**COASTAL AMBROSE CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Namu Road, Opunake. Refer Advert.

**TARANAKI ROSE OF TRALEE FINAL**  
Friday April 5. See advert.

**BODY HEAT AUSTRALIA - SURF INN**  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, \$20 presales - \$35 at the door. Refer advert.

**OPUNAKE PLUNKET COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE**  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April - Opunake Town Hall. Refer advert.

**ELTHAM DOWNHILL CHEESE RACE**  
Saturday April 6. Refer advert (Eltham Four Square)

**PUKEITI PUFFER**  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10.30-2.00pm. Refer advert for further information.

Taranaki Regional Council

# PUKEITI Puffer

**Sunday 7 April 2013**  
**10.30-2.00pm**

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# Opera to Popera

**Opera to Popera**, is coming to **New Plymouth on Friday March 22, 11am, City West Church, 62c Poplar Grove.**

We would like to offer some competition packages to help spread the word about this wonderful concert! The package will include double passes, a book and a CD. Please let us know if you would like to be involved in this promotion.

Ever been in front of the television and heard a wonderful classical piece of music or been to the movies and scanned the credits for the name of that wonderful song? Find all the answers in the new show touring nationally 'Opera to Popera'

from the award-winning Daytime Concert Series.

Songs like the Lakme Duet (British Airways Advert) and Nessun Dorma (Soccer World Cup) have become instantly recognised because of their promotional use, but they are equally famous in the operatic world. That's simply because they are fabulous songs. Performers like Andre Bocelli, Andre Rieu, Sarah Brightman and more recently Josh Groban, Russell Watson and group Il Divo have kept the 'cross-over' tradition alive.

From wonderful songs which are instantly recognisable to some new gems that are bound to go onto your list of "must find that on a



From left, Derek Hill, Elisha Fa'a-Hulton, Susan Boland and Cameron Barclay.

CD" this concert is class, yet fun from start to finish. Sit back in the movie theatre or in front of the TV and say "Oh, I know that song, I heard it in a concert the other day - do try to keep up!"

Operatunity Director Susan Boland heads a stellar cast, which includes Elisha Fa'i-Hulton who has performed as a soloist with the Auckland Choral Society, at the finals of the Westfield Style Pasifika, been a Becroft Grand Aria finalist and performed the role of

Serse in Handel's Xerxes with the Handel Consort & Quire. She has also performed in Malaga in Fiji and at the opening ceremony of the South Pacific Games in Samoa.

Joining them is tenor Derek Hill who graduated from McGill University in Montréal Canada with High Distinction in Voice. Since his return to New Zealand in 2004 he has appeared in productions with NBR New Zealand Opera, Southern Opera, Canterbury Opera, Opera Otago, Hamilton Garden Opera and Opera Un-

leashed. In concert he has been a soloist with The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Manukau Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Choral, Bach Musica and Hamilton Civic Choir.

Also featuring is talented young tenor Cameron Barclay whose many stage credits include being a PWC Dame Malvina Major Emerging Artist at NBR New Zealand Opera.

Says Sue, "Popularising and making opera accessible is greatly helped by the media and by popular

cross over bands like Il Divo and Amigi. We have put together our own New Zealand 'opera band' with our incredibly talented guest artists and special arrangements of great tunes, and some of our singers are as easy on the eye as their more famous counterparts!"

The Daytime Concert Series is presented by Operatunity, a company which presents over 200 concerts per year in 24 venues throughout New Zealand. All this from its humble beginnings 11 years ago.

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## School children get a taste of WOMAD coming soon

South Taranaki schools are being exposed to world music days before the rest of New Zealand gets to hear the exotic sounds of Womad.

Two Kaponga and two Opunake schools took part in workshops and performances by singer/songwriter Grace Barbe on Tuesday March 12 and Wednesday March 13, in the lead up to Womad New Zealand 2013.

Kaponga School principal Shane Downs is welcoming the sneak preview, which is part of the festival's 2013 Shell NZ Community Programme.

It is the third time the school has taken part in the programme, which exposes students to a different culture and style of music, and is supported by Shell New Zealand.

"It's so completely different to what the kids are used to seeing. The noise the artists create, the way they look - those are the unique elements of the experience," he says.

His school hosted Barbe on March 12 with 25 stu-

dents from the school taking part in a workshop. Nearby school, St Patricks Kaponga, also sent 25 of its students to join in.

Opunake Primary School principal Lorraine Williamson was equally enthusiastic. Her school took part for the first time with students from Te Kura o Nga Ruahinerangi joining her students in the workshop by Barbe on Wednesday March 13.

"We're delighted because a number of our students are keen musicians and to be exposed to international level performers is a real thrill."

Twenty-five students, who are Year 7 and Year 8, have been picked as many take music classes or are in the school band at Opunake, she says.

"Well done to Womad organisers because for children from the coast, to get an opportunity like this, is difficult. Transport is often a problem and this is a nice thing to do for our community."

Students from both the Kaponga and Opunake schools spend half a day in the workshops at their own

schools before they all meet at the TSB Hub in Hawera on Thursday March 14. There, a further workshop is planned as well as a mini-performance by students and Womad artists. Shell NZ provides transport for the fun day as well as refreshments.

Barbe, originally from Seychelles, now lives in Western Australia. She sings in Kreol, English and French, retelling ancient tales to present her culture to the wider world.

The Shell NZ Womad community programme is a great opportunity to transport the music of the world to our Taranaki communities where the company has been operating for more than 60 years, says Shell NZ chairman Rob Jager.

"Supporting international artists to perform locally and ensuring schools have the opportunity to participate in this culturally diverse event, is one way we can be a good neighbour which is very important to us. Creativity is central to our business, so our ten year partnership with WOMAD is a great fit."

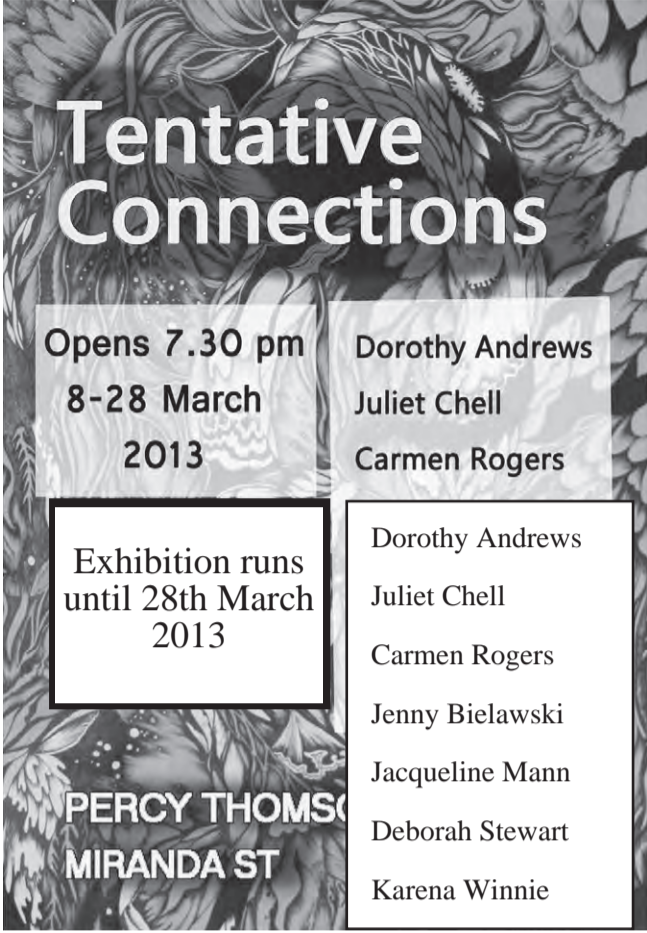
# Percy Thomson Gallery presents Tentative Connections

A collaborative exhibition of seven New Plymouth artists, all on their respective creative pathways – but working with very different mediums, bring new and exciting works to the community and the art world.

“come from a love of the natural world, (flora and fauna). The textures and linear qualities of natural materials lend themselves to a variety of mark making; the angular branching of trees contrasting with the

emerge in unexpected ways.” Completing a BVA in 2012, artist Jenny Bielawski enjoys finding new ways to use traditional techniques of knitting, sewing and painting to produce contemporary art works. Her earlier career in Midwifery has a strong influence on the skull and body work she is becoming renown for.

object, in particular, is for me. It becomes an ‘uncertain’ object.” An emerging artist, Mann has held several exhibitions and holds a Bachelor of Fine Art. Textures and layers with her mixed media, acrylic paintings reflect a stage in life of self awareness for local artist Deborah Stewart. She is strongly influenced by her deep love of Mother Nature which she claims feeds her soul and fulfils her visual needs.



**Tentative Connections**

Opens 7.30 pm  
8-28 March  
2013

Exhibition runs until 28th March 2013

PERCY THOMSON  
MIRANDA ST

Dorothy Andrews  
Juliet Chell  
Carmen Rogers

Dorothy Andrews  
Juliet Chell  
Carmen Rogers  
Jenny Bielawski  
Jacqueline Mann  
Deborah Stewart  
Karena Winnie



An intriguing exhibit at Percy Thomson's latest collaborative exhibition.

Carmen Roger's latest works see her transforming the 'mundane blind' into something beyond the everyday; the works look at addressing the domestic blind parts and how they relate to geometric abstraction.

curvaceous shapes of their leaves; smooth glossy foliage against a rough textured bark, or grasses blowing in the wind. The inspiration from the natural things around us is endless. Visions of its many forms bore into the recesses of the mind, to form a tangled mass of memories, which

Jacqueline Mann's 'painted drawings' are an extension of her sculptural practice and are similarly a nod to architecture. Jacqueline says of her work, "These graphic compositions evolve in increments, with a lack in editing so as each contributory layer can be viewed. As each mark follows another, ambiguous structures unfold within their own rules of logic." Influenced by Susan Sontag's literary works 'Against Interpretation' and 'The Aesthetics of Silence', Mann explores what happens when the content from behind a work is removed and we are no longer 'all at one' with the subject. "I'm not sure what it becomes then, and this is where the sculptural

From her studio in Egmont Village, Karena Winnie's work is driven by process as opposed to image, it predominately relates to space; both internal and external. "This exhibition will be a diverse change from the previous exhibitions in Percy Thomson and should challenge, provoke and stimulate discussion among our viewers" says gallery director Sue Morton.

## Hearing Week 2013

"Helping people who are deaf and hearing impaired to achieve a better quality of life" We call on all New Zealanders to help. The objective of Hearing Week 2013, which runs from the 25th to the 31st of March, is to encourage family and friends to

discuss hearing loss with someone they know who they think suffers from it. It's a simple objective that can markedly improve the quality of life for thousands of New Zealanders. Hearing loss often develops over a number of years and the first step, which can be very challenging, is to actu-

ally acknowledge it exists. This Hearing Week, take the opportunity to help a family member or friend to acknowledge their hearing is not what it used to be and support them by helping them find where to go for a hearing test and rehabilitation as required. **Do you know someone**

close to you that may have a hearing loss? Help is available: Find out more at [www.nfd.org.nz](http://www.nfd.org.nz) Contact Louise Carroll, CEO, The National Foundation for the Deaf Phone: 021 076 6990 or Email: [louise.carroll@nfd.org.nz](mailto:louise.carroll@nfd.org.nz)

## Virtual Tart: The Wall

Where artists are concerned, the world is a village, and co-operation and collaboration are possible. The March exhibition on

the Virtual Tart website is **The Wall**, an exploration of a theme, by Kristina Shishkova of Bulgaria, and five artists from Taranaki, New Zealand.

glasses raised in the direction of Bulgaria. Do have a look at the exhibition and send us a message. Thank you. And another exciting note ... the exhibition of collages from the ICE14

exchange will be touring - next showing is at The Village Gallery in Eltham, New Zealand, during June 2013. Forty eight parcels are in already for ICE15. Life is fun and exciting. *Cheers Dale Copeland*

The exhibition will be online throughout March, and the opening, as suits a between-hemispheres show, will be champagne shared by the New Zealand artists who recently came out here to Puniho for lunch, with



**All welcome!**

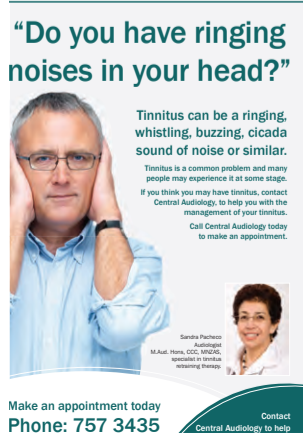
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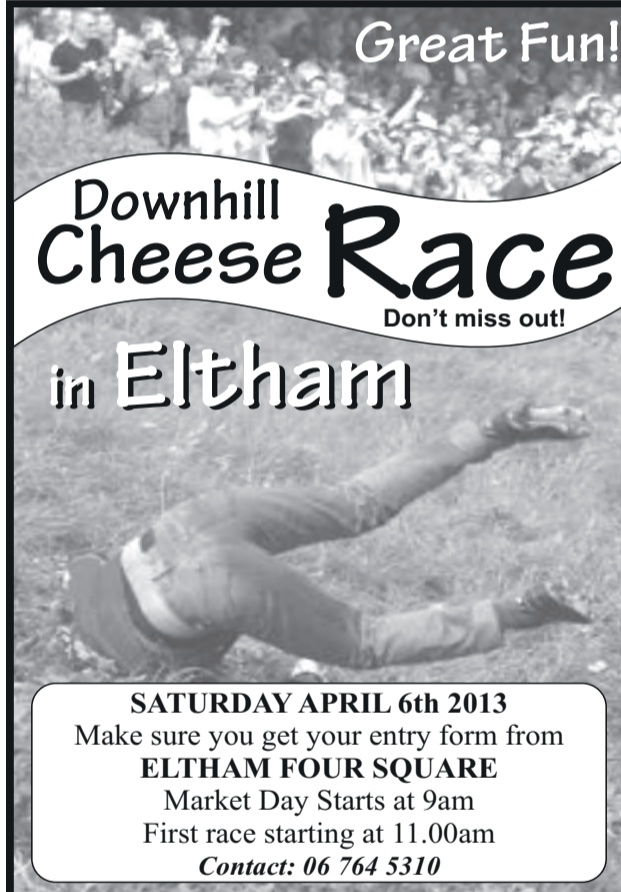
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# Free training to help farmers with herd recording comes to Taranaki

Dairy farmer cooperative, LIC, is taking to the road in March to deliver free workshops to help farmers get the most out of their herd records. Accurate herd records are acknowledged to be one of the best tools to help farmers manage stock through the drought which is currently affecting much of the country. LIC Acting CEO, David Hemara, said the training is a response to requests from farmers. "Technology is more a part of modern dairying than it's ever been. Today's farmers need information at their fingertips about various aspects of the herd or farm so they can make decisions at the right time. They also need to be able to tailor this information so it's unique to their farming goals and system. "Our farmer customers have told us that there simply isn't time during the normal farming day to sit down and extend their knowledge of the technology they have; they're aware there's a lot more uses they can get from their herd information and want help, but this has to be delivered at the right

time and in the right place. "The right time means when farmers need it ie in the months leading up to the pressure times on farm, like calving and mating. And the right place is in their local areas, handy to the farm. So that's what we're doing." LIC's 2013 programme of customer training kicks off in March aimed at providing farmers with knowledge so they can plan and record drying off and culling (which generally occurs in autumn). The day's programme has two segments. In the morning, farmers who are new to MINDApro, or who want to gain more confidence, will learn what data can be entered, the easiest way to do that, and how to access the information when it is needed. The afternoon session has been designed for farmers who have mastered the basics but want to extend their ability to tailor reports for culling or drying off. David Hemara said LIC's Customer Training Team will be writing to all customers in the area where each workshop is going to be held, inviting them or their staff to attend part or all of the day.



## Free training for farmers.

Three events are being held in Taranaki - Inglewood, Tuesday 19 March 2013 at the Inglewood Rugby Club, 1 Elliot Street, Inglewood Normanby, Thursday 21

March 2013 at the Normanby Hall, 97 Ketemarae Road, Normanby Opunake, Friday 22 March 2013 at the Sandfords Event Centre, Tasman Street, Opukake

Full details of the workshops will be very popular and is urging farmers register their interest by emailing name and contact details to [training@lic.co.nz](mailto:training@lic.co.nz). LIC anticipates that the work-

For advertising  
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## THE VILLAGE GALLERY

Exhibition runs  
March 18 to April 12

*Celebrating the Seasons*

## MEMBERS EASTER EXHIBITION

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## DairyNZ Farmers' Forum takes science to the regions

DairyNZ's latest research will be showcased at a nationwide series of Farmers' Forum events during April and May. The informative and practical seminars will be held in Whangarei, Hawera, Woodville, Invercargill and Greymouth.

DairyNZ chief executive, Dr Tim Mackle, says each year the Farmers' Forum provides a great opportunity for dairy farmers to see how their levy is invested and to learn about dairy industry research and development work relevant to their region's farming issues.

"Our Farmers' Forum has become an annual gathering and every second year we go out to the regions and customise forum topics based on locally relevant issues," says Tim.

"Farmers tell us they really look forward to the forum each year and gain a lot from attending. We guarantee you'll go away with something you can implement on-farm to make a positive difference.

"The programme for each regional event is designed by the local DairyNZ teams

and customised based on that region's particular challenges and opportunities. Most events also feature local farmers talking about their own experiences and results," he says.

The Farmers' Forum regional events include time for informal discussion with DairyNZ scientists and developers plus others who lead key industry research and development programmes.

Farmers can view the DairyNZ Farmers' Forum conference programmes for

each region and register online at [www.dairynz.co.nz/farmersforum](http://www.dairynz.co.nz/farmersforum). Registration prior to each event is essential.

Registration is free to levy-paying farmers and their staff - there is a \$50 charge for all others.

Each event runs from 10am-2pm. Lunch is provided.

To advertise  
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