



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Inside

The best restaurant in Taranaki

"I want to make it the best restaurant in Taranaki," says Harish Prasad who with his wife Sonam are the new business owners of Opunake's iconic Headlands Café and Restaurant which has just re-opened.

"I want to make it really popular and draw people to Opunake," says Harish who added that he wants Headlands to become "a symbol of Opunake." He also wants to support the locals.

Headlands Restaurant and Café is offering European and Indian food and also Indian Takeaways. They also sell cabinet food and have a food and liquor licence and cater for functions.

"People can enjoy European and Indian food in the restaurant," says Harish adding takeaways will also be available. "All food is fresh and cooked by qualified experienced chefs. Indian takeaways are affordable at

\$15. We cater for weddings, birthdays and other special occasions." There is also a large outdoor area.

Harish is a fully qualified chef with a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality and Hotel Administration who previously ran the popular Bombay to Paris Takeaway in New Plymouth which had strong support, particularly with customers from the coast, said Harish. He described himself as a versatile chef who equally enjoys Indian and European food.

Sonam who trained under Harish will be doing the administration and management side of the business.

The couple have a daughter, India, aged 7.

Harish said when he first visited Opunake he was "fascinated" by it. He liked the location of Headlands, *Continued page 3.*



Harish and Sonam Prasad with India.



Headlands Restaurant and café. Open just three days and people were flocking in. Note the cars.



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St Mary's school leaders

Alexandra Howard is this year's Head Girl at St Mary's Anglican Diocesan School in Stratford and Charlotte Helms is Deputy

Head Girl. Alexandra attended Ngaere Primary School and her

Continued page 3



Head Girl Alexandra Howard (left) and Deputy Head Girl Charlotte Helms.

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Letters to the Editor

Education should be top priority

I am always reading and hearing about how well our North Taranaki primary, intermediate and secondary schools are doing, and seeing how teachers, regardless of who they are, or even where they all come from, teach our students

in Taranaki. It's equally refreshing to hear and read how well our Coastal and South Taranaki schools are progressing the same as they are in the north.

I have been seeing for some time that when our top students leave for

university, and when they are all graduated, they find there's nothing for them in our province, so they remain where they are, which is a great shame. I can't see why we as a province can't have our own university, as it could also attract other students from other provinces. This could be built at Bell Block, near our airport.

To me, education in our province should be a number one priority, with employment in second place. Sadly we have 6.5 per cent unemployment in Taranaki, which is really bad, yet this government is saying there are plenty of jobs in this country for everyone. Well, what a joke. We are still seeing plenty of people being laid off.

I believe all parents should talk to our councils about our children's education, which could force this government to rethink and change their arrogant attitude about education, as it seems to me they don't really give a damn at all.

*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth*

An outrageous proposal

I was fortunate and privileged to address the Decision Making Committee of the Environment Protection Authority recently in New Plymouth. I made a submission regarding the proposal to mine the seabed of the Patea shoals for Ironsand.

The proposal is outrageous to say the least, being to suction dredge to suck millions of tonnes of muck off the seabed, and after processing it, return most of it as dirty water back into the ocean. This would not be so bad but for the massive quantities involved, millions of tonnes a year at a

huge rate per hour. I simply cannot imagine what 8,000 tonnes of sand and mud an hour looks like on dry land, let alone as a plume of thick black smoke underwater, 8000 tonnes an hour, 190,000 tonnes a day, 1.33 million tonnes a week.

I based my submission on my observation of whales migrating southwards through the area to be mined and the nautical hazards operating a large vessel in shallow water in the South Taranaki Bight.

I told of how one well found vessel nearly sank near the area in a gale one night and that was anchored a few kilometres away in a lot deeper water.

I described the effects of the mining being similar to the pollution caused by the Tarawera eruption and how vegetation still has not recovered in the area.

I was asked about what my opinion would be if I owned the nearby Kupe gas platform. I replied that I would be very annoyed, based on experience elsewhere that the sand would wear out the cooling water pumps in months, clog heat exchangers and erode pipework from the inside.

Worse was yet to come in other submitters' information, when it became apparent that there had been no survey of native wildlife in the area by the applicant for the permit to mine at all. Nothing on whales, migration patterns, seabed organisms, fish, seabirds, ecology, reaction by any organisms to being smothered in dirt. Nothing on what was in the muck five metres down, or 10. There could be and probably are heavy metals, eco toxic substances. Nobody knows.

One thing we can be sure of though is that the filthy polluted seawater will deposit muck and affect

all sea life between Cape Egmont and Cook Strait.

The whole proposal is very poorly thought out and lacking any real depth. No local farmer would get away with it on dry land, so why let a bunch of greedy men acting for an overseas country do so?

I can hear in the background someone rabbiting on about being good for the country and exports etc. By TTR's own figures they plan on paying only \$7m in royalties for every \$350m of revenue.

I do not think a lot of National MPs are a fan of it either, especially in an election year. Have a chat to them. Remember it makes a mockery of recycling plastics, riparian planting, and all of your efforts to protect your patch.

*John Hubbard
Opunake*

Don't touch farm land

Everyone knows that a beautiful, fertile 152.3ha piece of farm land at Omata is now up for sale. Now it seems an investor

or investors are extremely interested in turning it all into a golfing resort similar to or even better than Palm Springs. They are completely forgetting one thing, that this piece of real estate is filled with history. I am telling them go somewhere else to invest money into, as it's far too good to be a golfing resort.

If these investors are wanting to do something why not look closely at the New Plymouth Golf Club as it's close to the sea, and people can see the mountain, close to our airport, and can have accommodation for 150-200 people, and have a licensed restaurant, plus a casino which our tourists would love, and a helipad also.

Now if this was done here, as well as a few other places like our two mountain houses, and a proper licensed casino with accommodation and all the mod cons close to that restaurant in Omata could be built, our province would become a Mecca for visitors and tourists,

*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth*



More delivery problems

We have been advised that a "group of young kids" have been pulling Opunake & Coastal newspapers out of letter boxes shortly after they've been delivered in Stanners and Collingwood streets in Eltham.

They were witnessed doing this by people who informed our distribution person in the area who said he's delivered the papers by Friday lunchtime on March 3.

The group of young children were observed pulling the papers out of the letterboxes at around

3:30pm the same day and leaving them strewn around the streets.

The person who noticed this also claimed this particular group of children had been doing it for some months.

The matter has been referred to the police.

If anyone in the community however could give any further details to the Opunake & Coastal News on (06) 761 7016 or (06) 761 8206 (a/h) as to the identity of the young people it would be appreciated.

Many thanks. *Editor*

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

Telephone and Fax: (06) 761-7016 a/h ph: (06) 761-8206

e-mail: Advertising ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
Editorial editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
Accounts accounts@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

website: www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Editor Bernice M'Kellar -
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Bryan Kirk

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The best restaurant in Taranaki

Continued from page 1

and said he wants to promote a beach theme in the restaurant. In the future he also has plans to have entertainment, and mentions live music.

The family are currently living in New Plymouth but will be moving to Opunake where India will be attending school. In his spare time Harish says he enjoys cricket.

The restaurant is open 6 days a week from Tuesday to Sunday, from 10am till 2:30pm for coffee, morning tea and lunches and from 4:30pm till late for dinner and takeaways. Two days after opening, Harish said they'll also soon be opening on Monday also due to popular demand.



Harish with Sonya Munro-Smith, Supervisor and Front of House who are delighted to be back working at Headlands. Views of Opunake Beach are visible from the restaurant and Harish says he is keen to create a beach, boutique atmosphere.



LEFT: Marie Fisher and Shirley Maindonald, one of their first customers enjoying lunch. Shirley described her Mango Chicken as "absolutely beautiful" while Marie enjoyed her chicken Korma and commented she was "so happy" that Headlands had reopened. "It's wonderful for the town." Shirley added "the service is fabulous". Marie said she was looking forward to coming for an evening meal. They added that they wished the new owners "all the best". Judy Gillbanks meanwhile on her second visit to the restaurant in three days commented "We've really missed it." Her friend Viv Woodd visiting from Morrinsville who has previously stayed at Headlands commented she was pleased it was open again. "It's great to be back."

Black is black

RIGHT: Alexandre Dumas wrote a novel about a Black Tulip. Opunake now has its own black mushrooms. Three of these were discovered by Rex Langton following one of the downpours of rain which came through Taranaki last weekend. The mushrooms, which were black on the stem as well as the cap were found on the Opunake Walkway in a cluster opposite the nikau palms, not far from the boat

ramp, with signs of a fourth one pushing through. Rex, who is known as the public face of the Opunake Walkway brought one of these into the Opunake and Coastal News on Tuesday. "I've never seen a black one before," he said. The stem maybe black on the outside, but inside it's the same colour that would be expected from mushrooms this time of year. Rex says he is baffled as to exactly what it is, or whether it's edible. "It does smell like a mushroom, but



I wouldn't want to risk it." With the rains and the mushroom season getting underway it would be interesting to see what else may come from the Opunake soils in the coming weeks.

St Mary's school leaders

Continued from page 1

interest lie around the performing arts - acting and theatre. She is currently rehearsing for Beauty and The Beast. Having gained NCEA Level 2 last year with an overall Merit endorsement, Alexandra is studying Drama, Classics, History, Photography and English this year. Next year she hopes to attend Drama school to pursue the Performing Arts.

Charlotte attended Inglewood Primary School and enjoys playing netball having played in the Senior A team for the past two years. Charlotte also gained NCEA Level 2 in 2016 with an overall Merit

endorsement and this year is studying Geography, History, Biology, Statistics

and English. Next year Charlotte hopes to pursue a career in Law.

Alexandra and Charlotte will be at the school's Open Day on March 21.

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Come next summer and the Tasman-Napier Streets intersection could be humming with the sounds of people getting together and having fun.

The idea of creating an open space at the intersection was one of the ideas put forward at the Gap Filler workshop hosted by the Egmont Plains Community Board. The workshop, which was held on February 24, had been led by Dr Ryan Reynolds and drew on lessons on urban regeneration learned since the Christchurch earthquakes.

The open space suggestion drew positive comments at the Egmont Plains Community Board meeting on March 8, and it was agreed to place it on the agenda for the Board's October meeting with a view to possibly

trailing it next summer.

The idea could see the intersection's southern end closed off and converted to an open space suitable for market days, outdoor dining, and public and social events.

There could even be shared access with vehicles, as with the open space by Puke Ariki in New Plymouth.

"So far there's no plan as to what it would look like. We are definitely open to ideas," the board's deputy chairman Andy Whitehead said.

He says that although the proposal had come from the Gap Filler workshop, the idea had really begun with a conversation two years before.

"Rex Langton made the comment that it would be nice to have bigger spaces in Opunake, and it's something I've been thinking about for a little while since then."

With a double pedestrian crossing and the Coastal Care Facility at the other end of Napier Street, the intersection had become increasingly busy, and closing off the southern end could be a good way of reducing traffic congestion, he said.

Another factor was the proximity of the library, with a backdrop which included some of the town's murals and the statue of Opunake's favourite son, Peter Snell.

"Our libraries are our central hubs, so this is a perfect starting point for creating an extension to the library," says Andy.

The land had been gifted to Opunake which carried an extra significance for the town.

"Let's enhance it," Andy

says. Groups like St John's already used the space for their own promotions.

"It's been suggested that the Community Board needs to drive more projects, but being on the Community Board you can only get behind and drive what the community wants. If there's not the community desire for it, then it can end up being just a white elephant," says Andy.

"This is an idea that started with a conversation two years ago, and it's grown into the possibility of becoming a reality if people want it."

As to the future?

"Watch this space," Andy says.

Where to from here? Andy Whitehead hopes this intersection can be a public space for all.



Andy Whitehead outside TSB Bank and the Opunake Library

Dip in sharemilking opportunities concern Fed Farmers

Federated Farmers has expressed concern at the reduction in herd owning sharemilking opportunities

and the possible impact on the industry's future sustainability.

"We encourage and support the development of new business concepts that will potentially make sharemilking more attractive and resilient as an industry," reads a statement issued by Federated Farmers.

"The development of the variable rate payment option for herd owning sharemilkers has some merit, with Federated Farmers party to discussions relating to this option over the past year.

We are aware this is being trialed by MyFarm and are awaiting results to see if it can be easily implemented on-

farm and whether it has fair, equitable outcomes for the farm owner and sharemilker.

If this variable rate payout model is shown to improve the sustainability of sharemilking at low milk prices and deliver a fairer return to landowners at a high milk price, then it can be judged to have merit and be explored further.


"Federated Farmers has an industry standard herd owning sharemilking agreement. for the purposes of delegating business and succession. Should the payment model be adopted it will become an additional option within our sharemilking agreement."

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Councils preparing for a rainy day



Heavy rains flooded Opunake on August 6, 2015.

Memories of the floods of August 6 2015 continue to hit a raw nerve in Opunake. A year and a half after floods inundated Opunake township, the Taranaki Regional Council and the South Taranaki District Council are looking at options to reduce risks of future flooding by diverting water away from the town. "Our ultimate goal for Opunake is to have a series

of cut-off drains outside the town to divert water to streams east and west of Opunake," South Taranaki District Council engineering services group manager Brent Manning said. Discussions are being held with landowners, and the Taranaki Regional Council is investigating two options, each of which will involve diverting water into the Waiau River.

"We are reliant on getting the approval and agreement of the landowners," Mr Manning said. "In the next couple of months, we should see a resolution of which is the preferred option." The South Taranaki District Council has agreed to pay half the cost of repair work. Mr Manning said it is hoped to get the cut-off drains done by winter, with

Photo Robert Shaw. the bigger work done around next summer. A particular concern in the August 2015 floods was the town's retention pond. Although it had held out in earlier floods the previous June, it could not contain the heavy rains on August 6, and overflowed, causing extensive flooding to houses on Gisborne Terrace. "For the moment the pond does serve a purpose, although it's limited in capacity. We are looking at making amendments to divert water away before it overtops," Mr Manning says. At the Egmont Plains Community Board meeting on March 8, Cr Bryan Roach and Community Board member Brian Vincent said the August 2015 floods were the worst they had ever seen in Opunake. Taranaki Regional Council rivers manager John Philpott said climate change meant events like this could be expected to happen more

Sneaky fees costing shoppers millions

Consumers could be paying \$68 million each year in extra fees retailers are adding to the advertised price of goods and services. Consumer NZ chief executive Sue Chetwin says its latest survey found more than two-thirds of consumers have been stung by extra fees when buying goods and services.

"These charges, often called booking or service fees, are increasingly common in the travel and entertainment industries. But they're not included in the advertised price, misleading consumers about what they actually have to

pay," she says. Consumer NZ has launched a campaign calling for the Fair Trading Act to include rules requiring businesses to disclose the full cost of products upfront. A majority of Kiwis (68 percent) agree retailers should be required to disclose the total price in their advertising, Consumer NZ's survey shows.

The practice of adding fees to advertised prices is known as "drip pricing." Companies use it because it makes consumers more likely to buy. "By the time the add-ons are revealed, consumers are

more likely to be committed to the purchase and less likely to shop around," Ms Chetwin says. "While the Fair Trading Act prohibits misleading representations about price, it hasn't been effective at stopping drip-pricing practices. "Other countries provide better consumer protection. In Australia, for example, companies are prohibited from advertising a component of a price without prominently displaying the total amount."

Consumer NZ is inviting people to sign its online petition to get the law changed.

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COASTAL COPS

Police make cannabis haul in Opunake

OPUNAKE COPS



Constable Peter Sherrie

Police have harvested 90 mature cannabis plants from a maze field in Opunake. This is a great result for the Opunake community as the plants were destined to cause harm and anti-social behaviour.

This is a timely reminder to land owners and members of the public to report anything that doesn't seem right or something that is out of place as you never know how important the peace of information you have is until we receive it.

Police are following up positive leads on possible suspects involved

Any information can be supplied by using the Crime stoppers reporting line on

0800 555 111 or stop in and see to one of the local Police staff members at the station.

Driver behaviour in and around the town is still of concern. Stop signs and seat belts are there for good reasons, so use them appropriately.

A female pedestrian narrowly avoided being run over by a vehicle using the foot path on Tasman Street. The area outside the library by the ATM is not for parking your vehicle on. It's for pedestrian traffic.

Don't be lazy and try to save yourself a couple of metres of walking distance to the ATM. Park in the allocated car parking spaces on the street.

The number of burglaries are on the rise, so we all need to insure we are locking the house and sheds and insuring windows are closed before we leave, and also removing valuables from sight.

A case in point. While Police were conducting patrols in Manaia, they noticed an unattended

property where the shed was left wide open with two expensive chainsaws sitting on the bench. This is what we are trying to prevent, and by providing some simple crime prevention advice and the support of the community, we intend to reduce the rate of burglaries.

This could be a great opportunity to go and say hello to your neighbour, as they are the best eyes and ears you have while your house is left unattended.



Cannabis plants that were harvested from a maze field in Opunake.

On this month in history

Sir Julius Vogel dies

On March 12, 1899 Sir Julius Vogel died in London. Aged 64.

He was twice premier of New Zealand. He was born in London AND moved

to NZ from the Victorian goldfields in 1861.

In central politics he was well known for his major borrowing programme which helped develop NZ's infrastructure, but he was also involved in provincial politics.

He was also a journalist who founded the Otago Daily Times, which he owned along with other newspapers.

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Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade News

The highly sensitive fire detectors at Everybody's theatre sprung into life at 6:30 pm. on Wednesday 1st to give us our first call out for autumn. The fire panel pointed us in the direction of the area under the stage so a team wearing B.A. went in to investigate. To ours, as well as the theatre team that were preparing for a showing relief, there was nothing untoward so after a good look around, we packed up and headed back to the station.

We thought the 12 o'clock siren had gone off a little early on Wednesday 8th, but no, it was a call to some power wires that had decided to break loose and flap about on the lower end of the Eltham Road. While we were contemplating

exactly what to do, 2 trucks with linesmen heading to another job just happened to be going by so they kindly pulled the fuses on the pole allowing us to head back to the station.

We were introduced to a new piece of equipment at our Monday nights practice. Dave Watkins, Taranaki's training officer, brought a new ground monitor to replace our old model, and gave us a run through showing its capabilities. A monitor can be used to saturate a fire with an immense amount of water, or aimed between two properties to setup a water curtain to prevent a fire spreading from one building to another. This was done at the hotel fire at Manaia to stop the fire getting into the Four Square.



Opunake Fire Brigade practice with new equipment.

Numbers high for Taranaki smokefree campaign

Registrations for a New Year smokefree campaign have come flooding in, with high hopes that Taranaki people are committed more than ever to kicking the habit.

By the end of February, eight weeks after the start of 2017, 129 people had signed up for the New Year New You challenge run by the Taranaki Stop Smoking Service. This meant they expressed an interest in wanting to stop smoking and were enrolled in a seven week programme.

The regional-wide challenge, run by Tui Ora, was anchored by the yearly desire to start the New Year with healthy resolutions, says Tui Ora Public Health Team Leader Tamara Ruakere. It coincided with a nationwide price increase on January 1, 2017, following indications the tax take on tobacco products will continue to rise.

Tamara says the price increase appeared to be an incentive for many people.

"If you are on a low income you get to a point where you don't want to be spending that amount

any more on tobacco or cigarettes." Others have spoken of being encouraged by young grandchildren and other whānau.

"Some say they tried to stop before and have been unsuccessful. It might be because they didn't know how to use the medicine and didn't have the support of someone to talk them through what was going on." Quit coaches say people often do not understand the impact of nicotine withdrawal on their body and the emotional highs and lows. While it's hard, there is also an attempt to make quitting fun, says Tamara.

"Quit coaches want them to feel pumped up, to know that they can do this – it's about changing their mind set."

Quit coaches in the Taranaki Stop Smoking Service offer a range of free support from individual to group mentoring (including text reminders), patches, gum, and lozenges. They meet with people wherever it is convenient, such as their home, workplace or sports club. They use a carbon monoxide monitor to verify if people are smokefree at certain times during the quit programme.

Manaia WI members view gardens

The March meeting of the Manaia WI was held in St. Cuthberts Lounge, Manaia on Tuesday March 7.

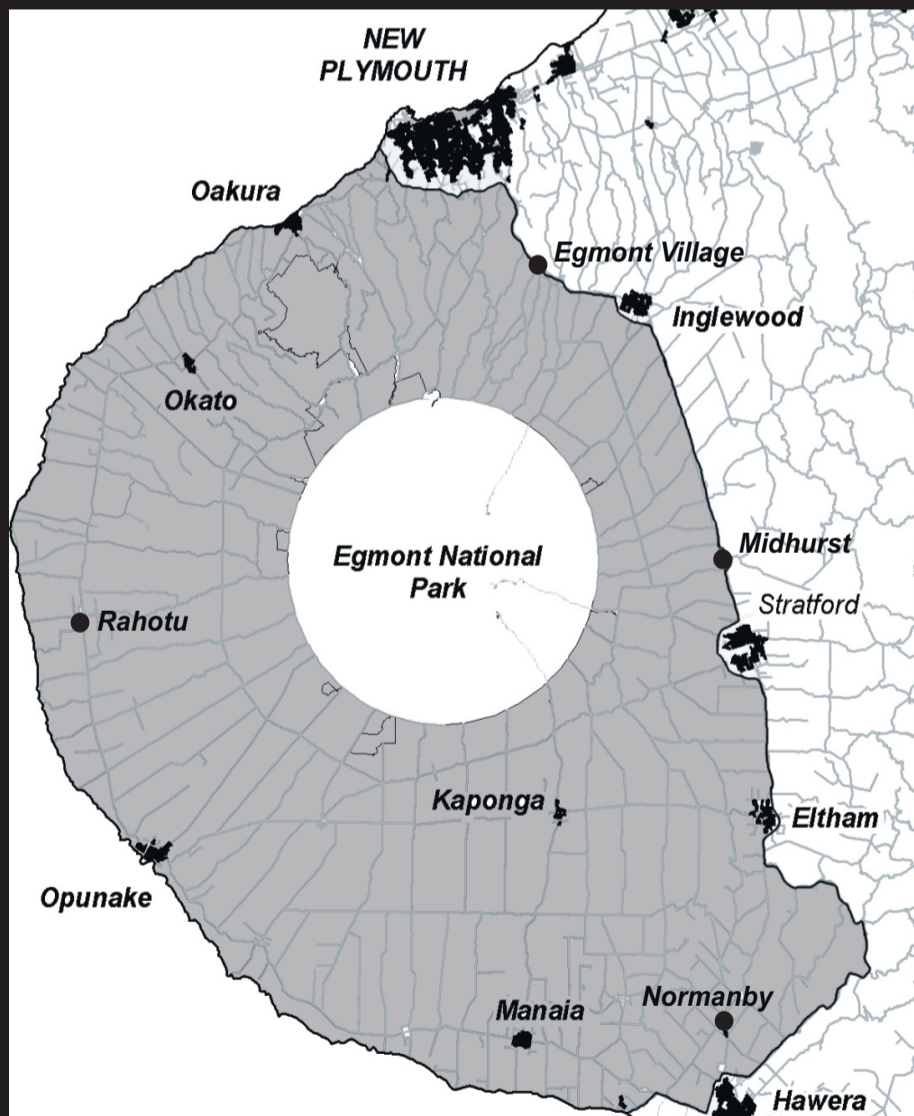
Two members had attended Hollard Gardens with other Federation members to celebrate Founders day. Members visited Val Potts garden, in Eltham to view her beautiful array of Begonias.

Competition winners: Shrub. Joy Brogden 1st,

Phyllis Malcolm 2nd, Daphne Ashley 3rd. Any other stem. Daphne Ashley 1st, Phyllis Malcolm 2nd, Ann Chisnall 3rd. Homecraft – Three stems rhubarb. Joy Brogden 1st, Janice Walsh 2nd, Phyllis Malcolm 3rd. Handcraft – Lavender perfumed sachet. Daphne Ashley 1st, Jenny Hamley 2nd.

The wondering Coin was won by Edith Hicks

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W: www.jonathanyoung.co.nz
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Andrew Little MP

Having a dip at your local river or lake to cool down in summer is a cherished Kiwi tradition. My childhood was spent swimming in the Waiwhakaiho River in New Plymouth. It's a tradition our kids should get to share in too.

Today, many of our rivers are too dirty to swim in safely. I wouldn't want my son swimming in water that could make him sick. What parent would? Clearly, we need to clean up our rivers and lakes. We need to cut the pollution getting into them from our farms and our urban areas. For years, the government has been promising a plan to do that.

But when is a clean water plan not a clean water plan? Evidently, when it's announced by Bill English and Nick Smith. We all know now that National's commitment to make 90% of our rivers and lakes

Clean rivers: time to cut the crap

swimmable by 2040 has turned out to be a con-job.

They want to get to that target by weakening the definition of 'swimmable'. They want to increase the amount of e coli – the bug that gets into water from animal waste and causes serious illnesses like campylobacter – that can be in water that's graded as safe to swim in.

That would mean water so filthy has a one in twenty chance of making you sick would be labelled swimmable.

Nick Smith says these rivers would be safe. The experts disagree. Water scientists, outdoors groups, and tourism representatives are all saying this plan is bad for New Zealand. Some of the rivers and lakes Nick Smith has deemed swimmable are absolutely filthy.

When you dig into National's plans many of Kiwis' favourite rivers would be highly polluted during summer, the peak swimming season, but still be called 'swimmable' because their pollution levels are lower in winter.

Here's the truth: a vote for National this year is a vote for more polluted rivers.

That's not the New Zealand we cherish. That's not the New Zealand we ask the world to come and visit.

It's time to cut the crap. How do we do that? We start by fighting National's plan.

In 2010, National wanted to open up our most highly-protected National Parks to rampant mining. The huge public backlash, including tens of thousands of Kiwis taking to the streets in mass protest marches, forced them to drop the idea. People power works. It's people power that will put paid to National's idea of putting more muck in our rivers.

Labour will be working with groups up and down New Zealand to build a movement to stand up for clean rivers. Bill English and Nick Smith are completely out of touch with New Zealanders' values on water, but they'll back down if they have no choice.

The next stage will be a real plan to clean up our rivers. Labour's already got a good start with our Ready to Work policy. This programme will

employ young people who are stuck on the dole to do valuable, paid work and get some job experience. I want to see those young people out helping to build the fences that will keep livestock out of the water and doing riparian planting – restoring wetlands and growing native plants on the edges of waterways to filter the run-off from farms.

Alongside that practical work, we'll need proper standards without the trickery, better monitoring, and accountability for polluters. We'll need to empower every community – because when my local river is swimmable and yours is too, the whole of New Zealand has clean water.

Our rivers are part of our culture, part of our heritage and identity. We need to get them back to a fit state so we, and future generations, can enjoy them. The first step is stopping National's plan to pollute our rivers.

Andrew Little MP,
Leader of the Opposition



Chester Borrows MP

I don't think there's any New Zealanders, Baby Boomers, Gen Xs, Ys or Millennials who would, in their heart-of-hearts disagree with the fact that our aging population would inevitably cause some adjustment in the provisions of our superannuation scheme.

And in the past few days there's been a huge amount of comment from all sectors, all age groups and all shades

Superannuation gets the ideas flowing? Yeah, right!

of the political spectrum attempting to catapult the issue to the dubious status of political football.

But to continue the sporting analogy, the Government has seized the ball, cut through the rhetoric and put some certainty into superannuation provisions.

So amid the sensational words, perhaps the facts should come through as we face the bigger, longer-term issue for New Zealanders. Improvements in lifestyle and healthcare mean that New Zealanders' life expectancy has increased by 12 years in the last two generations, so that somebody qualifying for super today is expected to

live an average further 21 years. In twenty years' time, that statistic is expected to rise to 23 years.

So good health is good news, meaning that we can enjoy life more and remain active in the workforce and community for a lot longer. But that longer life naturally drives up the cost of super, which by international standards is quite affordable at around 5 per cent of GDP. But that cost will balloon out to 8.4 per cent in forty years' time and that's a significant amount.

We cannot sustain that, quite simply it is living beyond our means not to do something now.

We would not want to increase taxes or cut back health or education so the Government has decided to progressively increase the age of eligibility for New Zealand super to 67, starting in 20 years' time along with a ten year increase in the residency requirement for eligibility, making it 20 years. That's fair enough to me because these schemes only work if there's years of contributions from everyone in the work force.

These changes, which will be legislated for in 2018, will more fairly spread both the costs and the benefits of New Zealand super between the generations, ensuring the scheme remains affordable into the future. It is the responsible and fair thing to do and also gives people time to adjust.

'Preposterous', 'bitter pill', 'bombshell', 'ham-fisted', 'heresy' These are just some of the words bandied about following the Prime Minister and Finance Minister's gradual increase announcement on superannuation.

But where, oh where are the better ideas for a solution to on-going change that we know that we all must face?

Chester Borrows
MP for Whanganui

Chester Borrows MP FOR WHANGANUI HAVE AN ISSUE OR NEED TO SPEAK TO YOUR MP?

Please email or phone to book a time to speak with Chester.



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Government is important says political hopeful

A Pihama man is among those seeking to take over from Chester Borrows as National Party MP for Whanganui. Mr Borrows who has represented Whanganui since 2005 will not be seeking re-election and 26 year-old Warwick Fleming is among those seeking the National Party nomination for the seat in September's General Election.

National will announce their candidate after a selection meeting on March 26.

The electorate takes in Whanganui City and extends up the coast to the outskirts of Opunake. In 2014 Mr Borrows had a majority of 4505. The seat takes in Wanganui which has historically gone Labour more often than it has gone National, as well as National Party voting towns like Hawera and Stratford and all the countryside in between. It includes traces of the former Wanganui and Egmont electorates where in earlier years Social Credit had polled well. New Zealand First Party leader Winston Peters has said he expects his party to do well here.

"It's going to be tough to keep the seat blue," Warwick says. "Chester was a very

good MP and had lots of life experience. He had a police background and he had a legal background, and could relate to a lot of people."

Warwick attended Pihama Primary School and Francis Douglas Memorial College, and graduated with a B.Comm from Otago University. He has worked as an insurance advisor and is currently doing a graduate diploma in project management at WITT.

He believes government is important and wants to see young people take an interest and get involved.

"I was born with tetralogy of fallot pulmonary atresia, so I am here today because the government paid for five open heart surgeries," he says.

He is chairman of Young Nats in Taranaki and was among those who got Taranaki Young Nats going again after a long break. He cites a recent case of how he organised a meeting between Young Nats who happened to be skaters and the Inglewood Community Board about the development of the Inglewood Skatepark as an example of how young people can make their own unique contribution to the political process.

He recently completed a



Political aspirant Warwick Fleming.

term as chairman of Taranaki Young Farmers.

His other interests include Toastmasters and rugby, which he has been involved

with for the last 20 years, making the transition from player to referee. He says toastmasters and being a referee have taught

him valuable life lessons including thinking on your feet, and making tough decisions and having to stand by them.

Warwick lives on the same road as Shane Ardern who was National Party MP for Taranaki-King Country for 17 years. He credits Shane with giving him a lot of good advice in his current political venture.

He sees the National Party as his natural political home.

"They align with a lot of my own values like freedom of choice. I like the direction the National Party is going. They are focussed on empowerment and will listen to both sides of the argument."

He acknowledges some people may be reluctant to consider voting National because of memories of what

previous National Party governments had done, such as the Employment Contracts Act in the 1990s. Against that, he says the current National government got rid of zero-hour contracts.

"Some people may be sceptical after what was done in the past under Ruth Richardson, and it's always going to be tough to convince people you have changed, but the criticism that National isn't doing enough for the labour force is wrong."

He says he supports what National has been doing on the environment including their recently released clean water policy. He also sees the current National Party leadership team as being a good mix of the "steady and stable" Bill English and the "energetic and charismatic" Paula Bennett.

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This commanding 24 ac lifestyler oozes understated luxury & authentic character. The main residence with distant sea views has been meticulously crafted with beautiful leadlight windows & rustic finishes. All aspects of this gorgeous home open to the fabulous outdoors for entertaining or relaxation in the spa/sauna. Beautifully fenced, features incl. 45x25m horse arena, 40m round pen, various yards/sheds, a hobby enthusiast area off the Tack Room incl. 2 bdrm & amenities. Be it a future lodge, equestrian establishment or family home - this stunning property could be described as ALMOSTA RANCH.

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Comfort, class and panoramic views

A lifestyle block with a modern and comfortable five bedroom two storey house and panoramic views of the Kaitake Ranges and surrounding countryside has just come on the market.

Nestled several kilometres off Surf Highway 45 on Upper Timaru Road and just six minutes from Oakura and Okato, the house set in two and a half acres has a huge open plan living area which includes a new kitchen, a living room with a log fire and a dining area. Views from this attractive focal point of the house encompass the surrounding farmland, the Kaitake Ranges, Mount Taranaki and the sea in the distance. Off the living area is an enclosed porch from which there is access to an immaculate fully fenced



The main living area.



One of the upstairs bedrooms.

garden. A sliding door from the main living area also leads to a second sitting room and access to the garden via an expansive deck.

There are three double bedrooms including the master bedroom with a walk in dressing room. Upstairs are two cute bedrooms with angled walls with built in wardrobes. Two bathrooms, one with a claw foot bath complete the interior.

Apart from the main living areas which have

stained floors, the house, with the exception of the tiled bathrooms, is carpeted throughout.

Owners Mike and Jasmine Parnell are understandably reluctant to sell but have decided to downsize due to ill health. The couple who migrated from Australia five years ago also share the house with Michael's parents who followed them to New Zealand three years later. With separate access and two bathrooms the

house has proved ideal for the two families.

The couple recently installed two efficient heat pumps and an HRV system. As well as the log fire having a wetback, this energy efficient home also has solar water heating on the roof. "It's a big saver," says Mike.

The property also boasts a huge implement shed with running water and power and room for at least three cars. The grounds include three raised vegetable gardens and several small fenced paddocks, where Gary, their cute Kune Kune pig resides along with some chooks and ducks. Plus a couple of rabbits. Jasmine who volunteers at the SPCA clearly is "an animal lover."

They have also been

running a few beef and sheep.

The school bus goes near the gate to take their two 7 and 8 year olds to Coastal Taranaki School. They are actually zoned for both the Okato and Oakura schools.

"It's a wonderful family home," says Jasmine, just wonderful for the children.

The property is being marketed by Pat McFetridge from Harcourts.



Gary, and the chooks in one of the fenced paddocks.



The sunporch off the main living area.

Mangatoki WI begins new year

The Mangatoki WI Christmas lunch was well attended. There was no January meeting.

On February 1, 14 members and three children met at the Inflammé Café, Eltham for our February meeting and A.G.M. followed by an enjoyable lunch and a lot of chatting after the break of two months. President Karen Joblin ran the business meeting, Secretary Helen Whyte read the minutes of the previous meeting and our Treasurer Cathy White gave an update of the accounts.

For the A.G.M., Karen Joblin gave her President Report and reported that 11 members, on average, attended

each month's meeting. This was followed by Secretary Helen Whyte's report, followed by the Treasurer's Report given by Cathy White. Vice President Jenny Brown then took the chair for the nomination of the President: - Karen Joblin. She then took the chair for the rest of the A.G.M. Secretary: - Helen Whyte, Treasurer and overseas link: - Cathy White, Vice President: - Jenny Brown.

The committee being the same as last year, was voted en bloc. The Hall Committee Representative is Robyn Roberts.

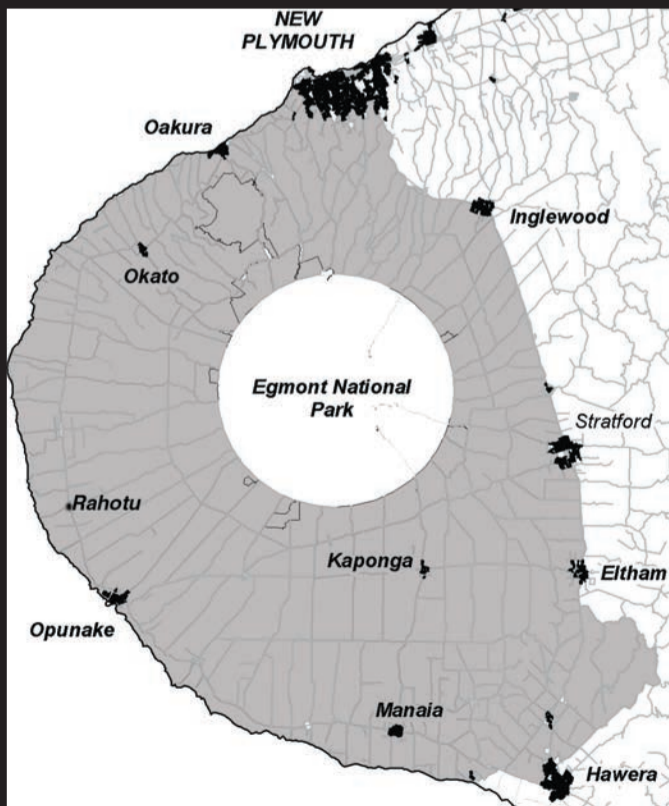
Competitions: - Bev Marx.

Reporter: - Lucy Moger. Hostess Convenor:- Marlene Henn.

Yearly competitions results: - Overall, Lucy Moger 31 points, 2nd Marlene Henn 27 points, 3rd Cathy White 26 points. Over the past two months, several members had knitted 14 items of Prem; baby booties, cardigans, hats etc. to be donated to the Prem Baby Unit, New Plymouth. A get together to clean up the gardens at the Mangatoki Church Pioneer Village was arranged for Wednesday, March 10.

Lucy Moger

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If we could take it with us we would

If we could hoist this house up by crane and ship it with us we would. It's everything we've ever wanted in a home", says Alicia. Sadly however - but luckily for the new buyer - Alicia and her husband who have owned the New Plymouth house for three years are selling because they and their two boys have to return to the UK. The house which is 4 years old in Fernbrook Drive just oozes class, comfort and style. From the luxurious shag pile carpet to the huge open plan living area which in-

cludes an ultra-modern kitchen, you know you are in a quality spacious house where no expense has been spared in its construction. French doors from the main living area lead onto a tiled patio and the garden which is fully landscaped. The state of the art kitchen which seems to blend in with the entire living area includes a walk in pantry with a separate sink. Also two adjacent wall ovens and a huge stainless steel fridge which go with the house. An island bench with drawers that open by touch alone is in Korean engi-

neered stone which is higher spec and reputedly stronger than granite and says Alicia "doesn't chip", separates the kitchen area from the main living area. A line of comfortable stools means this attractive feature also doubles as a bar area. Alicia, who like her husband is a geophysicist, says she always used to see cooking as a chore but now finds it a real pleasure;" I love it now because I'm amongst the hustle and bustle of the household, rather than being in some separate kitchen area". She adds, when cooking, "I can really interact with my boys,



The state of the art kitchen that blends seamlessly into the living area.



The main living area.

or watch them playing in the garden or be entertaining friends and not feel like I'm missing out on anything." There is also a second separate sizable living room off the main hall with a gas fire heater which they use as a TV lounge. Also off the main entrance hall is a small study. A second hall from the main living area leads to a bathroom with an interesting tiled surround and three double bedrooms which includes the master bedroom with an ensuite and walk in dressing room. French doors from the master bedroom also lead onto the patio and the back garden.

The couple have also incorporated into their living space the carpeted double garage which is accessed via the main entrance hall. The sporty family use it as a playroom and for storing their array of sporting items including bikes. This area is where the inbuilt laundry is also situated. "It's such a sunny warm house that we just love lounging around in, says Alicia. "Not too hot in the summer and cosy in the winter". But the beautiful living space is not the only attraction. "One of the loveliest parts of living here is its location, says Alicia adding they love

to take evening strolls looking across the untouched valley at the mountain vista via the neighbouring horse paddocks to the nearby Huatoki Trail. A pleasant amble through native bush. "The boys go on their scooters. They just love it." The sociable family also interact a lot with their neighbours in the street. "It's such a gorgeous street to live on," enthuses Alicia. "Friendly, safe and quiet." The house could equally suit a newly retired couple or a younger flourishing household. It is being marketed by Pat McFetridge from Harcourts.

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Hurworth 11 Fernbrook Drive

3 2 2

Wow - Space, Luxury And Location
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Children and adults enjoying the Rahotu Playcentre's recently held Fun Day. From left are adults Vanessa Robinson and Lisa Schrader.

Rahotu Playcentre seeks more families

On Tuesday March 7 Rahotu Playcentre held a Fun Day, from 9.30am until 12.30pm. There were lots of fun activities to be enjoyed, such as face painting and a bouncy pirate ship to explore, with plenty to eat such as the sausage sizzle goodies manned by the Rahotu Volunteer Fire Brigade, real fruit ice creams, as well as coffee and slushies provided by Opunake Dairy. The event was held in the buildings and grounds of the Wesley Church, Rahotu.

"We really want to boost numbers," explains President Nic Spademan. "We'd really like double," comments Jeni Kettlewell (Treasurer).

The Rahotu Playcentre, which is a member of

the Taranaki Playcentre Association, celebrated its fifty years anniversary last year and this event is part of Playcentre Awareness Week.

At present there are ten families enrolled, which includes about sixteen children aged 0 to 6. The Playcentre runs from 9.30am to 12.30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are located at the Rahotu Primary School - by walking through the War Memorial Gate.

There are as many as 16 activities to interest your children to 'learn through play' in a safe family environment - including family drama, sandpit, messy play, playdough, dressing up, painting, and cooking - to mention just a few.

There is also a transition to school programme for the children approaching the magical age of five. Also, a free parent education programme should be very useful for new parents.

The term fees are very reasonable at \$30 for a family. "They get a lot for that," explains Jeni. At present there is the special offer of three free visits if you bring along their voucher, which can be found on our facebook page.

The Playcentre will be fundraising for a new water-play area in the near future,

as the present one is looking the worse for wear.

If you'd like to know more about Rahotu Platcentre you can phone Nic on 027 451 8206, or phone 06 763 8658. Visit www.Playcentre.org.nz Their Facebook page is also well worth a look www.facebook.com/rahotuplaycentre

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The winning banner. From left (adults): Shane Ross (teacher), Robyn Lander (Head Teacher), Janet Reid (Administration), Meredith Houghton (Teacher) - as well as many children.

Kaitake Kindergarten wins banner competition

Kaitake Kindergarten in Oakura recently won (first equal) the Americarna Banner Competition (Pre-school section), to the delight of Head teacher Robyn Lander and her staff. A monetary prize of \$1,000 was the prize, which they received on Monday March 6. "It was fantastic because we were already planning

how to spend the money," admitted Robyn. Most of the money will go to buying more Lego and Duplo, as well as more sandpit toys for the educational centre.

The other winners were Top Kids Stratford (Pre-school section) and St Josephs Waitara (School section). The event co-ordinator Tony Fabish commented, "It was

a very hard decision for the judges as they were blown away by the effort put in by everyone."

The entrants were allowed free scope as to what their banner included, however the colours red, blue and white had to feature (the colours of the United States flag).

Kaitake's banner was

large, as the picture shows and took a good two weeks to put together. Robyn was pleased with the much appreciated help provided by the kindergarten's 50 or so families.

Congratulations to you all for your prize-winning banner, and all the best in your future educational endeavours.

MSD's client collection a privacy breach

Handing over personal details of clients who are seeking help from social services is a breach of their confidentiality, says the NZ Association of Counsellors (NZAC).

NZAC President, Bev Weber, says the Ministry of Social Development's (MSD) demands for clients' names, birthdates, ethnicity and the personal details of any dependents under contracts is "extremely worrying".

From July, more than 800 groups including sexual

violence and counselling services will provide private client information in exchange for funding.

Demanding this kind of personal information goes against the Association's ethical values, Ms Weber says.

"Not only is it a complete breach of a client's confidentiality, but also their trust.

"One of our core ethical commitments is to client confidentiality, which is fundamental in the client-counsellor relationship."

Her comments follow revelations from privacy lawyer Kathryn Dalziel who stated that MSD "looked to be on shaky ground".

She expressed concerns about the potential for a breach of privacy due to the government's lack of purpose behind the data collection.

However, what is more concerning is the country's most vulnerable, who could simply walk away from help, Ms Weber says.

"Our main concern about the MSD requiring

individual client data from community agencies is that clients may hesitate to ask for help if they think their information will be shared.

"If this government is serious about social investment, then it should invest in the local counselling and sexual violence agencies that are working at the coalface to help those in need."

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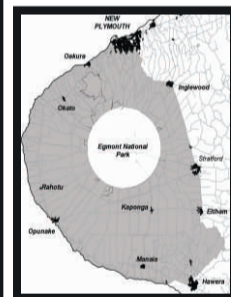
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Mark and Ursula Haywood from Antahi Innovations Ltd.

Cambridge-based company, Antahi Innovations Ltd, has gone from strength to strength after the launch of its "kinder" calf feeders at last year's NZ Agricultural Fieldays.

Ursula Haywood and husband Mark entered their products, TrustiTuber and FlexiTuber, in the 2016 Fieldays Innovation Awards. They were selected to display their products in the Fieldays Innovations Centre at Mystery Creek Events Centre, where they

won a major award.

Now, less than one year later, they are winning praise from farmers around the globe, and their products are distributed in 18 countries including the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States, Canada and Japan. "We are really rapt," said Ms Haywood. "We've had great feedback from farmers."

Ms Haywood, a Tirau dairy veterinarian, came up with the idea three years ago through her contacts with farmers during calving

season.

"There is some unforgiving equipment out there and I thought it could be done better," said Ms Haywood. "As a vet I knew about animal anatomy and I wanted to make a tube feeder that would be more comfortable and safer for the calves."

Ms Haywood, who has worked as a vet for more than 10 years, said many farmers told her they disliked tube feeding.

The products, which took more than two years to develop, have a flexible tube and easy-swallow safety tip designed to flex around a calf's airway. The FlexiTuber differs from the TrustiTuber in that it has a strap to secure the calf's mouth in the optimum position.

"We see a 90 per cent reduction in behavioural signs of stress in animals when we use our products," said Ms Haywood. "Making the procedure easier on the calves also makes it easier and less unpleasant for farmers, encouraging them to treat sick or weak calves earlier."

Antahi's TrustiTuber and FlexiTuber won the Tompkins Wake IP and Commercialisation Award at last year's event.

Ms Haywood said being involved in the Fieldays Innovation Awards was invaluable for her business, especially the support, mentoring and networking opportunities provided to entrants. "It was the perfect place and timing to launch our products," said Ms Haywood. "The Innovations Centre is a real drawcard

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TENDER

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4036 South Road, Opunake

This 4.5 hectare lifestyle property is currently set up for horses with a massive stable, this could be a workshop or perfect for a car enthusiast - the options are endless.

The house offers three bedrooms plus a large office or 4th bedroom, central gas heating makes for a cosy home on those cooler days. A fabulous deck off the dining room allows for relaxing entertaining in the afternoon sun.

Just so much on offer here, it really needs to be seen.

Tender closes 1.00pm, Wednesday 29 March 2017 at McDonald Real Estate, 50 Tasman Street, Opunake (unless sold prior)

<p>Open Home Sunday 19th March 1:00pm-1:30pm</p>	<p>Contact Viv Scott O 06 761 7321 M 027 441 4596</p>
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Fieldays Innovation Awards a platform for business entrepreneur

Continued from page 14

for Fieldays' visitors, and a lot of foot traffic comes through. It was a cost-effective way to get a sense from potential customers about the value of the products. It was a real buzz over the whole four days." Last year 130,684 visitors attended Fieldays making it a good opportunity for entrepreneurs to talk to future or potential customers and conduct valuable market research. Fieldays Innovations event manager Gail Hendricks said people who want to enter in this year's awards need to get their entries in soon, as applications close on May 1. Ms Hendricks said that the Fieldays Innovation Awards has been going

for more than 40 years, and the event seeks to celebrate and support New Zealand's most innovative agricultural inventions to lead change in the rural sector. Successful applicants will be invited to exhibit over four days from June 14-17 in the Fieldays Innovations Centre at NZ Agricultural Fieldays. Ms Hendricks said she had room for about 50 applicants, and she was always impressed at the calibre of entrants, who typically came from a range of fields including dairy and dry stock farming, horticulture, information and communication technology, cloud and mobile-based software, animal health and genetics, water and waste management, environment

and clean-tech, animal and farm management and farm safety – to name but a few. The three main Innovation Awards categories are the Tru-Test Prototype Innovation of the year (including the grassroots and established companies subcategories), the Fieldays Launch NZ Innovation of the Year (for innovations ready to hit the market) and the Fieldays International Innovation of the Year. Judges consider things such as inventiveness, design and originality, the process of coming up with the innovation, commercial opportunities, intellectual property protection, technical viability and its benefit to New Zealand agriculture.

Father and son duo nabbed in black market crayfish operation

A father and son duo have been fined a total of almost \$4,000 after being caught running an illegal black market crayfish operation from their home in Whangarei. Forty-eight-year-old David Vance Gavin and his son, Levi Rama Gavin, aged 28, were fined a total of \$3,800 plus courts costs totalling \$260 when they appeared in the Whangarei District Court this week. A cellphone used in the pair's offending was also forfeited to the Crown. Ministry for Primary Industries spokesman, Steve Rudsdale, says the pair was involved in

catching and selling crayfish mainly from the Whananaki area on at least nine occasions between July and October 2015. "The crayfish were generally sold for \$20 each for a 'just legal' sized crayfish, \$30 for a reasonably sized one and \$40 for a large one. Sometimes that price varied for bulk buyers and for close friends," says Mr Rudsdale. "There were multiple occasions over several months in 2015 where they arranged delivery and payment of crayfish including for raffles. "When we questioned them on numerous occasions

about their activities, they denied they were selling the crayfish. On one occasion, they claimed the crayfish were for a wedding then said they were for a 50th birthday party. "Obviously, this sort of offending is very disappointing. "There are very good reasons why catch limits exist for our various fish species particularly high value species like crayfish. "New Zealanders need to respect this. We all have a responsibility to ensure our fishery is protected and remains sustainable for current and future generations."

TENDER | MINUTES FROM MANAIA!

Normanby Road, Manaia, South Taranaki

Only minutes from the Manaia township on the Normanby Road is this lovely 7.6890 hectares (18.9995 acres) cropping/grazing runoff block.

This long and narrow block would be ideal for growing maize as it is virtually all dead flat. Currently leased to a neighbouring dairy farmer this property should graze approx. 40 dairy heifers May – May.

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TENDER | SOLID RAHOTU OPPORTUNITY

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Located on the Tipoka Road minutes from Rahotu is this attractive 61.11 hectare (150.0154 acre) dairy farm/runoff is milking 180 cows through a very tidy 16 A/S herringbone cowshed. This property has produced 65,600 milksolids average over the last three seasons and has produced 74,000 MS in the past. Rectangular in layout, centrally raced to 35 paddocks and watered via a dosatron through a ring mains system to two drinking points in each paddock this farm is a dream to manage. Being a great location with solid infrastructure this farm would appeal to first farm buyers or those wishing to expand their current dairy platform. Largely flat in contour with some lahar, ample shedding and two haybarns this property is complimented with a Brick four bedroom Beazley home and large garage workshop (9 x 6 m). Be quick to capitalise on this rare opportunity.

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Taranaki Regional Council 2017/2018 Annual Plan Consultation



Seizing new opportunities

Two years ago we consulted widely on a 10-year plan to take us through to 2025. We're still on track with this long-term plan, but we want to consult you about changes to three of our programmes in the 2017/2018 financial year.

Specifically, what we're proposing is:

- An exciting and potentially game-changing trial of enhanced predator control techniques in the region, leveraging off local and national initiatives.
- A new flood control scheme for Opunake.
- Replacement of The Lodge as part of the upgrade of Pukeiti.

In all three cases, new opportunities and/or changed circumstances add up to what we believe are compelling cases for the Council to slightly alter the course originally charted in our 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan.

Financially, the development of changes is relatively minor. With all three proposals included in the 2017/2018 Annual Plan, general rates will go up 1% as opposed to the 0.5% rise forecast for 2017/2018 in the 2015/2025 Long-Term Plan.

The details and implications of the three proposals are set out in a Consultation Document available on our website, www.trc.govt.nz, at our offices at 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, and at District Council Service Centres and libraries.

You can make a submission by letter, by email, or via our website, www.trc.govt.nz. You can also see the complete Draft Annual Plan 2017/2018 on our website, or at our office. Or you can give us a call on 0800 736 222 and talk to one of our staff.

We look forward to hearing from you.

David MacLeod
Chairman

Basil Chamberlain
Chief Executive



Trial predator control programme

Pukeiti Lodge replacement



Opunake flood protection

What we do

Your Regional Council works to achieve a thriving and prosperous Taranaki by:

- Promoting the sustainable use, development and protection of Taranaki's natural and physical resources.
- Safeguarding Taranaki's people and resources from natural and other hazards.
- Promoting and providing for Taranaki's regionally significant services, amenities and infrastructure.
- Representing Taranaki's interests and contributions to the regional, national and international community.

Your Councillors

You are welcome to contact Councillors to discuss the Consultation Document or the proposed 2017/2018 Annual Plan.



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Chairman
South Taranaki
Constituency



David Lean
Deputy Chairman
New Plymouth
Constituency



Craig Williamson
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Membership of Central Taranaki Young Farmers is on the rise.

Young Farmers Club picking up

Central Taranaki Young Farmers' booming membership has been recognised with a swag of accolades.

It's been named Best Club in the Taranaki/Manawatu region and won the coveted 'Membership Growth' award.

The club's chairman, Toko sheep and beef farmer Nick Brown, has been honoured for 'Service to Young Farmers'.

"I'm stoked. These awards show what a strong club

we have, especially the hard-working executive committee," Nick said.

Central is now the biggest of the five Young Farmers clubs dotted across Taranaki. But it hasn't always been that way.

"When I joined two-and-a-half years ago, the club only had six members," Nick said.

"But my predecessor, Jayden Harvey, set the ball rolling to grow the club and we now have about 40 members.

"We're at the size where we can start developing the next leadership team to ensure we have good succession."

The club meets at the Toko Tavern on the first Tuesday of every month and has a busy calendar of social activities.

"My favourite event is the annual Young Farmers'

ball, which is being held in Inglewood this year in May," said club secretary Kelsi Bayly.

"It's an awesome way to meet like-minded people from other clubs and provides an opportunity to dress up.

"Our club has a great mix of men and women, people who're farmers and those from other careers."

Kaponga farm manager Michael Stratton, 24, has been a member of Central Taranaki Young Farmers for two years.

"If you're new to the area it's the best way to meet new people," Michael said.

"When you're working alone on a farm you often only have your own thoughts, so it's great to get out and socialise.

"The club's boats and bikes weekend at Lake Rotorangi is heaps of fun."

Kelsi Bayly, 24, reckons an annual club membership is a perfect birthday present.

"You get out of it what you put in. I've made a lot of new friends," she said.

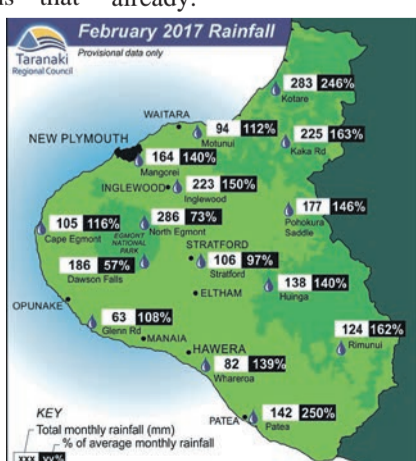
The Young Farmers club in Inglewood won the award for Community Involvement.

Rainfall for February variable

Rainfall for February ranged between 57% and 287% of normal, with the average rainfall being 145%. North Egmont and Dawson Falls both recorded considerably lower than normal rainfall with 285.5 mm (73%) and 185.5 mm (57%) respectively. The Wastewater site in Waiwhakaiho Valley and Stratford were the only two other locations that

locations by between 107% and 234%. The average rainfall for the region to date is 153%. North Egmont and Dawson Falls have so far recorded 107% and 111% respectively. Kotare (near Tongaporutu) has recorded 234% of normal or 589.5 mm for the first two months of the year, which means this site has recorded 28% of its mean annual rainfall already.

recorded below normal rainfall with 98% and 97% respectively. Omaru at Charlies clearing recorded 287% of normal for the month with 199.0mm. The majority of the rain, 120.5 mm, fell from the 17th to the 20th February. Year to date rainfall is above normal for all



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Taranaki farmers benefit from another early interim Ravensdown rebate

Ravensdown is again returning an early interim rebate to shareholders of \$20 cash per tonne to be paid to shareholders early June. These will be for solid fertiliser purchases between June 1 2016 and May 31 this year. The difference this year is the announcement is being made ahead of the autumn buying season, giving farmers the confidence to plan ahead.

“By guaranteeing an early interim \$20 per tonne cash rebate, ahead of the autumn buying season, we are able to give farmers greater confidence to invest in their capital inputs. It’s about passing on value when it’s needed, which is all a part of our strategy to help our shareholders farm with greater certainty,” says Mike Davey, Ravensdown’s Regional Manager.

The farmer-owned co-operative’s strong profit forecast position at the end



Ravensdown regional manager Mike Davey.

of February, in addition to progress made over the past four years has meant an early interim cash rebate is possible for payment in early June this year.

“In uncertain times it’s important to give farmers certainty when we can, which is why we’re delivering another early interim rebate.”

Last year, Ravensdown broke tradition by

announcing in May, they were paying an interim rebate of \$21 per tonne in the first week of June, which was received very well by shareholders. This was however at the end of the autumn buying season, which is why they’ve decided to bring the announcement forward, ahead of their annual results.

Ravensdown credits their strong position and ability to challenge the status quo to a strong and positive team who have made significant progress in the face of an uncertain market, making gains in new business and sales. “Our strategies and financial gains in all areas have created a positive momentum internally and in our agronomy markets, which we will continue to leverage for the benefit of our shareholders,” Mike adds.

Ravensdown Chairman John Henderson attributes the positive momentum the company is building to its solid strategy.

“This gives us confidence that we’ll continue to deliver for shareholders on the issues they care about. Morale is high and the team’s doing a fantastic job right across the business.”

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) support the Domestic Violence - Victims’ Protection Bill

Green Party MP Jan Logie’s Domestic Violence - Victims’ Protection Bill is before Parliament, and RWNZ asks Workplace Relations and Safety Minister Michael Woodhouse and his fellow MPs to support the Bill.

The Bill seeks to address harms experienced by victims, by focusing on how workplaces can be made a safer and more accommodating place for victims. It would extend leave provisions to include domestic violence leave, as when women leave a violent situation it can be very hard for them to manage court proceedings, counselling, housing and the needs of their children without extra leave.

Work at a regular time and place can make work a target for the abuser, but with employer support through flexible working arrangements, that can be adjusted to support the employee.

“RWNZ believe that the Bill will have an impact on people who are victims of domestic violence and help support them when they need to leave the relationship,” says Fiona Gower, RWNZ National President.



Rural Women Domestic violence Fiona Gower.

“Rural women often have to travel long distances between home and work and it can be very difficult for them to move away from a violent relationship.

“The services for helping victims of domestic violence are mostly located in urban areas. Enabling rural women to take time off work to access services, is a step toward helping them to

move away from a violent home, and setting a plan in place to rebuild their lives.”

RWNZ recently made a submission on the Government’s family violence law changes, in support of adding protection of animals to legislation. Violence to animals is often part of the package of abuse. Comments were also made about the lack of near-neighbours and isolation in general, also a woman’s support is often from friends and family of the perpetrator.

RWNZ have worked closely with the Ministry of Social Development on the campaign: ‘It’s Not OK’.

RWNZ have held several workshops with the Sophie Elliott Foundation spreading the message of how to recognise healthy relationships, and how to assist someone who is not in a healthy relationship.

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Marking 40 years of Dairy Industry awards

It was a clean sweep for the Waimate Plains at this year's Taranaki Dairy Industry Awards. Entrants from the Manaia-Waimate Plains area took out the Sharefarmer, Dairy manager and Dairy Trainee awards, as well as finishing runners up in the Sharefarmer and manager sections.

The awards were presented at the Taranaki Dairy Industry Awards dinner held at the TSB Hub in Hawera on March 3.

Taking the Sharefarmer award were Dion and Johanna Bishell who are in their fourth season on the Drought and Kalin Family Trust farm on Kearin Road near Manaia. For them it is second time lucky, having finished runners-up when they entered the Awards for the first time last year.

Milking 470 cows, production this season to date is 144,467kg/MS, with an anticipated production of 190,000kg/MS.

Johanna grew up on a dairy farm around Tokoroa, and also works part time as a farm consultant. Dion's farming background goes back to helping out on his grandparents' farm at Inglewood.

Dion and Johanna will now go on to the national final to be held in Auckland on May 6, where in recent years Taranaki winners have done well. Three years ago Charlie and Jody McCaig won the national title, and two years ago, Rob and Mel Van den Brand finished third.

"We are going to have to go back to our presentation, go through it all again and see where we can lift the standard and make it better," Johanna said.

Next season, the Bishells will be moving on to another position taking another 370



Taranaki Share farmers of the Year Dion and Johanna Bishell.

cows in addition to the 470 they currently have.

Employer Paul Kalin says the couple have done well.

"The farm has gone to another level since they have been here. They care about our farm and look after it as if it's their own. They go out of their way to be co-operative, are very thorough in what they do, have very good communication skills and are very focussed."

Coming second was Matt Gugi who milks 230 cows for Grant and Marina Gopperth at Kapuni. Married to Nadine, he has 20 years farming experience, four in New Zealand, the rest in his native Switzerland. Farm production this season to date is 77,000kg/MS with an anticipated production of 100,000kg/MS.

The top dairy manager is Shaun Neal, milking 325 cows for Simon and Gillian O'Connell at Auroa. Next season he will be

contract milking 320 cows at Opunake and hopes to be 50-50 sharemilking in three years time.

"I am very passionate about grass first, and weighing my options from there," he said. "I would like to run a stress free business while making it as profitable as possible."

Runner-up was Sam Hughson who is farm manager for Steve and Maria Poole, milking 800 cows at Kapuni. He went working for the Pooles after leaving high school, making the progression from herd manager to 2IC to farm manager. He first entered the Taranaki Dairy Industry Awards in 2015 where he was named most promising entrant in the dairy trainee category. Last year he was top dairy trainee.

Kyran Muller who works for Alan and Gael Muller of Patea finished third.

This year's top dairy trainee

Tim Bonner is assistant manager(2IC) on Steve and Maria Poole's farm at Kapuni. Tim said he always wanted to go farming, having grown up on a dairy farm. Next season he will be contract milking on the family farm at Lepperton, and hopes to be 50/50 sharemilking in the next five years. He works on the same farm as second-placed farm manager Sam Hughson. Co-worker Neil Hunter picked up the merit award for most promising dairy trainee. Their employers, the Pooles are no strangers to the dairy awards.

Steve was a single man milking 280 cows at Pihama when he was Taranaki Sharemilker of the Year

continued on page 20

Marking 40 years of Dairy Industry awards

continued from page 19

back in 1991. He married Maria and they were farm owners when they won the 1998 Kiwi Farmer of the Year, a competition for farmers supplying the then Kiwi Dairy co-operative. They won \$20,000 in travel vouchers which they used for an overseas trip. They later sold their Pihama farm to Steve's brother Rob who now represents Egmont Plains on the Fonterra Shareholders Council, and moved to Kapuni. Steve said he got a lot out

of being in the dairy industry awards and is pleased to have been able to give the same opportunity to those who have worked for him.

"These are good motivated guys who move on, so I've got to keep new blood coming in," he said.

Second placed was Marshall Jane, farm assistant for Cameron Burke from Normanby, with Jerome Grey coming in third. Jerome works on Ian Armstrong's Te Kiri farm, where his employers are 2014 New Zealand Sharefarmers of the Year Charlie and Jody



Taranaki Farm manager of the Year Shaun Neal.



Taranaki Dairy Trainee of the Year Tim Bonner.

the dairy payout and what it meant for the dairy industry."

Since then things had changed.

"There is light at the end of the tunnel, and it's not an oncoming train."

New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards Trust chairman Ben Allomes said farming had not been easy in the last couple of years. The awards were not just about winning, but assisting people to progress in their chosen careers, he said.

Awards regional manager and 2015 winner Mel Van den Brand noted it was 40 years since the Dairy Industry awards began. Murray Cross had come up with the concept in 1977, with John Mitchell as Taranaki's first Sharemilker of the Year.

"Taranaki has been at the forefront and other regions have followed," she said.

Last year's winners Ben and Belinda Price said it had been an "unforgettable year."

"We have made some amazing friends who have helped us through the rough bits and helped us move forward," Ben said.

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McCaig. MC Robert Reid had begun the evening with a dig at what had happened at another awards ceremony held earlier that week. "If anybody opens an

envelope tonight and it says the winner is Moonlight, then they are living in La La land."

He looked back to last year's Awards dinner and

what has happened since then.

"What an exciting year it's been for the dairy industry. Last year many referred to the elephant in the room,

John Blundell



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FAREWELL CINDY DOBBIN



If you attended Opunake High School in the 1970's, 80's, 90's, 00's and/or the 2010's you will no doubt have had some contact with Mrs Dobbin. The mere fact that her career stretches through five decades is testament to her dedication and service to the teaching profession.

It has just recently been said that when Cindy first started teaching, the blackboard and chalk were the major form of technology available to teachers at the time. Soon after, such technological advances such as the overhead projector and T.V and video came to the fore. Moving into present times, the range of technology available to students and teachers is astounding. However, what is more impressive is the teacher that seamlessly makes the transition and manages to enhance learning by continuing to evolve with these changes. Cindy Dobbin has been one of those teachers. Cindy has been at the coalface of most if not all of Opunake High School's prize- givings, discos, school exchanges, sporting events and many other occasions for over forty years. When students, staff and parents are having that cup of tea and kai, Cindy would be found just starting on the cleaning up after hours of prep work. When students were strutting their stuff on the stage for the school musical, they were usually strutting it in the costumes made by Cindy. These activities are generally called "extra-curricular". This means that on top of that, Cindy actually was a classroom teacher! Cindy's teaching in Home Economics has been outstanding and the professional, safe and expert delivery to students has been a hallmark of her career. One can only be astounded at the thousands of students that have gained practical and useful skills, not only for a career but skills for life and living. Cindy, for your professional dedication to our school and our community, we thank you.



AILEEN WATSON

I'd like to begin with a huge thank you for the warm welcome my husband and I received from the staff of OHS. We arrived from Tasmania to be greeted with a house furnished by the staff, freshly cut lawns and tidied gardens; a lovely bunch of flowers on the table and a very generous hamper of grocery essentials. I saw the DREAM in action from that first moment. I feel fortunate to have won the position of HOF Technology. Prior to this I had been working for the Department of Education in Tasmania as an AST (Advanced Skills Teacher) and Home Economics teacher. I have taught in district high schools, senior high schools and last year at a primary school in a number of Australian states and I am looking forward to



developing my career further here in New Zealand. I am passionate about the education and development of young people and am truly impressed by the students I have had in my classes to date. I believe in the DREAM and how that provides all the members of the school community with a clear vision for what can be achieved when we share a common goal.

ASHLEY GREENING

Ashley Greening is a student teacher at OHS on exchange from the University of Prince Edward Island in Canada. She has been studying at UPEI for the past 4.5 years from the island of Newfoundland, Canada. Her undergraduate bachelor's degree is in environmental biology, but also teaches social studies. Ashley is very excited to have this opportunity to teach and learn in New Zealand.



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NCEA RESULTS

Apologies to Jay Chapman who gained a Year 12 Merit Endorsement for 2016, he was missed of the list. Congratulations.

2017 GALA

Thursday 2 March the twilight gala kicked off with a beautiful night. All activities were held outside making it a very festive and enjoyable evening. Auctioneer Alistair Cook was kept busy prying more bids from the crowd and some punters went home with some bargains, thanks to the generosity of our supporting businesses. An outstanding profit of \$11,000 from the night. Thank you to everyone that contributed and supported the evening.

- Rimu – Chocolates - Alesha Bracken #2704
- Karo - \$150 OBA Voucher - Dave Shegedin #5773
- Totara – Firewood – Donna Cram #8698
- Awhina -Groceries - John Coltart # 3683
- 2nd prize Dave Seymour #4040



Mystery envelopes were a hit.



The facepainting was kept busy all night



ATHLETICS DAY

All students participated at the Athletics day 15 February in their hapu colours. Awhina won the Tug-O-War competition.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

RAHOTU HOME AND SCHOOL AGM
 Wednesday 29th March 2017 at 7.00pm
 Rahotu School Staffroom
Everyone Welcome

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE RALLY
 Petroleum Conference
22nd March 8am
Protest, blockade, music
 Clock Tower, NP
23rd March 10:30am
Day of Solutions
 Talks, workshop, forum
 Senior Citizens Hall, NP
 www.peoplesclimaterally-taranaki.nz

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CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES
St Paul's Opunake Co-op & Rahotu
 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

THE WAVE
 Pentecostal Church 64 Domett Street, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.30am
Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday
Men's Group 7 pm Wednesday
Youth Group 7pm Friday
 Come along or contact Pastor Murray 027 688 7378

ST. BARNABAS
 Anglican Church 141 Tasman St, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.00am
Communion 1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday
Prayer & Praise 2nd Sunday
Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service

PUBLIC NOTICES

OPUNAKE RAHOTU VETERINARY TRUST
 Financial assistance is available to students to undergo tertiary education relating preferably to agricultural or horticultural studies although consideration will be given to other applicants.
 Application forms available from:-
The Secretary
P O Box 117
OPUNAKE 4616
PHONE 761-7150
EMAIL: nevisbrewer@vodafone.co.nz



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME
Funding Local Arts Activities

Applications for funding assistance for community-based arts activities in South Taranaki beginning after Friday 12 May 2017 are now being called for. Your application will need to meet one or more of the following funding criteria:

- Broad community involvement** - A project that will create opportunities for local communities to engage with and participate in arts activities.
- Diversity** - A project that will support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities, enriching and promoting their uniqueness and cultural diversity.
- Young people** - A project that will enable and encourage young people (under 18 years) to engage with and actively participate in the arts.

Application forms are available from all LibraryPlus Centres, at the Council Contact Centre in Albion Street, Hawera or the Creative Communities Scheme Administrator, or on the Council website www.southtaranaki.com under Funding and Grants Support.

For further information, please contact Maryse Ropiha, the Creative Communities Scheme Administrator at:
 South Taranaki District Council
 Private Bag 902, Hawera 4640
 Phone 0800 111 323 or 2780555
 Email maryse.ropiha@stdc.govt.nz

Applications close **Friday 21 April 2017 at 4.30pm** (for projects beginning after Friday 12 May 2017)

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 annual funding round, closing at 5pm on Friday 31st March 2017.

Grants are available in four 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.

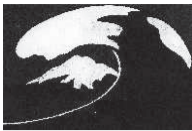
Group: For groups whose student members are based in Taranaki and are providing training and/or development opportunities in performing arts.

Primary School Aged Groups: For groups or organisations based in Taranaki which support the training and development of performing arts for primary aged children.

For an application pack and further information, please contact Rebekah Lock on 06 757 3155 or email dmmf@staplestaranaki.co.nz

Dame Malvina Major Foundation
TSB COMMUNITY TRUST
www.dmmfoundation.org.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES



OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meeting 1st MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5.30PM

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

Taranaki National Art Awards AGM

1pm, Wednesday 5th April 2017 Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake Further Information at contact@taranakiartawards.co.nz

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OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meet on the 1st Monday of each month.

OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

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

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PIHAMA LAVENDER

Makers Market Day Sunday 19th March 10am - 2pm

ST. MARY'S STRATFORD OPEN DAY

Tuesday 21 March, 10am - 2pm. Refer advert.

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE RALLY

Petroleum Conference, 22nd March 8am. Protest, blockade, music. Clock Tower, NP 23rd March 10:30am - Day of Solutions, Talks, workshop, forum, Senior Citizens Hall, NP www.peoplesclimaterallytaranaki.nz

JERSEY GIRLS FARMED AND DANGEROUS

A musical comedy by Lynelle Kuriger. Auditions on Sunday 26 March at 7pm. RAHOTU

HOME AND SCHOOL AGM

Wednesday 29th March 2017 at 7.00pm, Rahotu School Staffroom. Everyone Welcome.

THE PARENTING SHOW WITH PIO

Building awesome teenagers with Pio Terei. Friday, 31 March. Refer advert back page for full details.

TARANAKI NATIONAL ART AWARDS AGM

1pm, Wednesday 5th April 2017, Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake

ROSE OF TRALEE

Saturday 29th April at the Plymouth Hotel.

HAWERA REPERTORY SOCIETY PRODUCTION

The Beauty and the Beast. 25 - 3 June 2017. Refer advert.

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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A musical comedy by Lynelle Kuriger

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People's Climate Rally

On March 22-23, the Government and international oil delegates will, for the first time, gather at the TSB Showplace in New Plymouth for their annual Petroleum Conference.

The People's Climate Rally is organised by local Taranaki and New Zealand-wide groups, to protest at and disrupt the conference. Organisers say they plan to

offer positive solutions and to make sure that this is the generation that ends our dependence on oil.

They say Taranaki has had a long and bitter experience with environmental, health and personal impacts from oil and gas activities including drilling, flaring and fracking. The extraction and burning of fossil fuels is radically changing our

climate, wreaking havoc on our critical infrastructure, water, agriculture, tourism, health and food security.

On Tuesday March 21, there will be a meeting at 2 pm at Owae Marae in Waitara, for Powhiri and non-violent Direct Action training.

On Wednesday March 22, a day of action begins at 8 am at the Clock Tower on Devon

Street West, with protest, musicians and speakers on climate change, fossil fuel extraction and social justice. The Government will release the 2017 Block Offer for oil and gas exploration on this day. Rally organisers say over half a million square kilometres of land and sea have been proposed for release, encroaching on people's properties and the

Marine Mammal Sanctuary for the critically endangered Maui's Dolphin.

Thursday March 23 is a 'Day of Solutions', starting at 10.30am at the Senior Citizens Hall on Liardet Street. There will be talks and workshops with author Dr Terrence Loomis, former Greens co-leader Jeannette Fitzsimons, Ecotricity Director

Al Yates, community sustainability advocates and demonstrations of electric vehicles. There will also be a public forum on 'Just Transition off Fossil Fuels', with experts on renewable energy, union organising, sustainable agriculture and education. All welcome. Details at www.peoplesclimaterallytaranaki.nz

Action needed to grow New Zealand's petroleum sector

The Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand (PEPANZ) wants the next Government to review fiscal policy settings, invest in further geological studies of New Zealand's petroleum basins and establish a dedicated royalties fund to allow future generations to benefit from New Zealand's mineral wealth. These were among 18 actions outlined in PEPANZ's election year policy platform.

PEPANZ Chief Executive Cameron Madgwick says the petroleum sector is one of the world's most internationalised industries, and while New Zealand's regulatory environment is

generally in good shape, it is important the Government takes steps to ensure the country remains an attractive investment destination.

"The upstream oil and gas sector plays an incredibly important role in New Zealand's economy - generating over 11,000 jobs nationally, contributing over \$2.5 billion to New Zealand's Gross Domestic Product, and delivering the Government around \$500 million in royalties and taxes every year.

"Royalties are currently paid into the consolidated fund along with other revenue such as income taxes, meaning that New Zealanders have no visibility

of the important contribution the sector makes to the country's finances," says Mr Madgwick.

"We believe that as oil and gas resources are a non-renewable public resource owned by all New Zealanders, government revenue earned from their extraction should be set aside in a dedicated fund for the long-term benefit of all New Zealanders. While ultimately a decision for the Government, possible uses of the fund could include investment in regional infrastructure, education or health.

Mr Madgwick says it is also timely for the Government to review fiscal settings given

the current challenges facing the industry from a low oil-price environment.

"International global exploration activity has slowed markedly since late 2014, with international discoveries falling to the lowest level since the 1940s. Companies are being extremely cautious about where they invest their capital," says Mr Madgwick.

"New Zealand is competing with other locations for mobile investment capital. Therefore, it is important that we have our settings right to be attractive as an investment destination given some of the country's logistical challenges - such as the small size of our

domestic market and the cost of mobilising equipment to this part of the world.

"The Government should also be looking to invest in early stage data acquisition to help better understand the geology of New Zealand's petroleum basins. New Zealand is underexplored by international standards, and increasing the understanding of what resources might exist will encourage further exploration and investment by petroleum companies.

"Previous investments in early stage data acquisition, such as in the Pegasus Basin, have directly led to petroleum companies making substantially larger financial commitments to explore these areas and increased the potential of future royalty payments if these exploration efforts are successful."

Mr Madgwick says the Government also needs to take steps to improve the operation of New Zealand's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to ensure all sectors of the New Zealand economy are treated equally when it comes to combating climate change.

"Agriculture is responsible for nearly half of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions but is currently excluded from the Emissions Trading Scheme. We believe if New Zealand is to reach its very ambitious emissions reduction target, agricultural emissions need to be included in the scheme," says Mr Madgwick.

"Climate change is a global issue that requires global engagement and action. The industry absolutely recognises the profound challenges that exist with a changing climate and to do this we need to reduce emissions across all sectors."

Mr Madgwick says that while activity in the oil and gas sector is subdued worldwide, the current low levels of activity mean that there is likely to be an oil shortfall in the years ahead, driving prices up.

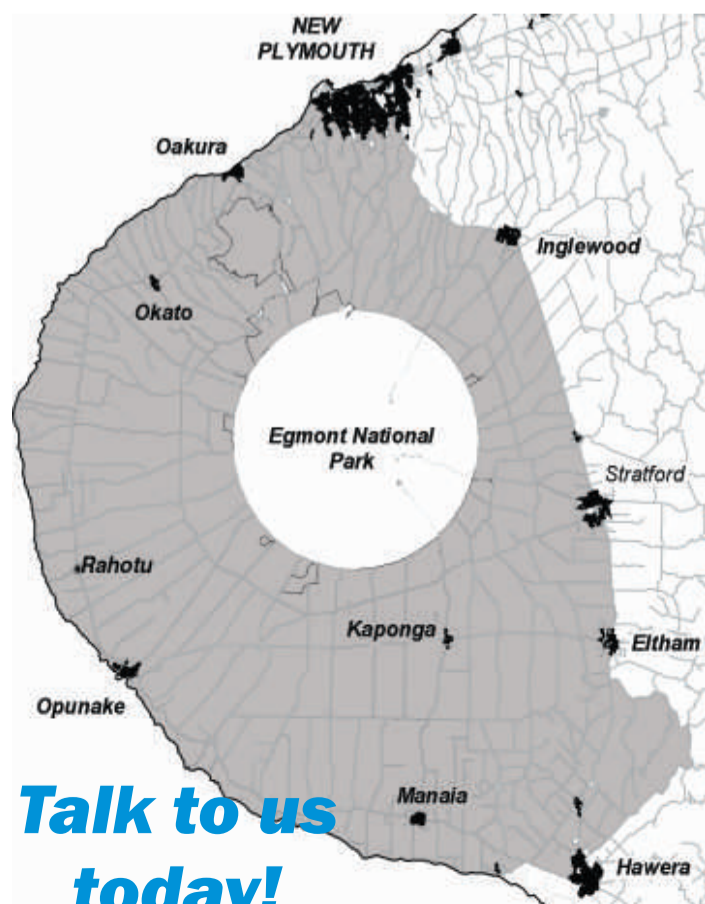
"New Zealand needs to take steps now to make sure it is in the best position possible to take advantage of a future upswing in oil and gas prices and maximise the returns it receives from its natural resources."

Promote your events in the OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Ph/Fax: 06 761 7016 - Call in at 23 Napier Street, Opunake
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People who put in public notices and display adverts in the What's On Section for events are welcome to additionally provide extra editorial and photos **FREE OF CHARGE,** to help promote the event.

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Songwriter extraordinaire - Drew Rennie

Talented singer/songwriter Drew Rennie has strong connections with South Taranaki. A teacher for 23 years, he has taught at Hawera High School, and Opunake Primary School. Members of the Opunake Music Workshop were privileged to receive a surprise visit from this well-educated musician, who sang a selection of his self-penned originals.

Now based in Wanganui, he arrived in New Zealand at the tender age of 16 from Aldershot, England, the "Home of the British Army." His parents, originally from Scotland were both posted in the army. Drew's musical genes evidently came from his mother Elizabeth (Liz), who he says "was a very good sword dancer, singer, and a whistling busker."

From a young age his passion for music was apparent.

"I taught myself how to play the guitar from books in the library when I was 16, and started writing songs before I was 10," says Drew.

He grew up listening to a variety of music, but says "I enjoy singer/songwriters like Dave Dobbyn, because I can appreciate both his writing and musical skills."

Drew's tunes are catchy and his lyrics meaningful and interesting with strong messages about subjects he is passionate about. Equally at home with his acoustic



Ex-Opunake Primary School teacher Drew Rennie.

guitar, the first song he sang and played was 'Simplify.' He explains "I wrote it about how we make life more complicated than it needs to be".

This was followed closely by 'It Ain't Right.' On the inspiration behind this song, he says, "a lot of things I learnt later in life means I've become more informed as I've grown".

In his next song 'This Nation', he talks about the reasons why he was compelled to stay and live in New Zealand. "I wrote the lyrics to this song before I became a New Zealand citizen," of which he is very proud.

His favourite composition

is 'Throw Away the Red Tape'.

"There's too much red tape these days. You can't put a price on the well-being of people, and money doesn't buy happiness or other things."

'One day soon', will be the title track for his second CD which will contain another collection of original songs. He's very humble and still considers himself an amateur, even though he's as talented as many professionals. In 2001 he recorded his first CD.

Drew said he enjoyed the music group, and would like to come back during the next school holidays in April. Keep churning out those

brilliant songs - we look forward to your next visit.

If you would like the opportunity to perform with talented musicians and singer/songwriters like Drew, with the goal of being involved in live performances, please join us at 7:30pm on Tuesday March 21 at the Catholic Church lounge, 33 Whitcombe Rd, Opunake.

It would be appreciated if those who can afford to could make a gold coin donation to go towards the use of power etc. at the Catholic Church. This payment is not a requirement for attendance - all are welcome, with or without a gold coin.

Anne Montgomery

A change of name

Apologies to those who tried to see Philippe Lemaire's super collage exhibition "Quelques traces de pas sur le papier" (Some footprints on paper) and got a daft Oooops note.

Computers! Just click on www.tart.co.nz or write it in your browser I'll avoid their fancy way of putting a link behind different words.

Oh, and we're changing the name of our Puniho Art

partnership to Dark Dog Studios Ltd. A limited liability company, to cover Paul's music as well as our art. Shouldn't be any difference to anyone, it's just he had to have a

registered company to sell his in Switzerland. We're company directors (Should I be wearing a suit instead of a grotty T-shirt, shorts and jandals?)

Dale Copeland

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY On this month Dame Kiri born

On March 6, 1944 Dame Kiri Janette Te Kanawa was born in Gisborne. Later, while living in Auckland she trained under famous singing teacher Sister Mary Leo who also taught Dame Malvina Major, Sally Rush

and others.

Dame Kiri was considered one of the world's major operatic sopranos and was known for her rich voice and warm stage presence.

She continued her training and career in London as a

young singer and made her Covent Garden debut in 1971.

In 1981 she was asked by Prince Charles to sing at his first wedding to Lady Diana Spencer.

These days, now in her

seventies, Dame Kiri no longer participates in opera but continues to perform in concerts.



Opunake Music Workshop

7:30pm Tuesday, 21st March 2017

Catholic Church, 33 Whitcombe Road, Opunake.

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Frack Off exhibition opens to a large crowd

The Frack Off exhibition of Taranaki artists and writers officially opened on Sunday March 5 (3pm) at the JD Reid Gallery, 33A Devon Street West, New Plymouth. The exhibition continues until Sunday March 26. The main organiser is well-known artist Graham Kirk. A karakia was performed by Robbie Taylor who is a member of a local Iwi. From 4.30pm the patrons were entertained by the Fractured Frackers.

In his opening address Graham Kirk mentioned that follow up workshops had been organised by Jean Kahui and Fiona Clark "who hails from Frackland, Tikorangi as does one of our writers Abbie Jury." Graham continued, "Reading Abbie's account of a daily existence with the oil companies fracking operations was a very sobering experience for me. I wouldn't wish that on anybody."

He also said, "In parts of the world it's downright dangerous to breathe the air or drink the water. And it's getting worse by the day. We need new solutions and we need them now. What we don't need are politicians who can't see that the very planet that sustains us is dying. What we do need is a new way of thinking."

As to what could be the chance of world environmental leadership by our nation, he commented, "Wouldn't it be great if New Zealand could get its act together and lead the world into a new approach, free from corporate interests and respecting the environment."

An important guest speaker was a distinguished environmentalist Sarah Roberts, who was a Greens Party candidate at the last General Election and has been a finalist for Taranaki's Person of the Year. She is currently a teacher and is a former school principal. On this occasion, however, she was speaking on behalf of Taranaki Energy Watch.

Sarah explained how she first got involved in her struggle to protect the



Artist Jan Huijbers with his painting 'Fracking Madness in Paradise'.

environment. Some six years ago she asked a Taranaki Regional Council official what an oil company was doing on the rural property next to hers. She was told that she needn't worry and that the company was unlikely to be involved in fracking. "But I did worry and I asked questions. My husband David Morrison, friend Mike Self and I were labelled mischievous and vexatious by TRC for raising our concerns," commented Sarah.

The reality (contrary to reassurances) was grim: "What it looks like living beside oil and gas - 'on the ground' is prospecting using seismic surveys, with explosives, drilling, fracking, well workovers, water flooding, deep well injection, land farming, gas stripping, heavy transport, 24 hour noise and light and much more."

Sarah pointed out that these activities were widespread and named many well sites and production stations, such as Turangi, Mangahewa, Waihapa, Manutahi and Kapuni, which are implicated.

She mentioned the two published reports by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr Jan Wright, the last one in

June 2014, which "did not give a green light for the industry and made several recommendations that have not been enacted including "... who pays when something goes wrong." Alarming, "Currently, there are no national regulations to direct Councils and no annual levy to cover liable owners as to who are responsible for the oil and gas sites when the Companies leave, both recommended by the Commissioner."

Taranaki Energy Watch delivered submissions to the South Taranaki District Plan (oil and gas rules) in 2016. "We were the only ones to provide experts on health and safety, catastrophic events, and short term and long term chronic health effects." She continued, "... the experts provided evidence that a number of these oil and gas sites have the potential for fatality, injury, and property damage ..." Yet, the Council's response did not adequately address concerns, Sarah says. Taranaki Energy Watch has filed an Appeal with the Environment Court.

She concluded, "The oil and gas companies do not have a social licence to operate. They need to be called out for what they are doing both in our own local

communities and globally in contributing to climate change. The Frack Off exhibition does just that."

One participating artist was Jan Huijbers with his painting 'Fracking Madness in Paradise', which depicts unsightly drilling paraphernalia. "We need alternative energy which doesn't have a polluting effect." He stressed he was not against the mining of fuels as such, as we all use cars, aeroplanes etc but, the status quo, "has done its time and we have new technology (to find a more environmentally alternative)."

Carl Fairweather's mixed media exhibit 'Fossil Fuel Junk Blues' was thought-provoking in its complexity as it portrayed the multitude of implications of fossil fuel exploration.

The cream of Taranaki's art community are represented here with exhibits from such talented artists as Graham Kirk, Roger Morris, Jean Kahui, Elizabeth Smither, Alby Carter, Dale Copeland, Jan Huijbers, Carl Fairweather - to name just a few. In addition are narratives and poems from award-winning writers such as David Hill (Member of NZ Order of Merit), with the following:

Farmer with the very best intention

Rented land to global corporation

*Almost before he knew it
Corporate drills ripped
through it*

*Killing any chance of
preservation*

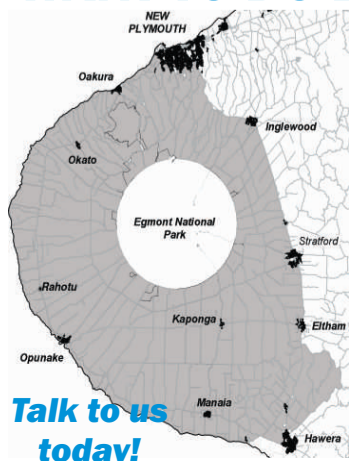
*It's this limited awareness
(Not much chance of
corporate fairness)*

*Grinds green landscape
into blackened degradation*

Make sure you find time to see this unique and intriguing exhibition.

Rolland McKellar

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Opunake Players next show a big one

Opunake Players are starting work on an ambitious musical show which is yet to be performed on any stage.

"Last Dance" is written by April Phillips, author of award-winning plays "Blue Eyes" and "Stiff". Last Dance is a dramatic story with big music, in the style of "Chicago" and "Priscilla". Set in the disco era and featuring the music of Donna Summer, it calls for a sizeable cast of both principals and chorus.

Prospective director Mike Smith and the Players committee are looking for help in all aspects of the production. On stage—the heroine, the hero, the loyal mum, the bad girls, the bad guy, the seen-it-all-before detective, the female jail inmates, the nasty warden, the chorus.

Off stage—the set builders, stage manager, graphic artists, make-up artists, hairdressers (there's lots of hair), tech geeks, stage hands. To this end a pre-audition and information session is being held at the Lakeside Playhouse in Layard St on Sunday April 2 at 1 pm. There will be opportunities for anyone who would like to get involved – on stage or off. A fabulous set will



Wendy Smith, Chloe Danz, Honey-Rose Hutchins and Lynelle Kuriger busy building the magic backstage during a previous show.

need to be built, stunning special effects put in place, and a capable production committee established.

If anyone ever wanted to get involved, now is the time. While the Players core group is passionate, it is quite small, and some new faces would be welcome. Being

involved with the Players doesn't mean you have to get on stage and perform. In a perfect world there are generally more people behind the scenes than in them, although this show does require some actors who can belt out a song or bust a couple of disco moves.

As well as the principals, there are roles for most age groups and all genders, not all speaking parts, but great for anyone wanting to take that first step. If you can't make the info session but are interested, contact Mike or Wendy Smith, 0276255066.

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 HIDDEN FIGURES Drama, True Story & Biography, Historical 127 mins PG: coarse language Based on a true story, Hidden Figures recounts how three black American women served as the brains behind several key 1960s NASA missions. Wed 15 March 1pm Friday 24 March 7pm	 PATRIOTS DAY Drama, Thriller, True Story & Biography 133 mins R-13 Violence, offensive language and content that may disturb This true story drama based on the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. Saturday 18 March 7pm Wed 22nd March 1pm Sunday 26th March 7pm
 KONG: SKULL ISLAND Action, Adventure, Fantasy 118 MINS M Violence and offensive language Oscar-winner Brie Larson (Room), Tom Hiddleston (High-Rise) and John Goodman (10 Cloverfield Lane) star in Legendary Entertainment's second installment in their Godzilla-Kong series which serves as a prequel to King Kong. Friday 31 March 7pm Wed 5 April 1pm	 LOGAN Action, Science Fiction 2hrs 17mins R16 Graphic violence, offensive language & cruelty Logan's attempts to hide from the world and his legacy are up-ended when a young mutant arrives, being pursued by dark forces. Saturday 1 April 7pm Friday 7 April 7pm Saturday 1 April 7pm Sunday 16 April 7pm

WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
15 Hidden Figures 1pm Fifty Shades Darker 7pm	17 Manchester by the Sea 7pm	18 Ballerina 1pm Patriots Day 7pm	19 Fifty Shades Darker 7pm
22 Patriots Day 1pm Jackie 7pm	24 Hidden Figures 7pm	25 Pork Pie 1pm Fifty Shades Darker 7pm	26 Patriots Day 7pm
29 Jackie 1pm Manchester by the Sea 7pm	31 Kong: Skull Island 7pm	1 Lion 1pm Logan 7pm	2 **Boutique Night** Fences 7pm

****BOUTIQUE NIGHT** - FENCES - SUNDAY 2ND APRIL - 7PM**

WOMAD set up given helping hand

Setting up fencing, pop-up tents and recycling stations are some of the things community offenders are doing to help with this year's WOMAD festival in New Plymouth.

The offenders are managed by Community Corrections and are completing their court-ordered community work sentences in the Bowl of Brooklands under the guidance of community work supervisors and event management.

"WOMAD is a good opportunity for offenders to give back to the community," says Philip Edwards, Service Manager, New Plymouth Community Corrections.

"As well as doing something positive and contributing to an event that attracts people from all over the world, they're also increasing their skills and working collaboratively."

One of the tasks involves painting the instantly

recognisable colourful WOMAD letters.

Other tasks include unloading containers, erecting arches, signs, fencing, pop up tents, and other general supportive work. Community work teams from New Plymouth and Taranaki (Stratford) have been helping out since March 8. When the festival ends, the community work teams will be back on site helping with the site pack up. Across the two weeks, around 115 offenders will have been involved in the project.

Corrections has a long-standing relationship with WOMAD festival organisers: in previous years offenders serving a community work sentence have been involved with the set up and pack-down of the festival site. These offenders are not paid for their involvement as they are instructed to attend as part of their sentence.



Offenders helping with the set up of the 2016 WOMAD festival.

Building awesome teenagers with Pio Terei

St Mary's Diocesan PTA are excited to have secured Pio Terei, one of New Zealand's most popular television and radio entertainers to present a live show in Stratford.

On Friday evening March 31, through The Parenting Place, Pio will be presenting "Building Awesome Teenagers" which will include lots of practical parenting knowledge and personal tips for parents of adolescents or soon-to-be teenagers.

It will be held at the Mountainview Vineyard Complex, located just south of the Stratford town boundary. Tickets will cost \$20.00 per person and

the presentation will be followed by supper.

Tickets will be limited and are available now from Paper Plus Stratford, New Plymouth and Hawera and the school office.

Pio has won the Best Comedy Performer at the NZ Film and Television Awards and is a well-known author and musician. He is renowned for presenting with a great deal of passion; he gets across vital messages about happy, healthy family life in a way that really 'clicks' with the audience to help them coach their young men and women through this interesting stage.

The show has a wide appeal to all audiences and will

include: - solid foundations are made up of love and values, helping teenagers to live in their culture without losing their future, filling your child's emotional tank with words, touch, smiles and attention, discipline leading to self-discipline (boundaries, resilience and forming habits), developing a positive atmosphere in the home and will offer strategies on how to survive the turbulent teenage years and provide positive home environments. It is guaranteed to be an informative and entertaining evening. Pio is very funny, but he also knows what he's talking about.

Fiona Green, Principal of St

Mary's Diocesan said "For us this is primarily about us as a school again giving back to our community by providing parenting support and opportunities locally to

our school family and the wider Stratford and Taranaki population to hear from an 'expert' in the field." However if there was to be a profit after the costs of

bringing Pio to Stratford have been covered, the PTA have decided any surplus would go towards completing the changing room extensions to our school gymnasium.

the Parenting show with Pio

\$20 per person

Building awesome teenagers with Pio Terei

Proudly presented by St Mary's Diocesan School Stratford PTA



Friday, 31 March 2017

Venue: Mountainview Vineyard Complex
Orlando St South, Stratford
(off SH3 at Nash Road, just south of Stratford)

7.15pm Doors open
7.30 - 9.00pm Pio's presentation
Followed by supper

Presentation includes

- Solid foundations are made up of love and values
- Develop a positive atmosphere in the house
- Giving kids confidence and resilience to problem solve

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