



Inside



Okato residents take a stand against cellphone tower placement so near to homes and the school. See page 12.



Coastal Taranaki School student leaders. Turn to page 9.



Sixty five years of a happy marriage for Okato couple. See page 15.



A laundromat for Opunake. See pages 16 and 17.

Sir Tim visits Taranaki

On Saturday March 19 Sir Tim Shadbolt left his entourage in Okato for a wide-ranging interview with one of our reporters. His entourage included Bryan Campbell his campaign manager (local body elections), and Adrienne and Bruce Blair from Auckland.

Last weekend Sir Tim Shadbolt KNZM JP, the mayor of Invercargill, took time out from his mayoral campaign (the local body election is in October) to visit Taranaki. Originally, he planned to attend the Womad festival, but when it was cancelled, Sir Tim decided to come anyway. Now 75, and despite having been the 42nd mayor of Invercargill for 24 years, he is keen to be elected for another term. However, he has some opposition, with nine candidates having decided to stand for the position.

He has had a remarkable career having written several books, including *Bullshit and Jellybeans* (1971) and *A Mayor of Two Cities* (2008), acted in films such as *The World's Fastest Indian* (featuring motorbike speedster Burt Munro), *Utu* and *Two Little Boys*, been on television programmes such as *The Weakest Link* and *Dancing with the Stars* (he and his partner came third), been mayor of Waitemata (1983-1989), stood several times for Parliament, and even set the world record, in 2012, for participating in the longest interview ever (up to that time) of 26 hours.

He was also involved in many protests and ended up being arrested 33 times



Sir Tim Shadbolt pictured recently in Okato.

– once for uttering the word *bullshit*.

Asked what were the main highlights of his very full life, he said foremost was the writing of the classic *Bullshit and Jellybeans* (1971). "Mine is the only book from that era and I was there at the coal face." The book deals with his childhood, commune life and his role in the protest movement. He commented that you cannot get the book now. "There was one online for sale for \$100." He said his book had sold 30,000 copies.

The protests he was involved in included the Maori land marches, the Springbok tour in 1981 and earlier the Vietnam War. He admitted to respect for Sir Keith Holyoake (1904-1983), who was prime minister 1960-

1972 and later Governor-General (1977-1980). "He (Sir Keith) refused to allow police baton charges (on protesters). He stood for peace."

Another aspect Sir Tim mentioned as a highlight was prevailing in court cases. "A genuine maintenance of civil rights and free speech is important." One of these has involved a local body politician, who sued him over something he had written in a newspaper column. Also sued was Fairfax NZ (now Stuff). He won the case and was awarded a six figure sum (as were Fairfax) and the plaintiff was ordered to pay this amount. However, Sir Tim never received this and was left with legal fees of \$350,000, which

left him virtually broke. "I won the case. After I won (the plaintiff) went into receivership."

Sir Tim is rightly proud

of what he has achieved for Invercargill during his time as mayor. Free tuition fees for the Southern Institute of Technology students, "The roll increased from 1000 to 5000," free buses, cheap aeroplane flights. "A direct flight from Invercargill, to Auckland is a stunningly good price of \$27," which has stimulated the local economy and basically put the town on the map and been an attraction for tourists.

A current project he wasn't too sure about was renovating an Anglican church in Invercargill. "They were going to renovate it in a modern style. I didn't like the sound of that. How can you blend heritage with modern?" However, with the transformation completed Sir Tim has had a change of heart. "I have to admit I've been proven wrong. It looks majestic. I'll be doing my best to promote it."

Continued page 4



From left, Adrienne Blair, Sir Tim and Bryan Campbell admiring St Paul's Church, Okato.

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Letters to the Editor

Won't be thanking the government

No, Tom Stephens, at the end of the day everyone certainly won't all be thanking our government for their handling of the COVID virus. That's only for the clueless and easily led. The rest, all those protesters, questioners, grizzlers and moaners as you collectively call them, will continue to do what you should have been doing all along - thinking for themselves, sorting truth from propaganda and actually caring about the plight of their fellow New Zealanders.

Tell me Mr Stephens, are you even remotely aware that prior to the vaccine

push COVID incidence/ lethality was increasingly sensationalized and exaggerated by authorities everywhere so as to increase the fear factor? That the PCR has never been fit for diagnostic purposes? That lockdowns caused far more harm than good and failed to do as promised? But it is still repeated. That cloth masks are essentially useless in stopping coronaviruses? That a cough or sneeze can actually carry 7m+? Or that the "vaccines" cannot - I repeat, cannot because they were never intended to, prevent symptomatic infection?

It's easier I suppose just to sit back and immerse yourself in that government narrative alternate reality where the skyrocketing rise of infections seen everywhere

ADELPHOS

How was your summer fruit consumption? We all have our favorites: peaches, cherries, strawberries, nectarines, water melon and apricot, to name just a few. Somehow, the unpredictability that has changed our world since Covid-19 began seems to be balanced a little by the predictability of the fruit that arrived with the hot weather and sunny days. Their flavours evoked memories and had their own kind of comfort. I don't know about you, but I was the kind of ten year old kid who loved climbing trees, especially fruit trees. Somehow my cousins always chose me to

Plums

carry out the climbing and picking on the late night fruit raids, although they were more than eager to share the spoils. Their favourites were the Golden Queen peaches. Mine were the plums, especially the red ones.

Plum trees grow pretty much everywhere in New Zealand. We have around 45 varieties in New Zealand and even one that is bred here in Taranaki, although some sources say that it was found on the roadside in Taranaki: that would be the Hawera plum. Prior to the now popular feijoa, plum trees were a common fruit tree found in many backyards and farm orchards. Some

of the older homes around Taranaki, and the rest of the country, still have old plum trees that have grown to majestic sizes and still bear good fruit. Yes, they could be difficult to harvest for those of us in our advanced years but great for the tree climbing kids (and non-kids too). While Israel exports plums nowadays, it is not entirely clear whether they grew in Jesus' times.

Jesus talked to us about fruit and fruit trees, He was quite down to earth in many of the things He used to try to get His message across to us. He told us about bearing good fruit in the way we live, about recognizing a person by seeing the fruit in their lives. And Jesus likened Himself to the grape vine and those who believe in Him and follow His ways are His branches. Jesus also

WHO says it doesn't. Where it's entirely acceptable for governments to threaten job loss if citizens don't consent to an unproven invasive medical procedure - one which has killed and injured on a scale never seen before. And a place where you can claim that all of the heavy handed nonsensical measures governments forced on us have "saved lives" when out here in the real world it's impossible to prove a negative.

Wakey wakey Mr Stephens.

A Concerned Kiwi.
Eltham

said He would send us the Comforter which is God's Holy Spirit. The Spirit bears fruit in our lives when we are in a good relationship with God: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If ever there was a time when we were in need of comfort and the fruits of God's Spirit, surely the days we are now living in would be such times.

Now that the summer has passed and we are into autumn there are still some people enjoying late plums into the first half of autumn. For the fortunate amongst us, we have the comfort of home-made plum jam to look forward to in the colder part of the year.

Maanakitanga and noho ora mai (stay safe).

Adelphos.

Deadlines for copy

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

Our deadline for copy is Monday 10am.

This gives us an opportunity to proofread the copy.

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

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

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

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

Editor

Opunake & Coastal News Paste Up Night



More Opunake & Coastal News' out

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

It is available on stands at the following locations

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Pastimes in Opunake

Tim's Barbershop, Moturoa

Okato Takeaways



All power poles in this picture have been crashed into within the last 15 years, in some accidents with very serious injuries.

Speed limits

Recent publicity of Publicity of Transit NZ's proposal of reducing the speed limit from 100 to 80 kmh on SH45 seems very limited.

Having lived on the coast for 70 years I've seen a massive drop in crashes, injuries and fatalities I've seen a massive drop in crashes, injuries and fatalities.

While respecting those who have lost family members to fatal crashes, which we have, I know the pain felt.

Recent publicity of our toll reaching close to 400 last year needs to be taken in context. Consider back 49 years ago (1973) when 843 died on our roads when our population was half of today's five million people.

Our province paid a huge price back then, especially from weekend crashes.

Seatbelts, safer cars with ABS braking, air bags, better tyres plus far safer roads, driver skills, no wandering stock especially at night, have all contributed to pulling the toll down.

with Armco barriers would help a lot. If you drift off the road, the chances are you will just miss the first pole, but collect the next one. It's like driving through a four metre gate.

In addition we have 34 bridges. Again Armco 'lead ins' could help.

Recently reflectonated speed indicators on all corners I'm sure have added further safety.

There are 109 corners/bends we navigate if travelling the full distance of SH45.

Yes we can go lower, but to go to 80kmh will make minimal impact.

Paul Bourke Pihama

Not a socialist

Whoever wrote (March 10) that P.M. Jacinda Ardern is a "socialist" is seriously deluded. She may have called herself such in her youth but the very year she was first elected outgoing Minister of Commerce, Hon. Lianne Dalziel, appointed a task-force headed by merchant banker, Rob

Cameron, charged with finding ways to "deepen the capital markets." In her media release (21 July 2008) she emphasised "the importance of capital market development to New Zealand's economic success". In 2009 the new National Government picked up the challenge enthusiastically and soon had our SOEs (State Owned Enterprises) selling shares to overseas investors under the new Mixed Ownership Model (MOM) plus paving the way for a new quasi-bank to borrow for local government (the Local Government Funding Agency) - local body debt much sought after by private investors.

Fast forward to the Three Waters proposals. In late 2021 we hear our "socialist" Prime Minister rejoicing on TV that we have "wealthy overseas investors" waiting to fund projects. She confirmed the admission in a June Cabinet paper under the name of the Hon. Nanaia Mahuta (Minister of Local Government) that the ThreeWaters plans are "heavily dependent

on the capital markets." This situation had been already signalled in the NZ First Bill establishing the Infrastructure Commission and Labour's Funding and Financing Bill - both bills supported by all MPs. Objections from Chris Leitch, Social Credit leader were heard politely, then ignored. In no way does Labour want to acknowledge its pre-war policies about our own Reserve Bank funding the public sector. That option is neither capitalism nor socialism - simply common sense.

Heather Marion Smith Acting-chair, Social Credit NZ (Western Region) Blenheim

Our next issue is due out on April 7 2022. You can contact us on 06 761 7016 if you would like to be part of it.

A snowless mountain

I am writing to you regarding the mountain having the least amount of snow and ice on the mountain at this time of year. I believe at present, and only halfway through March, Mt Taranaki is to record a very frustrating low water in many watershed areas.

Mt Taranaki at present has a small amount just below the summit rock on the western side (the least amount there seen in living memory) and a low amount in the crater.

Question. Is this a Taranaki water issue for the Taranaki Regional Council, South Taranaki District Council and the New Plymouth District Council water supplies to us in the future.?

Ian McAlpine New Plymouth



The mountain from the Pouakai Plateau.

Correction






In our story on page 9 in the March 10 issue there was a spelling error. The new owner of Okato Four Square's name should have been spelled as Ravi Kumar. We apologise for this unfortunate error.

Correction

In the story on page 11 of the March 10 issue Phillip Joblin's name was incorrect spelled in the heading. We had inadvertently left one 'l' out of his first name. For this error we apologise.

Apology

In our March 10 issue a photo on page 19 was incorrectly captioned "Pihama Farmland." The Opunake and Coastal News apologises for the error.

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Sir Tim visits Taranaki

Continued from page 1

Like everyone, Sir Tim is troubled by the Covid pandemic, which is currently sweeping the nation, with the death numbers having tripled in less than a month. He was impressed with the initial efforts of Jacinda Ardern. "Like everyone I just thought this is fantastic and she is going to save us, but it is just a vicious virus that is not going away."

Also disturbing him is the present war in Ukraine. "I'm absolutely horrified. It seems so amazing in a way. It's like World War II with tanks, bombs and planes. It seems so unnecessary

by a military machine. It's bizarre." He also admitted that Russian leader Putin reminded him of Hitler "in a way," although pointed out that Hitler attacked Russia during World War II.

Sir Tim did share his feelings on criticism which has come his way during his current term as mayor. "I've been subjected to a process of harsh criticism and a smear campaign, as well as atrocious lies."

Sir Tim is a cousin of award-winning author Maurice Shadbolt, but his literary relative was a lot older, "He seemed more like an uncle." His view of his cousin was somewhat mixed, "Maurice

was slightly neurotic and a bit defensive."

Sir Tim has enjoyed his brief visit to Taranaki which featured a tour in a classic American car visiting many places including Stratford, Eltham, Hawera and Parihaka. He made a point of mentioning Dick Scott and his renowned book on the peace village *Ask That Mountain* – the title based on words uttered by the prophet Te Whiti, who died in 1907. Sir Tim said people in Taranaki were especially engaging. "Everyone is so friendly compared with the larger cities." Visiting his good friend former mayor of New Plymouth Peter

Tennant was a highlight.

"I feel one is so fortunate to be born in New Zealand with a warm bed at night and food in the fridge," he concluded.

At the end of the interview Sir Tim's companions Bryan, Adrienne and Bruce arrived back (having been for a walk around Okato) and they were shown the historic St Paul's Church. Everyone was especially interested in the fact that Sir Paul Reeves, the former Anglican Archbishop of New Zealand, was once vicar here (mid 1960s) and later, Governor-General.

RIGHT:

From left, Sir Tim, Bryan Campbell, Adrienne Blair and Bruce Blair during the visit to Okato. They are pictured inside St Paul's Church.



Vet shortage not stopping urgent patient care

The New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) is reassuring animal owners that veterinary

clinics are continuing to see unwell animals, despite the current vet shortage and postponement of some routine appointments.

Recent publicity about the effect of the veterinary shortage has stirred fears that animals may not receive care, but NZVA Chief Executive Kevin Bryant says affected clinics are triaging their patients so that those needing urgent care are seen first.

"The veterinary shortage is certainly putting a strain

on many clinics, but they are managing their cases, so that when services are tight, patients who need to be seen quickly are receiving the attention they need. This means that sometimes routine appointments are being postponed," he says.

"If your animal or pet needs urgent attention, please contact your vet. If the closest clinic to you isn't open, you should contact another clinic, or go to an afterhours centre."

New Zealand has been

experiencing a serious shortage of veterinarians since COVID-19 closed New Zealand's borders. While more veterinarians are hoped to arrive in the country soon, the Omicron outbreak and staff sickness are currently adding to staffing issues.

"These are trying times, but we know New Zealand's veterinarians are doing their very best and always have the welfare and best interests of animals at heart," Bryant says.

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Firstly we would like to thank the community for cooperating and helping us hold those accountable for their actions. We have recently been receiving

Rural theft on the increase

multiple phone calls in relation to Pitt/Dirt bikes causing some nuisance. With the informants' help we were able to identify those and deal to them with appropriate actions. Police do need the community's help with certain incidents, as it's common that those

involved have already dispersed prior to police arrival.

Secondly there has been an increase of rural burglaries in South Taranaki. Opportunistic targeting of insecure properties continues to be a trend, with

a variety of vehicles stolen and large quantities of fuel. Please check your house and property security. Ensure vehicles and valuables are locked away when not in use. Security cameras are of value. They are a great deterrent and evidence collector.

Call 105 if it's already happened or report to your local station or 111 if it's an emergency. Alternatively you can report anonymously through crime stoppers. Cheers

*Chloe Ashton
Hawera Police*

Accident at Oeo

Emergency services attended an accident on the Surf Highway between Oeo and Pihama on the afternoon of Thursday March 17.

A milk tanker heading in the direction of Opunake was approaching the top of the hill above the Oeo stream bridge when it hit a power pole and rolled off the road. With power lines down, it was decided to close the highway. The driver of the tanker had moderate injuries and was cut from the vehicle, treated at the scene and taken to hospital by ambulance. The Serious Crash Unit were notified of the accident...



Accident scene at Oeo.

Electrical sparking leads to fire brigade callout



Electrical sparking led to a callout by the Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade on Thursday March 10.

The Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade was called out

to an address in Gisborne

on Thursday March 10. There had been sparking

witnessed along the power line leading to the house in Gisborne Terrace, which could have led to a fire in the vicinity of the power board, which, in this case, was inside.

There was no one home at the time. A fire engine was dispatched, and several firefighters kept the situation monitored until they were sure no risk of a fire was likely.

The owner Dr Shaw, a Justice of the Peace (JP), was contacted and was grateful for the prompt and effective response to this potential fire by the Opunake a Volunteer Fire Brigade.

New supply of fruit trees just arrived

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Had a diet plan to drink water every time he was hungry, between me and you it didn't last long

Loves to surf although his body may not be suggestive of that.

Thought Hough was spelt Huff so he was wondering what the word Hough even was and pronounced it Huuh...ha ha...also doesn't know what a quiche is.....

Not scared to show others what a hard day's work is .

Dont worry...you're not the only one wondering what the heck is going on in this photo!

He supposedly got excellence in algebra but doesn't remember a thing that they taught him!

Great personality and will do anything to keep you happy, even shouting beersies on a Friday

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Labour Living in fantasyland

They're living in Fantasyland. In the four and half years Labour has been in power, its MPs have learnt nothing about the country they run. New Zealand is a food producing country, yet the seasonal nature of agriculture, viticulture and horticulture escapes them. Nor do they understand the Northern and Southern Hemispheres cycles. As the new dairy season looms on June 1, the Government has granted border exemptions for 500 dairy workers, farm assistants, herd managers, assistant farm managers and their families. But the industry needs thousands. It's the same desperate need for Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers. The RSE scheme came into effect in April 2007 and allows our horticulture and viticulture industries the ability to recruit overseas workers for seasonal work. The original cap of 5000 places, has steadily risen over the years, to 16,000 for 2021/22 year. But it's still nowhere near the number needed. While COVID-19 has restricted the recruitment of RSE workers to nine eligible Pacific countries, getting these workers all the time, has been a joke. Many growers have their own on-site accommodation, which would allow these workers to isolate on their arrival and Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for COVID



BARBARA KURIGER MP FOR TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY



Apple trees around the country are laden, while desperate owners try to find workers to pick and pack the fruit.

testing have been in use overseas since early 2021. Labour has operated under the fantasy that if workers aren't let in at the border because of COVID, New Zealanders will magically fill these jobs. They won't. Kiwis are not going to up sticks and move for short-term jobs. So the Government needs

truck drivers — the list goes on — for these and other crops like kiwifruit. This Government's ignorance is making everything so expensive and difficult for the primary sector. The recent 25c drop in fuel tax for three months, while welcome, takes the old adage 'a drop in the bucket' to

new levels. It will help road transport, but not on-farm vehicles. Here's an example: A maize contractor who last season paid \$1700 to fill his harvester with diesel, is paying \$4000 this year. And despite the reduction, fuel remains at more than \$3 for many consumers. Last month the PM finally acknowledged our "cost of living crisis", after refusing for weeks to admit NZ was in such a state. With food prices up 13% and weekly rents up \$150, the effects on all New Zealanders are crippling. Life is hard for everyone with inflation pushing household budgets to the limit. To eat healthy protein, fruit and vegetables is so expensive, with much of the cost directly attributed to government policy. Hardly the fairy tale existence Labour likes to espouse daily. Learning what makes this country tick, and where the money they so gleefully spend comes from, would be a start. They don't need to look far. The Ministry for Primary Industries estimates the primary sector will bring in \$50.8 billion by June 30. If that forecast is right, food and fibre producers are set to save us once again. And for that, I salute them.

Barbara Kuriger MP Taranaki-King Country

Supporting Kiwis with the cost of living

and middle income Kiwis. We're taking another step to make things a bit easier, in light of the additional

pressure families are feeling as a result of the Ukraine invasion. The war in Ukraine has had

a big impact on fuel costs around the world, causing a global energy crisis that is

continued on page 9

Barbara Kuriger
MP for Taranaki-King Country

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Authorised by Barbara Kuriger MP, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Supporting Kiwis with the cost of living

continued from page 8

being felt in Taranaki and across NZ. I know this spike has been tough for many people here in Taranaki.

While we can't control global events, we can control the support we provide New Zealanders. That's why we've taken action to provide immediate relief. We've cut petrol excise duty by 25 cents a litre for three months, to make filling up a 40 litre tank more than \$11

cheaper. Those filling up a 60 litre tank will be seeing more than \$17 of savings. I'm glad to hear this is already making a difference for many families in our community.

From late April to late July 2022, Road User Charges will be cut by 36% across all legislated rates. We've also made it cheaper for people who catch public transport by making fares half-price for the next three months. These changes are designed

to help ease the immediate pressure on Kiwis, but they're just one part in a broader programme of long-term work to reduce cost pressures on New Zealanders. This includes a suite of changes that will be coming into force from 1 April, giving the majority of Kiwi families, along with pensioners, a significant income boost.

Our improvements to Working for Families alone will see around 60% of all

families – more than 300,000 households – better off by an average of \$20 per week. On top of that, our changes to Childcare Assistance income thresholds will benefit around 1,000 families. Those on Superannuation will see an income boost of \$52 a fortnight for a single person and \$80 for a couple, while full-time minimum wage workers will see their pay lift by \$48 a week.

In addition, from 1 May, the Winter Energy Payment

will kick in again, to assist more than a million people – seniors, veterans, and those on a benefit – with heating bills through the colder months.

These measures, when taken together, will make a difference for people in our community and across the country. They build on actions we've taken since 2017 to ensure families have more in their pocket to get ahead – policies like the family tax credit, free school

lunches, cheaper doctors' fees, and the removal of school donations.

We're committed to securing a recovery from COVID that leaves no one behind – and the work we're doing to support families with the cost of living is just one way we're making that a reality.

Steph Lewis
MP Whanganui

Coastal Taranaki School school leaders

This year Coastal Taranaki School have chosen two male students as leaders. They are Alex Gibson (17) as Head Boy and Cain Longstaff (16) as Deputy Head Boy.

Were they surprised at their selection?

"I was kind of surprised. I didn't think I'd get chosen. I was kind of pleased when I did get it. It gave me a reason to stay at school," replied Alex.

"I kind of expected it. I was pretty pleased, I guess," commented Cain.

He added that, before he was



Head Boy Alex Gibson (left) and Cain Longstaff, Deputy Head Boy.

chosen, he was getting a positive reaction from other

students. "Kids came up and said they had voted for me."

This year Alex's subjects include Media Studies, English, Tourism and his two favourites Photography and Business Studies, while Cain will be kept busy with Business Studies, English, Media Studies and his two favourites Physical Education and Photography.

In his leadership position Alex intends to be a positive role model and wants to promote more activities to bring the students together.

Cain is keen to organise more school events, as there

were not so many in 2021, due to the Covid situation. He wants to get the school together to engage all the new students.

Despite their busy student lives both leaders hope to find time for some gaming. Alex also enjoys driving diggers for his parents on their farm. Cain enjoys fitness activities. He also likes to take in a movie or two, especially action ones and comedies.

As to the future, both leaders would like to establish a business. Alex is undecided as to the type of business.

However, after leaving school he would like to head to the South Island for the contracting season.

Cain would like to have a business involving dropshipping. This involves acting as middle man where he would go to a merchandiser and obtain goods or services for his clients.

We wish Alex and Cain congratulations and all the best in their leadership roles, as well as academic success.

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Treasure in Taranaki



A selection of high quality porcelain, which can be viewed at Cecilias Crafts and Antiques, Opunake.

Porcelain collectables are unburied treasure

Collectors of porcelain series should head for Cecilia's Craft and Antiques in Opunake as Raewyn has a wide range of eye-catching collectables.

Usually, porcelain items come in a series with a finite number. They have a value singly, but their overall value is exponentially increased if a collector has all items in the series; the sum of the whole exceeds the combined sum of the parts. "The collector wants the whole lot and knows what they are looking for," explains Raewyn. "If they have, say all five in the series, the set can retail in the thousands of dollars."

The items in the picture (above) are all likely to be sought after. Perhaps the oldest is the 1910 Royal Doulton campfire scene on the left of the picture.

The Doulton name was founded in 1815, but back then the company was called Jones, Watts and Doulton, who specialised in English ceramics and accessories with their factory in Vauxhall, London, but this was later re-established in the suburb of Lambeth. The founders included Martha Jones, John Watts and John Doulton.

By 1882 a factory was established in Burslem,

Stoke-on-Trent. Further name changes included Doulton and Watts (1820), Doulton and Co (1853) and finally WWRD Holdings.

The second (from left) item pictured is a Royal Doulton vase with muted colouring, which dates from the 1930s. "This series will have all kinds of shapes and designs, but the same colour and pictures," comments Raewyn.

The third item is entitled Great Barrier Reef Bunnykins and features various creatures such as bunnies, a dolphin, fish and a starfish. A myriad of colours – mauves, greens, yellows, blues, reds, oranges, browns, blend together. *The wonderful world of Bunnykins by Royal Doulton is full of exciting Bunnykin characters and thrilling adventures. Each charming figure has been skilfully handmade and hand-decorated and comes with its own Certificate of Authenticity.* This one is Number 171 in a limited edition of 500 and was commissioned by WWRD Australia.

This would be a delightful present for a child, but it would need to be one who is not clumsy.

The final two items, a beautifully crafted dog and a

horse are made by a company in the Czech Republic and are termed Royal Dux. This company goes back to 1860 and founder Eduard Richler who lived in Duchovny, Bohemia. These days Bohemia is part

of the Czech Republic. The company's actual name is Duxer Porzellanmanufaktur or, more simply, Dux Manufactory, who are esteemed for their high quality pottery and porcelain.

Kaponga WI turns to gaming

Vice President Dene Lines welcomed the members to the March meeting of Kaponga WI held at the TET Rooms in Kaponga with hostesses Fiona Collins and Rayleen McDonald. A report was given on those members who are currently unwell and we look forward to seeing them back with us asap. The roll call - The view from a window at my childhood home - revealed some interesting memories. Flowers were delivered to Mollie Nicholas on the occasion of her very special birthday and to celebrate the special person she is to us all. A report was given on the recent very successful Founders Day celebrations at the Kaponga Hotel. The speaker Liz Sinclair spoke about her overseas trip including her visit to Gallipoli. Three members will be attending Conference in Wellington in May and several will also attend the AGM in Kapuni in April and will also serve the cups of tea etc. With the roll call that day being donations to the building of the new ambulance station in Hawera, Kaponga agreed on a suitable donation. Secret friends over the last year were revealed by

coordinator Diane West and the new ones revealed for the coming year. Secret friends have a member whom they remember throughout the year for anything that may happen in their lives and this is very successful. Nancy Stokes again produced our wonderfully designed annual programme and was thanked with a voucher.

Competition results; Succulent: 1. Carolyn Nicholas. 2. Diane West and Dene Lines. 3. Nancy Stokes and Fiona Collins.

Candle in a Container. 1. Dene Lines. 2. Sharyn Hurley. 3. Rayleen McDonald.

Two Club Sandwiches. 1. Diane West. 2. Carolyn Nicholas and Margaret Broomhall. 3. Dene Lines and Fiona Collins.

After a delicious shared lunch the gaming began! We played many games of bingo trying to win an Easter egg although playing for real money was suggested, even using WI funds. The two bags of eggs disappeared fast. All was very quiet during the play but much fun had.

As usual a great catch up thanks to everyone.

Carolyn Nicholas

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Building funds the answer to a prayer



Minister Kevyn Harris in the restored St Andrew's Church.

One of New Plymouth's most iconic buildings has been saved for future generations, with help from NPDC's Building Funds.

A \$25,000 grant has helped ensure that the stone-clad St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and its spire will be towering

over Liardet Street on the one-way system, for years to come.

The church, which was built in the 1930s, needed earthquake strengthening on its walls, as well as work to support the spire and bracing of the main roof.

"This was a \$332,000 earthquake project and

the church faced losing the building without this work, but NPDC stepped up to support it. This is a beautiful building that's used by hundreds of people each month for a variety of culturally-diverse services, weddings and funerals, as well as for musical performances

and rehearsals and other community activities such as blood donations and support groups for women and young people," said Minister Kevyn Harris.

The St Andrew's funding came from NPDC's Built, Cultural Heritage Protection Fund to help owners look after heritage buildings.

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Home grown vegetables are fresh and healthy, and will save you money too.

Your vegetable patch will need adequate drainage to cope with the winter rainfall so avoid waterlogged areas and make sure your plot gets as much light as possible.

Dig in compost to enrich the soil and improve drainage and add sheep pellets or poultry compost.

If you don't have a

vegetable patch, winter vegetables and herbs such as lettuce, spinach, silverbeet, celery, parsley and kale can be grown in pots and containers.

Popular winter vegetables include: Broad beans, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Celery, Parsley, Cauliflower, Silverbeet, Spring onion, Spinach, Lettuce, Kale, Carrots, Leeks, Peas and, Onions

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less pests through winter, maintenance of your winter veg patch is greatly reduced and you can keep on top of any maintenance quickly and easily. Some crops may require a cover of frost cloth overnight to protect young tender tips. Palmers recommends regular slug baiting. Choose bait that lasts longer in wet conditions such as Tui Quash which is safer around kids and pets.

A small veg plot may

only need two to three crops planted at 10 to 12 week intervals to cover the full season, so maintenance is mostly spent picking your tasty rewards, and that's the best job of all.

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Okato Vodafone tower update

Okato residents, we have been on a big journey endeavoring to have the voices of our village heard regarding most people not wanting a 15metre 5g tower in centre of our village of Okato.

Following are actions we have taken since one resident in mid December, 2021 spotted at the bottom of a Kaitake Community Board email the proposal for the installation of a tower in Okato, which they were aware of since April 2021. This is when Vodafone first contacted the Kaitake Community Board of their intentions. Due to the importance of Vodafone's intentions the Kaitake Community Board should have organised an immediate public meeting to present Vodafone's plans. That's their job as our representative. This would have given plenty of time to launch an education programme of awareness amongst the community. They failed in their duty. Movement to get the Okato Tennis Club approval of installation on their property, assisted by the Kaitake Community Board was over, done and dusted before the community knew anything about it.



installation on the tennis court.

Our local newspaper reporter wrote a balanced article to the Opunake and Coastal News sharing the above and reasons for the residents discontent with the tower location.

During February 2022 many residents continued to call and email Lisa at vodafone wondering how we can make headway for our voices to be heard regarding our concerns.

Currently the New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) is reviewing Vodafone's application and we are hopeful of a positive outcome where a fair compromise is achieved so that the tower can be established on the outskirts of Okato. Discussion has taken place within our group of an ideal site for the tower. We believe location by the water reservoir would be suitable. That is our wish.

Once we have word back from NPDC we will produce a flyer for a letter box drop and also the Opunake and Coastal News.

Whatever the outcome re location there will be a need on how you can minimise the effects of EMFs and we will organise a local meeting to cover this.

So how to move forward?

Do the opposite of what has been nurtured for generations and connect to each other. Come together as a whole community, create what we need in our village to all thrive as it exists, we simply need to nurture that together.

Begin with education of the health ramifications and how to create a healthy home for our children. We feel so grateful to the dedication of the team who have kept onto this issue and will continue to in any way we can.

We need more concentration and awareness of how our lives can be richer when we focus on the things that really matter, community, connection, and care for each other

Concerned citizens of Okato.

The prospect of a cell tower in town has provoked strong feelings in Okato.

So starting in December, 2021 we spoke to immediate residents, none of which were aware of the installation of a 15metre tower in very close proximity to their homes.

In January 22 we wrote to the Okato Tennis Club endeavouring to change their minds about signing up their organisation as the tower location and offered them a link to a summit held with 42 world experts in their particular fields re the harmful effects of Electric Magnetic Fields (EMFs). Not nutters or conspiracy theorists down rabbit holes, but highly qualified people with all the science to back their conclusions. We offered to broaden their knowledge on the subject. We offered this knowledge not only to the Tennis Club, but also Vodafone and the

Kaitake Board. They all declined.

Extensive information was letterbox dropped to all residents, followed up with a petition door-to-door to bring awareness of this situation, which acquired 250 signatures from 190 homes in the village.

Multiple phone calls and emails were made to Lisa the Community Liaison Officer for Vodafone, alerting her and the company to the fact that the majority, by far, of residents DON'T want the tower in the centre of the village.

So we organised a face-to-face meeting at the park in the village with the Chairman of the Kaitake Community Board present. Over 50 residents turned up where it was obvious the majority were against this

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Houses continue to sell in Opunake

Opunake real estate agents were asked about house prices in Opunake.

Viv Scott and Tara Gibson of McDonald Real Estate were asked were most of the house sales going to investors?

“No, because it’s too expensive and because the rents are not high enough,” replied Viv. She added, that the debt could not, therefore, be serviced and that the financial return (from rents) would not be enough to cover the mortgage. This represented a disincentive for investors to buy.

In Opunake the prices are generally lower than other places. “The average asking price starts with a 4 or a 5.” (ie \$400,000 - \$500,000). This is attracting buyers from out of Taranaki, including such centres as Tauranga and Wellington. “If they can sell their house in Tauranga, they can be mortgage-free in Opunake,” comments Viv.

As regards other parts of our province, “Quite a few from New Plymouth are looking for weekenders, as are first home buyers willing to venture around the coast.”

“We’re getting attention from all over the North Island and having a strong presence online connects our properties to out of towners,” explains Tara.

These days there is less physical viewing of properties because of the pandemic. “Because of Covid people have been restricted to view,” she added.



From left, Tara Gibson, Ali McQuaig and Viv Scott.

“More people are buying sight unseen,” says Viv.

As respect to buying and selling property within the Opunake community Viv says, “There’s not much action from locals.”

The overall effect of the pandemic has increased house inflation. “All Covid has done is push prices up here because people in bigger centres have already sold and got big prices.”

The pandemic has allowed many people to work remotely from home, making places like Opunake appeal as people can have a better work life balance here.

Tara points out that a “younger demographic” are also changing their behaviour from seeking overseas travel (because they are restricted due to Covid) and are instead looking to buy property as their focus. “They are giving

more attention to the housing market.”

When asked if Covid has affected how they market properties, Tara explains, “Covid hasn’t changed the way we do our job, but says that there has been more emphasis on technology and using it to our advantage.”

“Real estate professionals have just adapted to the new situation,” Viv adds.

“The property market has definitely slowed. It had to happen,” says Viv. Tara feels this is a positive trend, “Things aren’t so ridiculous, you can catch your breath.” “Some people were making exceptional money from sales, but this is changing,” comments Viv.

Michelle Hofmans of First National Collective Taranaki says properties in Opunake are continuing to attract record prices While prices in Opunake are not as high

as those in New Plymouth, they are comparable to other parts of the province.

Most buyers tend to come from out of town or outside the province, and run the gamut from younger first home buyers to older people wanting to shift to Opunake.

“It’s quite a mix,” she says. And most are coming to live in Opunake.

“They’re here to be part of the community,” says Michelle. “Most do join clubs and do add real value to our community. I think it’s a positive influence. They like our lifestyle and are quite often from other areas that used to be like this, from bigger centres mostly.” She says many like being able to get on to the Walkway from anywhere in town.

They are less likely to buy properties as investments. While there may be a popular view that houses are being bought as holiday homes, sales figures do not reflect this.

“I’ve not sold a whole lot of holiday homes,” she says. “The trend is to live in them. In comparison to the amount of sales, holiday homes are right down there.”

Nor are people likely to buy properties, do them up and on sell at a profit.

“In Opunake people buy here to stay for a long time. They don’t buy to flick off. They do them up, but it’s for themselves.”

Michelle says there’s a huge demand for land which reflects a lack of stock on the market. People buy land wanting to build, even though it now takes longer to

do so given that because of COVID and lockdowns it’s been harder to get materials.

There is talk of the market slowing down, but Michelle says she is optimistic about the future of the property market.

“There are still plenty of

buyers around, and there are still opportunities to get into the market,” she says.

“I think real estate at the moment at the moment is really positive. You still have strong buyers around. It’s not all doom and gloom.”

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Michelle Hofmans of First National Taranaki.

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Hive of Lies an enjoyable read

Accounting is not the first profession you'd think of in terms of interesting jobs. In fact accounting gets a bad rap.

However Diane Robinson's self published book *Hive of Lies* makes accounting sound interesting, especially forensic accounting which involves investigating fraud in the part of firms.

Herself an accountant in her day job, Diane's book is a whodunit set in such a world.

The tale begins when a female accountant Anne Taylor fails to turn up to work and is subsequently found dead at a wealthy client's property.

Her good friend and colleague Claire Conner is due to start work at the same firm as Anne's that very day. After the initial shock she, and Anne's bereaved brother Nick set about trying to investigate how and why Anne.

In trying to ferret out what happened the reader is taken on a trail of intrigue which poses more questions than answers. The forbidding presence of Miss Steele – is she somehow implicated in Anne's demise, why was Anne on the client's property when she wasn't meant to be,

the suspicious disappearance of Anne's audit papers from her pigeon hole and who is the mystery man in Anne's life that no one knew about.

The reader is also absorbed into Claire's own life. Will Greg - on whom Claire once had an adolescent crush – become more than a friend in their quest to find out how and why Anne died. Or will she fall for the dishy Ryan.

Then there is a second death...

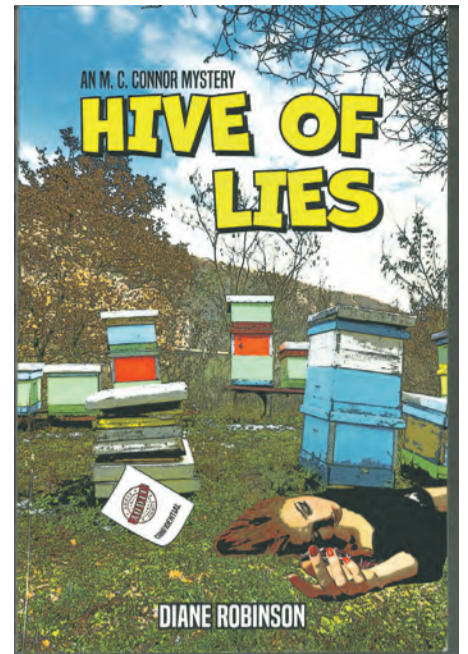
Undaunted, Claire bravely takes on the audit of the firm where Anne dies to get at the truth.

Set in Auckland, *Hive of Lies* also touches on a lot of life issues. Relationships, the apprehension before starting a new job, the camaraderie of work colleagues and working in an office, subjects often treated with humour.

I enjoyed the book. It's an interesting, entertaining read and Diane is hoping to launch *Hive of Lies* in Pastimes in Opunake soon. Meanwhile she's now embarking on her second book, also a whodunit, the research for which involved visiting a New Plymouth Brewery.

We'll keep you posted on the date of the *Hive of Lies* book launch.

Bernice McKellar



On this month in history
Sir Julius Vogel dies

On March 12, 1899 Sir Julius Vogel died in England. He emigrated first to Victoria, Australia and then to NZ in 1961. He became the eighth premier of NZ, serving from 1873 to 1875. (He again held the position in 1876).

He is best remembered (as Colonial Secretary) for borrowing (10 million pounds) to finance such public works as railways, roads and communications systems.

In 1887 he introduced the first Women's Suffrage bill to the House of Representatives, although the measure did not succeed at this early stage (In 1893 New Zealand women were granted the vote).

In his earlier career as a journalist he founded the *Otago Daily Times* (1861) and was its first editor. He also worked for the *Otago Witness*, which no longer exists.

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Meg and Richard Cardiff celebrate 65 years of marriage

Meg and Richard Cardiff celebrated 65 years of marriage on March 2, 2022. The Okato couple – Margaret Ivy Hamill and Richard Arthur Cardiff – were married on March 2, 1957 at Saint Andrews Church, New Plymouth. The groom was 20 and the bride 19. The Rev Ross performed the service. “My mother-in-law was a seamstress and made my wedding dress,” commented Meg.

Messages of support have arrived from various notable people including the Governor-General Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro and Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Adern, as well as the Minister for Seniors (Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall) and Glen Bennett MP for New Plymouth. However, the most humbling card was from Queen Elizabeth II, who wrote: “I am delighted to hear that you are celebrating the 65th anniversary of your wedding day and send you our warmest congratulations and good wishes on this splendid occasion.”

Meg and Richard first met four years earlier, aged 15 and 16 years, respectively, during silage harvesting on her parents farm on Frankley Road, Hurworth. The couple were engaged for a year before the big day.

Meg explained that her family had recently moved from Pungarehu and Richard’s brother-in-law



Richard and Meg on their wedding day.

spanner,” joked Richard. The couple had a happy working relationship. “Meg looked after the family and I went to work,” explained Richard.

Their two children were born in successive years, firstly their daughter Suzanne born (1958) when they lived in Hawera. At the time Richard was the working for the Hawera Branch of the Farmers Co-op, servicing refrigerators in South Taranaki.

After moving back to New Plymouth their son Peter was born (1959).

Suzanne and Peter organised all of the 65th celebrations, which most of the seven

“We’ve built three houses from scratch.” Meg and Richard have lived in a number of places in New Zealand, such as the Bay of Plenty, Milford Sound and Auckland, Having obtained his Registered Electricians qualification Richard was able to work on major projects overseas including Mainland China, Inner Mongolia, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa and Papua New Guinea.

Although employment was behind most of their shifts, they’ve enjoyed plenty of interests. Meg is well known for her passion for local history and genealogy and is a fount of knowledge.

Richard has built a number of boats such as a Praam dinghy, a Sunburst yacht and even a cabin cruiser, swapped in Tauranga for a jet boat to explore up the harbour and the Wairoa River.

He has his Offshore Yachtmasters qualification earned with a friend with a 40 foot steel yacht.

Richards Private pilots licence - earned in Tauranga - is no longer current.

We wish this interesting couple our heartiest congratulations on this special anniversary and reserve the last word for Richard. “We’ve had fun for 65 years.”



Richard and Meg Cardiff still smiling after 65 years.

Alan Dow didn’t have a harvesting gang, and co-operated with each other in dealing with labour-intensive activities such as silage and hay making.

What was the attraction? “He was a ‘townie’ but could drive a tractor, sober, didn’t smoke and was about to start an apprenticeship (refrigeration engineering).” “I was impressed that she knew how to use a crescent

grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren were able to enjoy time together at two baches at Urenui Beach. As well as a lot of reminisces, there was an enjoyable barbecue and other delights including viewing Grand dads 35mm slides through his 60 year old projector.


One feature of their 65 years of marriage have been many shifts; they have moved house on 33 occasions.

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A laundromat for Opunake

Jody and Claire Hunn have travelled around New Zealand and overseas so know first hand the benefits of a laundromat.

At the start of last year they bought the building in Tasman Street Opunake which currently houses Dove Takeaways, and which in a former life had been the

local branch of stock and station agents Newton King. After a lot of renovations and battling for the required consents they got the Surf Highway Wash and Dry Laundromat up and running on Christmas Eve.

“When we bought the building, we didn’t have



Surf Highway Wash and Dry located at 63 Tasman Street Opunake.

any intention to do anything, but friends suggested a laundromat would be good for the town,” said Claire. “We’ve travelled a lot in New Zealand and overseas and we know laundromats make a great business. We talked to people and asked our friends what they thought would work. We like the aspect of brightening up town a bit and doing something for the community.”

Claire and Jody know Opunake well and both grew up here. Jody works as an engineer for Fonterra, while Claire is an agribusiness analyst for Rabobank. With their two daughters, Alika who is now aged 14 and Skyler, now aged 10 they have been to most parts of New Zealand on family holidays in their campervan.

The laundromat is self-service and is open from



The dryers range from 14kg to 34kg capacity.

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A laundromat for Opunake



Jody and Claire Hunn are pleased with the great start for their new business Surf Highway Wash and Dry.

6am-10.30pm seven days a week. The machines are commercial grade and imported by Gooder Equipment from the United States. There are four washing machines able to handle loads from 9-32 kg and five dryers able to handle loads from 14-34kg.

Claire says the variety in load sizes is helpful for people like farmers with big loads including overalls in need of washing.

Machines are coin operated with a change machine on site so users don't have to worry about having the right change.

"You stick your notes in and it will spit out the coins," said Claire.

There is even free WIFI

for customers while they wait, an innovation Claire and Jody had seen on their travels which they believed would work in Opunake.

It took nearly a year to get things up and running. As the building is one of the older ones in town it was in need of work. The Hunn family, including their daughters did the renovation work themselves. A new roof was added in July. It took three months to get the necessary consents allowing them to run a laundromat. The day after they got them they got to work, with their friend Kate Basher helping out with the design.

Claire says Ian and Susan Phillips of Dove Takeaways had been happy for them to use a third of the buildings to

house the laundromat.

On Christmas Eve they were open for business.

As the laundromat is self-service it's hard to know whether it's being used mainly by locals, or how many passing tourists are making use of it. Claire says she believes it's being used mainly by people from Opunake and the surrounding areas.

"It's coming up three months since we started. We had no expectations, but the locals appreciate it being here and it's definitely getting used.



The washing machines range from 9kg to 32kg capacity perfect for bulky bedding.

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Headstone Warehouse changes hands



Shaun Judkins and his wife Kelly Judkins new owners at Headstone Warehouse.

As from December 10, 2021 the Headstone Warehouse, which has branches in Hawera (33 High Street) and New Plymouth (209 Coronation Avenue), has changed hands. After many years in the Anderson family going back to 1914 (latterly Daryl Anderson) the current owner is Shaun Judkins and his wife Kelly Judkins. After 24 years employment in the maintenance department of a Fonterra dairy factory, Shaun's new venture could not be more different. "I'm loving it. It's just a cool place to work," he enthuses.

The day-to-day manager is Shaun, as Kelly is Managing Director of Hardings Funerals. The couple stress that the two firms are separately run businesses.

Shaun is pleased to state that the same excellent staff have continued on since the changeover. These include four men in the field, two sales representatives, a part time administrator and a graphic designer.

The firm does not just service Taranaki, but also supplies headstones throughout New Zealand

and the Pacific Islands.

Apart from maintaining the high quality established by Daryl and his forebears, Shaun intends "growing" the staff, as well as increasing

the amount of merchandise and services. However, Shaun points out, "We're really busy, at present, with 145 jobs underway."

The quarried granite

headstones, which are imported from overseas, are available in virtually any colour, marking, texture or shape. Some of the popular

Continued page 19



Shaun and Kelly support the Brick project in memory of Blair Vining who fought for better services for cancer patients in the South Island.

Headstone Warehouse

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Headstone Warehouse changes hands



The exterior of the Hawera branch of Headstone Warehouse.

Continued from page 18

mottled options include, for example, Ruby Red, Blue Pearl and Ocean Green. A stone can be set (dowelled and cemented) on any shaped base at no extra cost. As regards bespoke pieces, the firm's graphic designer can work with you to produce a stone, which closely reflects the departed person's interests and personality. "Paperwork can go back and forth until the client is happy with a proof (as we call it) that we can proceed with," explains Shaun.

However, you may prefer to select from one of the 2000 stones the firm already has in stock. Excellent informative pamphlets are available which outline all the possible options.

Apart from providing and installing the original stone, there are other services on offer as regards maintenance and restoration. This includes re-inscription added detail is inscribed on the stone. Sometimes needed is the restoration of old stones when they have suffered misadventure such as being tipped off their base and may require repair work.

Stones can also be professionally cleaned and re-painted, upon request. Shaun points out that his staff is highly trained. "The workmanship will last, which is important," comments Kelly.

A project the firm are proud to be supporting is one organised by Melissa Vining in loving memory of her husband Blair, who

to Friday. However, other times can be arranged, by appointment. The firm's rates are very competitive and no-obligation free

worth a look: www.headstonewarehouse.co.nz The firm's phone numbers are 06 278 5518 (Hawera) or 06 759 9975



Shaun and Kelly in the Headstone Warehouse showroom.

died three years ago. A total of 8,000 bricks are needed and the idea is sponsors pay \$100 per brick, which will provide a brick walkway for Southland Hospital. Each sponsor's name will be inscribed on their brick to acknowledge their generous donation to a worthy cause.

Headstone Warehouse is open 8am to 4.30pm, Monday

quotes are available. They are a proud member of the New Zealand Master Monumental Masons Association. Apart from a friendly informative chat by calling at one of the two offices, you can learn more by finding the firm on Facebook: www.facebook.com/headstonewarehousenz Their website is well

(New Plymouth) Email addresses include hawera@HeadstoneWarehouse.co.nz and newplymouth@HeadstoneWarehouse.co.nz

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Cuckoo's futile bid for shelter

A long tailed cuckoo appears to be among the victims of Monday's rain.

The Long Tailed Cuckoo (*Eudynamys tatensis*) generally migrates to the Pacific during the winter months although a few do stay over in New Zealand during that time.

One that won't be making that journey was found by Rex Langton lying outside the downstairs window of the patio of his home near the Opunake lake.

"It probably came looking for shelter," says Rex. Normally Rex would go for a walk at around 7am, but on this occasion it had been raining heavily that morning.

"I noticed it at first light. I thought it was just a bit of rubbish," he said. "It was warm to start with but I didn't get there quick enough. It's such a beautiful bird. It's disappointing that it's died."

He says the long-tailed cuckoo is less common around Opunake than the Shining Cuckoo. He has a different call.

This is not however the first time that Rex has had a long tailed cuckoo come calling.

"The other one crashed into the top window and knocked itself out when I was having breakfast a few years back," says Rex.



Rex Langton with the Long Tailed Cuckoo found at his home.

He found a crushed chaffinch egg in its mouth. Long tailed cuckoos occasionally take young birds and eggs from the nests of other birds, and

this cuckoo may have been fleeing an angry chaffinch, says Rex.

This particular cuckoo was however luckier than the one that came visiting earlier

this week.

"The other one took two hours to recover. We took it back. It pulled itself into the branches and that was the last we saw of it."

Greenpeace welcomes scheme

Greenpeace Aotearoa say they welcome the Government's announcement of an overhaul of recycling systems to address New Zealand's astronomical plastic waste issue. The Government announced new proposals aimed to improve kerbside recycling, incentivise people to recycle empty drink containers, as well as separating businesses' food scraps from general waste.

"We welcome a Container Return Scheme for Aotearoa but the devil will be in the detail. For it to be comprehensive we must include all bottles and all materials, with no exemptions. Companies like Coca-Cola are selling approximately 1 billion plastic drink bottles each year in New Zealand," says Greenpeace Aotearoa plastics campaigner Juressa Lee.

"We are excited at the prospect of a Container Return Scheme that, if done well, will mean we'll have refill and reuse systems that will be a significant step toward turning off the plastic pollution tap," says Lee.

The proposal would also pay people 20 cents for every drink container returned for recycling.

"Our ban the bottle petition has over 100,000 signatures, so it's clear that plastic pollution is a major concern for people in Aotearoa. No one wants plastic choking our oceans and killing marine life and nobody is happy that plastic is now in our food and in the air that we breathe. Plastic bottles are one of the major contributors to plastic pollution, so it's time for a bottle ban, and it's time for a container return scheme that keeps well-designed products in use for a long time," says Lee. It's proposed that fresh dairy milk containers are excluded from the scheme, a move Greenpeace says will undermine its effectiveness.

"Single-use plastic milk bottles are as harmful to our planet and climate as other plastic beverage bottles. An exemption would be inconsistent with the objectives of a return scheme and our broader goals for waste," says Lee.

"If we want to shift to a truly circular economy, if we want to minimise waste and if we want to lower our impact on the environment then we must ban the single use plastic bottle and prioritize refill and reuse alternatives over recycling."

How common is myocarditis after an mRNA booster?

Myocarditis, inflammation of the heart muscle that can be a rare side effect of mRNA vaccines, remains rare after a third dose in young people, according to an Israeli study. The team looked at myocarditis rates among a group of about 125,000 members of the Israeli Defence Force who received Pfizer as a booster. The majority of participants were aged 18-24, with previous studies showing men in that age

bracket to be at a relatively higher risk than older male booster recipients and women. Nine participants, all young men, were diagnosed with myocarditis during the study, including one man who was excluded from the results because the condition occurred after a COVID-19 infection. The researchers estimate the incidence rate of myocarditis in the two weeks following a booster is 5.55 per 100,000. In young men specifically, they say the rate is 11.25

per 100,000. All myocarditis cases in the study were mild with no ongoing injury after hospital discharge.

The study was peer reviewed and was an observational study, in which the subject is observed to see if there is a relationship between two or more things (eg: the consumption of diet drinks and obesity). Observational studies cannot prove that one thing causes another, only that they are linked.



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A Back Country Dictionary

Wireless (1963-, RMW)

The wireless/radio was an integral part of our lives. Listening to serials such as Dr Kildaire, Life with Dexter, Cleopatra, The Archers...was compulsory stuff if one was in the house at the time they were broadcast. Also the request shows. Whenever I was helping in the kitchen I tuned in to the pop songs on the wireless and wrote down the words of hundreds of songs as they were played.



Listening to serials.



Tongs for a kitchen coal range.

'xouse, (TG)

One lunch time six or seven of the pupils crossed the little bridge to the other side of the river, which was strictly out of bounds. They were all lined up for the strap. Each one had to hold out a hand for two of the best. I was on the end of the row - just a little tot who had tagged along behind the big kids.

The headmaster looked very stern and I was shivering in my little boots when he stopped in front of me. No doubt realising that I was not big enough for the strap he came up with a good excuse for not giving it to me. He put on a bit of an act saying that he had worn himself out strapping the others. I was free to go. A kindly Welshman was our Mr Taylor. I can still remember him breaking into that rousing chorus, 'Men of Harlech'.

Some pages from the recent book by Heather Turner. The book is available at Ceciliias Crafts and Antiques, 43 Tasman Street Opunake and the Opunake and Coastal News office. Also refer to the advertisement on this page.



GMC Truck (1950s, NM)

All the Marco School children would race to the school gate and wave to Ron McCartie whenever he drove by in his ex-army GMC truck. Ron provided a daily return transport service to Stratford. (See: Fancy Dress Balls, Marco School)

Goitre (1920s, JB)

I can remember a goodly number of people with the characteristic swollen neck of goitre. Putting iodine into salt brought an end to that. I wonder why such an important measure has been discontinued?

Greasy Pig (TG)

Fair days! What fun they were and the highlight, as far as we children were concerned, was catching the greasy pig. I can assure you that that was no easy task. Now I can only think what a frightening experience it must have been for the poor little creature. Thankfully such a chase would not be held today.

Groceries (1940s, NR)

Before we arrived in Tangarakau, around 1941, there was a massive slip on the road. Alf Westwood had the General Store in Tahora. Now and again he delivered a few bits and pieces of staple groceries. (See: Floods, Slips)

Grog, Sly (1930's, HS)

Although Tangarakau was officially a 'dry area' there was still plenty of alcohol available from the 'sly groggers'. Every now and then the police would arrive and search the homes of known 'sly groggers' but they usually got wind of the raids and would take action to hide the grog. One woman took to her bed and all the bottles were put into bed with her. When the police arrived, the doctor (a regular customer) was sitting beside the patient and told the police that she was too ill to cope with any distress and she wasn't to be disturbed.



One woman took to her bed.

Public asked to help with final step to new museum

The South Taranaki District Museum Trust is seeking financial contributions from its community to complete its new building at Aotea Utanganui: Museum of South Taranaki in Patea.

Prior to starting the build, the Trust successfully raised

Museum staff take care of day to day operations and the collection. The Museum collection and building are owned by the Trust, who are all volunteers and willingly give time and effort in aid of the preservation of heritage for future generations to

many collection items have been stored off site. The Trust has worked steadily on planning an extension to the Museum for several years and the new 439m2 building is now nearing completion. Once completed the additional



Aotea Utanganui: Museum of South Taranaki has a proud history of caring for the heritage of South Taranaki.

\$1.47 million from local and national funders including Toi Foundation, a bequest from Mr Shayne Searle, Provincial Growth Fund, Lotteries Environment & Heritage, Regional Culture & Heritage Fund (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), Pub Charity, NZ Community Trust, the Southern Trust and the South Taranaki District Council.

Now in the final stages of construction, the Trust finds itself facing a \$50,000.00 shortfall in the total cost of the project due to Covid and a boundary alteration with an adjoining property. According to the Chair, Rosanne Oakes, this is a less than 4% shortfall to complete the build which could be considered modest when compared to cost overruns of millions of dollars on projects across the country but the Trust had planned for a zero increase.

With the vast majority of funding coming from central government, trustees thought it was the right thing to ask the community if they would like to help out.

"We know that our community really values the Museum and many would love to help - and we haven't even asked yet. We have tried to raise as much as we can by ourselves but we've been to every funder we can think of now - and we still need a little bit more funding", said Ms Oakes, "We'd be really grateful for a hand to get us across the line without having to get a loan. Every dollar will help."

Aotea Utanganui: Museum of South Taranaki has a proud history of caring for the heritage of South Taranaki with its conception dating back to 1967 when the Patea Historical Society was formed. It is the District's storehouse of archives and taonga supported by a formal partnership with the South Taranaki District Council, whose trained

access and enjoy.

Storage of collection items has been an ongoing concern for many years and the lack of proper storage at the Museum has meant

space will enable the return of many collection items currently stored off-site and also provide greater public access to a wider range of the collection.



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take it anywhere, anytime, and depending on the applicator you may be able

to get closer to waterways. Due to its control, many councils have approved use

of a RainWave slurry tanker closer to waterways than what they would allow for

an irrigator.

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*Michael Prestidge
Nevada Effluent
Management Specialist*

Push continues for 'fair and even playing field'

Federated Farmers believes new requirements announced for overseas investors buying

New Zealand farmland for forestry are encouraging, but are only step one of a suite of

changes required.

"For years Feds and other organisations have been calling for a reversal of rules that exempt overseas buyers intending to convert our farmland into forestry from the 'proof of benefit to New Zealand' requirements that apply when buyers intend continuing farm production land use," Federated Farmers Meat & Wool Chairperson William Beetham says.

"That chorus has grown ever louder as tens of thousands of hectares of productive farmland are blanketed in pine trees, in

large part because of the chase for carbon credit revenue.

"We're glad the government is listening and taking action. But more must be done," William says.

Federated Farmers supports a 'right tree, right place' philosophy and agrees there is an important role for production forestry, and for farmers to have the option to choose to integrate more sequestration into their farms by planting out land that they see as being marginal to their farming systems. Increasing the integration

of vegetation into farms can bring biodiversity, animal welfare and environmental benefits, including sequestering carbon to fight climate change.

"What we oppose is interventionist government policies - and in particular ETS settings - that lead to a skewed, unfair playing field. Employment and the viability of rural communities are being destroyed as good production farmland is blanketed in pines in a chase for short-term profit," William says.

"It's not even sound policy

in the long-term on the climate change front because such offsetting means polluting industries have less incentive to develop more emissions-friendly ways of doing business."

"As well as getting the ETS settings right, there are options for even-handed treatment in terms of resource consent conditions between production forests and 'carbon-only' forests, and the treatment of forestry in terms of the rates income requirements of local councils," William says.

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Thumbs up on broadband upgrade

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

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

"The frustration of farming families whose

businesses, distance education and everyday activities are hampered by poor or sometimes non-existent services comes through loud and clear.

"So news that upgrades to existing cell towers and construction of new towers should see 47,000 rural households and businesses experience faster internet speeds and better reception by the end of 2024 will come as a relief."

Agricultural production, not to mention meeting the swathes of new regulations and requirements coming

at farmers on freshwater protection, greenhouse gas emissions and more, increasingly relies on fast and reliable internet connectivity, Andrew says.

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

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

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Strong farmer interest in emissions pricing options

Agriculture's emissions pricing alternatives are attracting good interest from dairy, sheep and beef farmers.

Ensuring an emissions pricing system delivers in the long-term, at individual farm level and on specifics such as recognition for sequestration and distribution of funds, are hot topics as the consultation heads toward its close on March 27.

DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ) are industry partners of the Primary Sector Climate Action Partnership, He Waka Eke Noa, which is advocating for farmers to get a fair deal when agriculture emissions are priced by 2025.

He Waka Eke Noa will put its proposed alternative to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to government by May 31, after taking farmer feedback into account.

DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel says farmers want to understand how the He Waka Eke Noa options (farm level and processor-level hybrid) are workable solutions for agriculture.

"We are talking to farmers about how the He Waka Eke Noa options will allow a lot more recognition for emissions reductions on farm than the ETS – and that includes better recognition of sequestration from trees," said Mr van der Poel.

"We're also discussing how the revenue generated will be used to support farmers to further reduce emissions, in a fair and transparent way.

"We are continuing to hear farmer feedback this month, but already we are seeing a trend toward farm-level pricing, where farmers pay for emissions at individual farm level and are therefore credited for their good work to reduce emissions," said Mr van der Poel.

"It is encouraging to see the level of debate and discussion. We are looking at how to incorporate that feedback to further



BLNZ chair Andrew Morrison.

strengthen the options we have presented."

B+LNZ chair Andrew Morrison said sequestration has also been a key area of feedback and discussion.

"We are absolutely committed to ensuring farmers get fair recognition for the sequestration that is happening on their farms," said Mr Morrison.

"While many farmers have

welcomed the improved recognition of sequestration in the He Waka Eke Noa options over what they can currently get in the ETS, we are also hearing from some farmers they would like to see us take a closer look at the 2008 baseline.

"But balanced against that, we have also heard from farmers that they don't want us to set up a system that may require higher levies to

pay for sequestration. This is because the Government is insisting that the options are a 'closed loop' where any sequestration payments need to be covered by the system, and therefore paid for by other farmers.

"Farmers have also made clear that we need to ensure the administration of any system is as cost effective as possible, with full transparency of how that money is reinvested back to farmers to reduce emissions

or to support the funding of research and development.

"We've received a lot of feedback from farmers who have raised some really good points. This shows the value of a robust consultation process and how well engaged many farmers are in the issue of emissions pricing."

Mr van der Poel said the consultation is vital for the future of agriculture in New Zealand and he encourages farmers to understand the

pros and cons, and input into the outcome.

"The Government has already legislated to put agriculture into the ETS, so this is our chance to influence the solution. ETS costs would make it harder for Kiwi farmers to remain internationally competitive – this would impact export earnings and agriculture's contribution to the economy, affecting all New Zealanders."



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Feds survey: Farmer confidence at lowest ebb since 2009

Farmer confidence is the lowest it has been since Federated Farmers began twice-a-year surveys in 2009, the January survey results show.

Of responses from nearly 1000 farmers from around the country, a net 7.8 percent considered current economic conditions to be good, a 10.1 point decline from the July 2021 Federated Farmers Farm Confidence Survey, when 17.9 percent considered conditions to be good.

Looking forward, a net 64 percent of farmers believed general economic conditions would worsen over the next 12 months, a 25-point deterioration from the 39 percent in the July survey. Sentiment about general economic conditions is at the lowest level since the Feds surveys began in July 2009, surpassing the previous low in July 2020.

"The results are even more disturbing when you consider farmers were answering the survey before the surge of Omicron cases in New Zealand and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, both of which will weigh on economic growth," Feds President and economics spokesperson Andrew Hoggard said.

While a net 61.1% of farmers reported making a profit, a 5.5-point increase on July 2021, a net 11.2% expected their profitability

would decline in the year ahead, 16 points down on six months earlier when a net 4.4% expected profitability would improve.

"We're getting strong returns on meat and dairy right now thanks to high global demand and food security concerns but clearly farmers are seeing a lot of that revenue going right back out again with higher fuel and fertilizer prices, rising labour costs, and the hot inflation that is affecting every other New Zealander," Andrew said.

The survey showed a net 52.7 percent of respondents expected their spending to increase over the next 12 months (up from 32.6% six months ago) "but this will be due to higher expected input costs rather than farmers feeling confident to spend and invest".

A net 1.8% of respondents expected their production to increase over the year ahead, a 13.4-point drop from July 2021 when a net 15.3% expected it to increase.

"This finding is another substantial drop and it was before February's heavy and unseasonable rain, which caused a lot of damage and loss for many arable farmers," Andrew said.

Last year's survey showed filling workforce gaps as a huge issue, with nearly half of respondents stating it was harder to recruit skilled and motivated staff. January's result shows negligible



Andrew Hoggard.

improvement, with just a 0.2-point decrease on that finding.

"We should all be pleased unemployment levels are so low in New Zealand given

assaults on our economy from all sides, but this dire farm recruitment situation underlines why Federated Farmers continues to advocate to government for additional workers - especially in dairy - to cross our borders."

Asked to list their greatest concerns, those farmers who completed the January survey chose climate change policy and ETS (18.7% of respondents), followed by regulation and compliance costs (13.1%), and freshwater policy (9.5%). This result is unchanged from the July 2021 survey. "I suspect the global

economy will be right up there if the survey were done right now," Andrew said.

The three highest priorities respondent farmers wanted the Government to address were the economy and business environment (15.0%), fiscal policy (12.1%) and regulation and compliance costs (11.7%). This compares to the July 2021 survey when the top three priorities were regulation and compliance costs (14.0%), economy and business environment (13.1%), and supporting agriculture and exporters (10.4%).

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Mike Sandle appointed TRFU chief executive

Former Yarrows Taranaki Bulls team manager and current Blackcaps team manager Mike Sandle has been appointed the new chief executive of Taranaki Rugby.

Taranaki Rugby Board Chair Andrew Thompson announced Sandle's appointment. Sandle, officially will start in his new role on 11 April after completing his commitments to New Zealand Cricket.

Thompson said Sandle would bring a strong overall perspective on sport to Taranaki Rugby.

"Mike has a diverse background and skill-set to bring into the organisation. He has widely acknowledged leadership qualities and has been an integral part of the recent success of the Blackcaps. Bringing that knowledge and experience into our organisation will support the fantastic team around him at Taranaki

Rugby.

Sandle said: "I am grateful to be given the opportunity to be the Chief Executive of Taranaki Rugby. Taranaki has always remained home, and it will be nice to spend more time in a region that means so much and lead an organisation that gave me my first opportunity in sports management.

"Opportunities such as this are rare. I look forward to starting the role in early April and reconnecting with the local rugby and wider community, and the TRFU staff and stakeholders in what will be an exciting time ahead."

Raised in Stratford and educated at Francis Douglas Memorial College, Sandle

joined the New Plymouth police in 1986 serving for 24 years including 11 years as a dog handler and eight years with the organised crime unit.

Sandle began his sports management career by assisting Yarrows Taranaki Bulls team manager John Knowles in 2001.

Other team manager roles

in rugby have included terms with New Zealand Under 19s, Auckland provincial team, the New Zealand Divisional XV and the Blues Super Rugby team before he was appointed Blackcaps team manager in 2011. Sandle was also the professional development manager for Taranaki Rugby in 2007 and 2008.

Do we still have an "old boys club" in the agriculture industry?

The answer depends on whether you're in it or not. Defined as an informal system in which wealthy men of similar education and social background help each other gain in personal and business matters, historically, the "old boys club" or "old boys' network" meant that those in power could assist in keep others of the same interest in power - pulling up young men into leadership positions when they were needed and keeping old men in leadership positions until well past their time.

It's now 2022 and while in New Zealand women have been voting for over a hundred years and have the same educational

opportunities as men, the number of women in leadership positions across agribusiness companies is woefully small. Statistically, the number of women working in agriculture, fishing and forestry has declined since 2017, with the numbers in leadership or highly paid positions even less.

In the Farmlands Co-operative 2021 Annual Report, while over 52% of the workforce were female, at the time only two women held roles in the seven-strong Board of Directors and only two women held positions in the Leadership Team of nine. Fonterra's 2021 Annual Report stated that 36% of its Board was

made up of women and that the Leadership team only hosts 27% female representation, while PGG Wrightson reports two women representing in a Board of five Directors and only one woman holding a leadership role in the group of eight executives. Zespri hosts one woman out of a Board of eight and only four women hold roles in the 14-strong Leadership Team.

They're depressing numbers and a fact of reality for many other businesses across the industry. So, what's holding women back? Traditionally an industry driven by men, it appears that the "old boys club" is still in full force, with men being pulled up

based on an unconscious (or conscious but they'll never admit it) bias against the ability of women to handle roles at the higher level.

Why is this? It has become extremely apparent that women are not the "weaker sex" as they may have once been seen, no less than 50 years ago (humans, by the way, are one of the only species to view females as "lesser" - a male lion will rarely challenge a lioness and a praying mantis, after or sometimes during mating, will promptly eat her male counterpart), so why do we still have these discrepancies at the highest level of leadership?

A focus on looking after your people (both your

staff and your customer) is trending as we become more aware of factors that were previously swept under the rug, including health, safety and wellbeing, staff burnout, gender pay-gaps and work harassment and abuse. In a volatile market, the customer is also a high priority as they represent the hands that pass over the money, so ensuring you're understanding exactly what your customer wants and making the transactional experience as convenient as possible is front of mind.

Women and men may manage business differently with a "maternal" undertone potentially coming through under female leadership. With looking after people being a primary focus going forward, until these attributes are seen as a strength and not a weakness, agribusinesses may not be sustainable in such a changing and challenging industry. Is it now that we finally recognise the obvious "old boys club" still in force and work together across the industry to do away with it, to ensure the safety of a sector we dedicate our lives to?

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March 12. Saturday Men. 1. Trevor Larsen. 2. Craig Jons. 3. Wayne Baker. 4. Jim Ngere. 5. Jack Hopkins. 6. Kingsly Young.

Junior. Putting. 1. Katie King. 2. McKenna Norris. 3. Luke Norris. 4. Jack Gargan.

Gross. Katie King and McKenna Norris (first equal). Luke Norris, Jack Gargan.



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Handling Omicron in the schools

As New Zealand continues to register daily five figure Covid numbers cases have been showing up in schools around the country. Dr Amanda Kvalsvig, Epidemiologist and Senior Research Fellow, Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington says

“New Zealand is currently experiencing its most serious infectious disease outbreak in 100 years, and this infection needs to be taken seriously. Omicron outbreaks elsewhere have had high acute impacts on children, and there are rising concerns about longer term harms to children’s health from Covid-19 infection. It’s time for Aotearoa New Zealand to pivot to a whānau-centred approach that actively protects the wellbeing of this generation of children during

the Omicron outbreak and beyond.

“A first step would be for New Zealand to revisit its schools policy. The current policy (“closing schools is the last resort”) is exposing a significant number of students, staff, and families to infection. It’s important not to underestimate Covid-19 transmission in schools. Several overseas studies of school outbreaks have used genome sequencing methods to demonstrate significant spread of Covid-19 in school settings. These findings match on-the-ground experience worldwide, particularly with Omicron outbreaks. The findings also align with our experience of other, more familiar infections that tend to spread rapidly through schools at the start of term and during

the winter months.

“Another type of evidence that demonstrates in-school transmission has a more positive message, and that’s the strong evidence about the value of ventilation, air filtration, mask wearing, and other protections to stop the spread of Covid-19. If in-school transmission is negligible we wouldn’t see effects from these prevention measures, but overseas studies show that they can make a big difference. In New Zealand however, prevention measures for schools are still only partially in place and the vaccine rollout for 5-11 year-olds had only just started when the Omicron outbreak began, so protection for children has been patchy and inequitable.

“A whānau-centred

approach aims to keep children safe in all settings, and provides options and protection for whānau. Some children may be better off with home learning when community transmission is high while other children might need to be in school. Resources and support should follow children so that they aren’t compelled to be in school during a major infectious disease outbreak.

“New Zealand families face a difficult winter with Covid continuing to circulate and other infections returning through the borders. But we should be optimistic because we do know how to control these infections. Key actions over the next 1-2 months could include:

Schools providing clear information for caregivers about progress of the

Omicron outbreak, with flexible arrangements in place that enable whānau to choose to keep children at home when local case numbers are high.

Government importing and distributing respirator masks for children and school staff and encouraging all children in younger school years to wear high-quality masks if they’re comfortable doing so. Respirator masks protect against Covid-19 infection and a range of other infections that circulate in schools, and children report that they’re more comfortable than cloth and surgical masks.

Keeping windows open is not going to be practical in all classrooms as the weather becomes cooler. A good short-term solution

to provide air filtration in classrooms would be for Government to import and distribute materials for making Corsi-Rosenthal boxes. These boxes (essentially cubes made with filters and a fan) are effective at cleaning the air, and the boxes can be built as community projects.

There needs to be a well resourced Māori- and Pasifika-led approach to vaccination against Covid-19 and other childhood infections including influenza, to improve vaccination coverage before the winter season.

Paid sick leave is a key public health protection because it enables caregivers to stay at home if they or their children are unwell.”

Big gear for a big repair

NPDC’s brought in some heavy equipment to fix Waiwaka Terrace’s damaged stormwater culvert.

A 1.7m drill head mounted on a 38 ton excavator has begun work on site, with the lower section of the road closed to through-traffic until early next month in central New Plymouth.

Contractors are setting up safe access to the underground culvert (water channel), where big pieces of concrete have moved over time.

NPDC plans to replace this section, and strengthen a longer section beneath the road.

“All up, we’re replacing or stabilising 60m of the culvert’s length,” says NPDC Three Waters

Manager Mark Hall.

“It’s a difficult repair because of the depth of the culvert – up to 8m below ground – and there’s also a sewage pipe going through it. It’s taken a lot of planning to make sure we can fix it safely while not interrupting the stormwater or sewer. A big thank you to all neighbours for their patience and understanding.”

NPDC is investing \$248 million over the next decade to ‘Fix the Plumbing’ and expects this project to be finished by the end of September. Of the estimated \$6 million cost, \$2.5m is coming from the Government’s Covid-response fund for shovel-ready projects.



Big gear tackles the big job of repairing the Waiwaka Terrace culvert.

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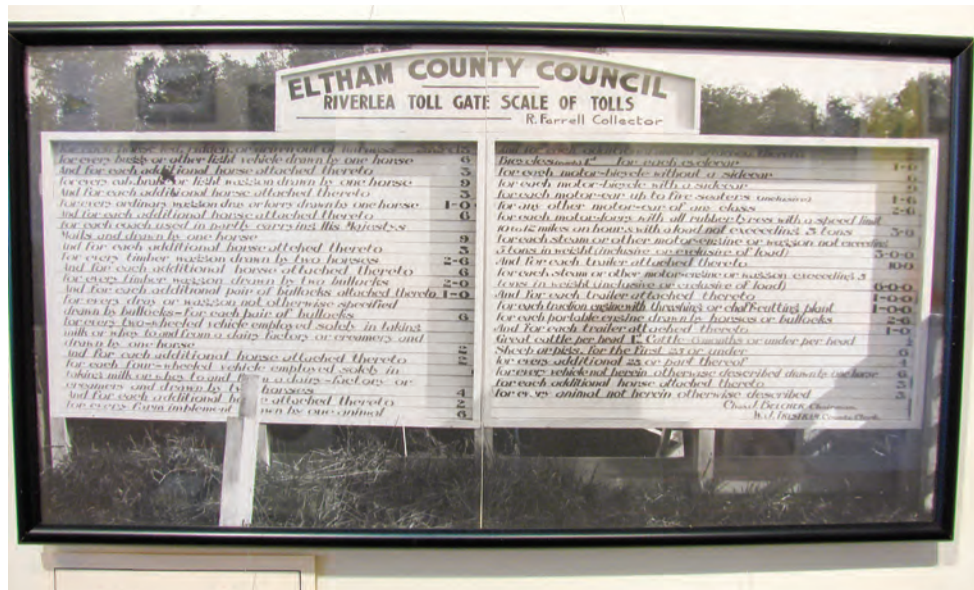
Eltham and Districts Historical Society celebrate 50 years in style

The Village Gallery in Eltham has an intriguing presentation that it would be a shame to overlook; featured is an exhibition celebrating fifty years of the Eltham and District Historical Society (EDHS), which runs from March 14 to April 8.

has organised the event, must be commended for the wide range of fascinating memorabilia on display.

The EDHS was founded in 1970 by Jack Worthington and Russell Standish, but at that time the top storey of the Municipal building was where the organisation was located. It wasn't until

Maree Liddington, who



Above: Toll Gate.

Right: Paul Connell Studios.

Below: NZ Blue Vein Cheese.



1999 that they shifted to their current location on the corner of Bridge and York Streets, having purchased the former Westpac building, aided by a \$42,000 grant from the Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET). Member Don Drabble, to his credit, had a major part in the re-location process.

There are many photographs on display, old newspapers (including the Eltham Argus and Taranaki Herald), paintings, old signs, historic booklets (for sale), souvenir crockery, ancient maps, trophies, Union Jacks, Jack Stark's old shop tills and much more. "Wonderful - brings back old memories," wrote one visitor in the Visitors Book - which is an apt summary of the exhibition.

Jack Stark QSM owned a store in Eltham from the 1940s, until his passing in 2006. He later transferred his shop to the other side of the road, the Eltham Four Square (as it is now), currently owned by Kieran and Nicole Williams. Opposite the supermarket is Stark Park which is named in Jack's honour.

Also intriguing is the memorabilia relating to Connell Photography, which included acetates, negatives and glass plate negatives, as well as old cameras. The business was founded

by Nigel Connell in 1900. When he died in 1951 his grandson Paul took over in conjunction with his uncle. The firm lasted 104 years before closing.

There is an intriguing photograph of the Riverlea Toll gates, with R. Farrell listed as the Collector. Charges varied from one penny if you were riding a bicycle, but a timber wasson drawn by two horses set the payer back two shillings and sixpence.

There is a photograph of the staff of the Eltham Argus in 1909, along with other memorabilia.

The Taranaki Herald of May 8, 1945 had some great news in its main heading: End of the War in Europe. Smaller sub-headings continued: *Final surrender signed, Scene at Eisenhower's headquarters.*

The booklets on sale include such ones as *Women and Children: A 1993 Suffrage Centennial: Eltham Public School 1886-1961* and *Eltham's Hundred Years* by Russell Standish.

Make sure you find time to see this exceptional exhibition at The Village Gallery, which ends April 8.



Te Awhata Complete Dispersal Sale Jerseys & Ayrshires

A/c BARRY & DEIDRE TIPPETT
Friday 1st April 2022 at
168 Lower Arawhata Rd,
R.D 31 Opunake 4681
Start time: 10:30am

bidr will be available for online bidding

COMPRISING:

272 head - TB Status C10 - Lepto Vacc

- 128 Jersey in-calf cows
- 10 Jersey empty in-milk cows
- 25 Jersey in-calf heifers
- 32 Jersey R1 heifers
- 41 Ayrshire in-calf cows
- 3 Ayrshire empty in-milk cows
- 18 Ayrshire in-calf heifers
- 11 Ayrshire R1 heifers
- 2 Friesian in-calf cows
- 2 Friesian R1 heifers

Due to sale of the farm and a change of lifestyle, our Vendors offer this very attractive, fully recorded herd. Milked once a day for the last 4 seasons, they are cattle of very good conformation with good udders. Cows and heifers are due to calve from mid-July. No inductions and no cidrs used. The herd (which is 24hr grazed) is milked in a 22-bale rotary shed, they are fed 1.2kgs/cow of a PKE/Soya mix in shed. No crops are grown with hay and silage made on farm. Cows will be in-milk on sale day with delivery asap after sale but not on sale day. This is an attractive herd of cows first established in the 1990's by the selection of top genetics and is recommended to those farmers in need of genuine replacements.

A catalogue giving all details is available online at:

www.carrfieldslivestock.co.nz

www.jersey.org.nz

www.ayrshire.org.nz

PLEASE NOTE: This auction date is scheduled subject to any changes due to Covid-19 regulations

ENQUIRIES:

Carrfields Livestock Agents:

Neko McDonald 027 429 8674 or

neko.mcdonald@carrfields.co.nz

Luke Gilbert 027 849 2112 or

luke.gilbert@carrfields.co.nz

Or



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Kia Angitu
Kia Manawa
Piharau*

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With our farm being sold after 33 years of farming, it is time to disperse the Te Awhata Stud.

The stud, formerly known as the Tippett Family Ayrshire Stud and the Number 3 Herd was later changed to Te Awhata when we purchased the herd from the family in 1993.

Since then we bought and added the Holstein part of the herd before we sold them off with the move to once a day milking.

The Jersey content of the herd has grown since 2006 and is now, after four years of once a day milking, working very well.

Highlights of showing over the years have been the Royal Show Champions, the North Island Champions



won in all three breeds, numerous champions at New Zealand Dairy Events plus many other championships over the show seasons.

Other highlights have been the friends we have made and the people who have helped

us along the way, especially our extended family (young ones) who are now not only showing but are breeding animals in their own right. Lots of these young ones have foundations in their own herds going back to our

Left: Victoria winning Supreme All Breeds at Hawera Show. Three of her daughters are for Sale: 1st Jersey Senior Yearling. Junior Jersey Champion. 1st Allbreeds Senior Yearling
Allbreeds Champion **Junior Supreme Champion**
Exhibit of Hawera A&P

herd.

It has been a pleasure and always a target to breed animals of good conformation, with strong udders which you will see on sale day

*Thank you.
Barry and Deirdre.*

Film Review - The Duke

The Duke. Directed by Roger Michell. Starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren. Showing at Everybodys Theatre. Boutique Theatre Sunday April 3. Doors Open 6pm. Movie starts 7pm.

The Duke in the film title refers to a portrait of the Duke of Wellington painted by Spanish artist Francisco Goya. The film's dominant personality however is not the title character, it is Jim Broadbent who plays Kempton Bunton. The character of the curmudgeonly working class Bunton who is charged with the theft of the painting from the National Gallery is one that was tailor-made for Broadbent.

The British Government had paid 140,000 pounds in order to stop the painting



leaving the country. Bunton believed the money would be better spent elsewhere, like paying for people like pensioners and war veterans to be able to own TVs without having to pay licence fees. For Bunton it was a matter of principle. He had already spent time in prison for refusing to

pay the fee, arguing that he shouldn't have to pay as he could only get ITV and not the BBC.

A self-educated man who fancied himself as a playwright and could quote Chekhov he didn't even like the Goya painting.

"It's not very good is it?" he says on seeing the film's title character.

His trial for theft turns him into a national celebrity and thorn in the side of British Home Secretary Rab Butler, a man who twice tried and failed to become British prime minister.

Helen Mirren who maybe familiar in playing more upper class glamorous roles is almost unrecognisable as Bunton's long suffering wife Dorothy. Although their marriage appears to have stood the test of time

it's not without tensions, particularly over the death of a daughter in a biking accident.

While all the characters are well played it is Broadbent who is the film's dominant character from start to finish. Was he found guilty? Did he even steal the painting? To reveal more would be to detract from the film's enjoyment, particularly the twist at the end.

Bryan Kirk.

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Directed by Sharren Read

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\$22.00 pp
groups 10+

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7.30pm @ Cue Theatre, Inglewood
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Content/Language May Offend

Cradle Song received development assistance from Playmarket



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<p>THE BATMAN Action, Crime 2hrs 55mins Rating: R13 Violence, cruelty & offensive language Fri 25th Mar 7pm</p>	<p>OFF THE RAILS Comedy, Adventure 1hr 34mins M: Offensive language & sexual references Sun 27th Mar 7pm Sat 2nd Apr 7pm</p>
<p>THE BOOK OF LOVE Comedy, Romance 1hr 46mins M: Offensive language, sexual references & nudity Sat 26th Mar 7pm</p>	<p>MONSTER FAMILY 2 Kids & Family 1hr 43mins PG: Some scenes may scare very young children. Sat 26th Mar 1pm</p>
<p>DOG Comedy, Family 1hr 30mins PG Fri 1st Apr 7pm Sun 10th Apr 7pm</p>	<p>SONIC 2 Comedy, Family 1hr 50mins TBC Sat 2nd Apr 1pm</p>
<p>FIONA CLARK: UNAFRAID Documentary 1hr 22mins Exempt Sun 3rd Apr 1pm</p>	<p>THE DUKE Drama, Comedy 1hr 36mins M: Sex scenes & offensive language Sun 3rd Apr 7pm</p>

*****BOUTIQUE NIGHT *****

THE DUKE Sunday 3rd April - 7pm
Boutique Tickets \$30 each. See website for details.
(Please note: No dessert with Boutique now)
Tickets also available (Cash only please) at Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration.
Boutique Tickets must be booked by Saturday 2nd April - 12pm for catering purposes.

Regular seating available upstairs for normal pricing.
Drama, Comedy | 1hr 36mins | M: Sex scenes & offensive language
Based on a real art theft, the great Jim Broadbent stars as an older taxi driver who stole a priceless portrait from London's National Gallery. His ransom? Free television for the elderly.

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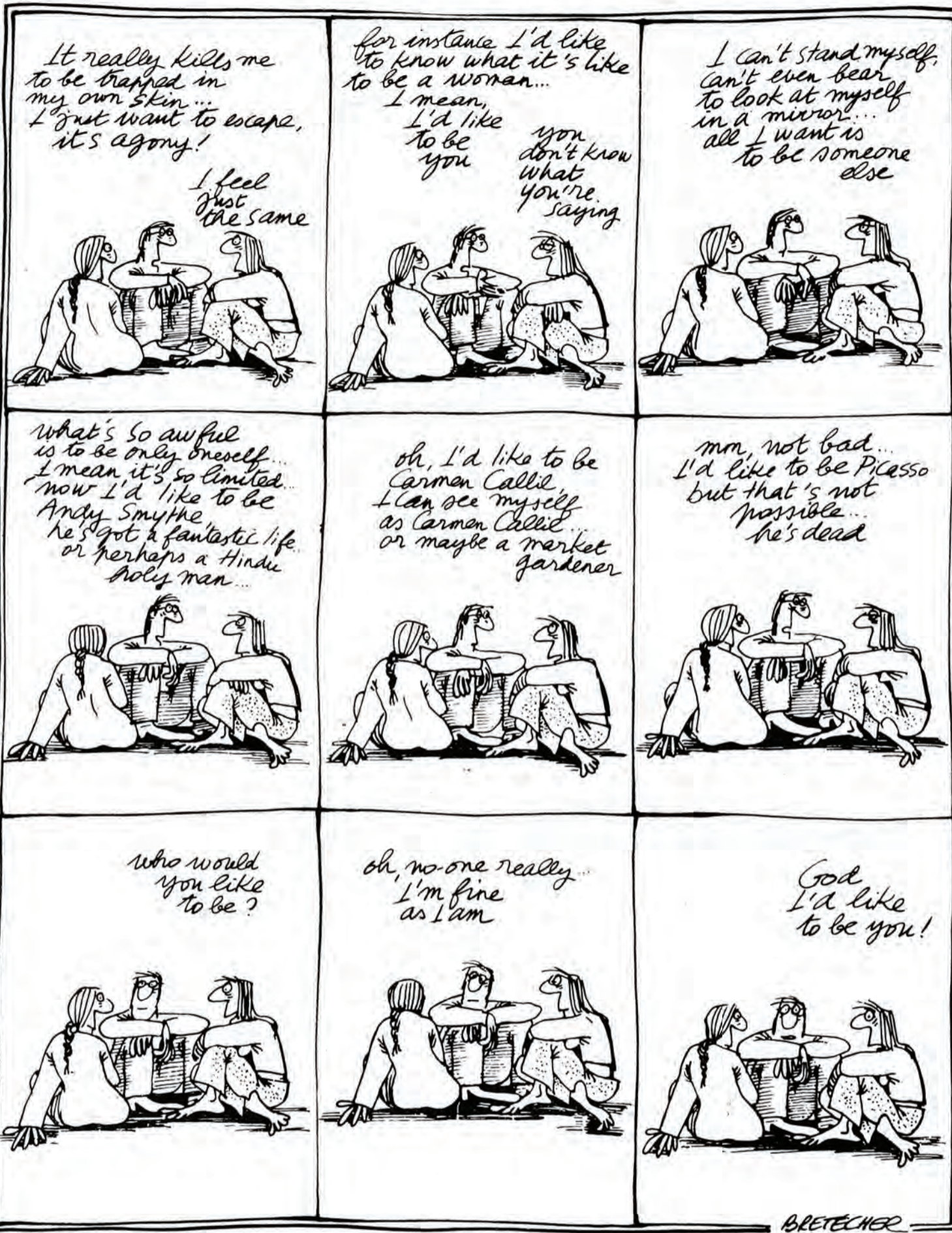
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What's On Listings

IF I WERE YOU



ONGOING

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in

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

MONDAYS: Tainui Day Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street

Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:230 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

TUESDAYS

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

WEEKENDS

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

MARCH 3 TO APRIL 11

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

MARCH 14 TO APRIL 8

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

APRIL 6 TO APRIL 16

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

JUNE 11 TO 25

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

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Opunake Sporting Shooters
AGM**

Tuesday March 29, 7.30pm
At the Clubrooms, Kaweora Rd,
Opunake
All welcome.
Any messages to Nigel Bright
027 268 8049



**OPUNAKE FRIENDSHIP
CLUB**

At a recent committee meeting of the Opunake Friendship Club it was decided that we would go into recess until further notice. This is due to the covid pandemic currently in New Zealand and the falling away of numbers attending each month. We will let members know when we will resume this lovely community service, hopefully soon.
Daphne Holley.



**MANAIA &
DISTRICT RSA**

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

To be held on Sunday
27th March, 2022
In Manaia Bowling Club
and RSA Rooms at
3.30pm
ALL WELCOME
G. Chisnall, Secretary
Ph 06 278 1505



Next Meeting is on
April 4, 2022
at 5.30pm

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

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

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

St Martins, Pungarehu: 8.30am every 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
Other areas
Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm
(2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)
Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am
All welcome

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

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

The Wave

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.30am
Women's Group 10am Tuesday
Men's Group 7pm Wednesday
Come along or contact
Belinda Philp
027 935 6191

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

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