



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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New exhibition at Percy Thomson Gallery. See What's on pages.



Salma Ali speaks at the Hawera memorial Service for the victims of the Christchurch massacre.

## Big crowd for Memorial Service

Six days after 50 people were killed by a lone gunman in Christchurch, hundreds came to the Hawera Square to remember them.

The Memorial Service which was organised by the South Taranaki District Council was one of many being held around the country last week to commemorate the 50 worshippers at two mosques killed in the March 15 Christchurch massacre.

Taking centre stage was the heart symbol with the word Christchurch emblazoned on it. Alongside was a photo of Dr Amjad Hamid, the popular and well respected cardiologist who worked at the Hawera Hospital. He had been killed the previous Friday, two days before he was due to return to Hawera.

"Last Friday New Zealand experienced one of the darkest days in its history, but we will not let that single act by a deranged individual define who we are," South Taranaki District Council communications manager Gerard Langford said before introducing the speakers.

South Taranaki District mayor Ross Dunlop said it was still hard to grasp the events of the previous week.

"This is not the New Zealand I grew up in," he said.

He paid tribute to Dr Hamid. "He was a bright shining star

and cared for his patients."

"To our Muslim community I say you are a valuable part of our community. We do love and care for you and will continue to do so in the years to come."

He quoted the words of Martin Luther King. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that."

Asad Ali from the Taranaki Islamic community recalled the moment his wife heard that her cousin was unaccounted for.

"She knew deep down that he was one of the victims," he said.

Asad Ali had been to Christchurch and spoken to relations of the victims, many having to face the additional frustration of not being able to bury the dead.

"We're supposed to bury our dead within 24 hours," he said. "The first of the burials was yesterday which was a great relief for some of the families and has brought some closure."

He noted the support the Islamic community had received from the local churches and maraes.

"Nothing like this has ever happened in New Zealand, and I pray to God it never does again."

Salma Ali said she is a

younger member of the Muslim community, who was born in Fiji, came to New Zealand when she was four, and now sings the New Zealand national anthem with pride.

She spoke of how she had spoken by phone to her husband who was in Christchurch. Even though it was

a calm, peaceful day there at that time, the events of March 15 still pervaded the air.

"He said he could still hear those screams, those gunshots, those cries of people trying to escape."

Far from dividing the country, the gunman had succeeded only in bringing everyone together, she said.

Mr Dunlop and Whanganui MP Harete Hipango who was wearing a headscarf laid a wreath, as did students from Patea Area School.

The ceremony began and ended with karakia from Ngati Ruanui kaumatua Sandy Parata, and the Hawera Brass Band accompanied the singing of the national anthem.

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You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.

## Hatred must not separate us

We tend to tell ourselves, it can't happen here, but the worst horror imaginable has happened here in New Zealand.

People of all ages, babies to the elderly, who were gathered in a place of worship, were gunned down by a man full of hate. They were murdered in cold blood, not for anything that they've done but because of the colour of their skin.

I can't imagine how parents will explain to their children why some family members or friends won't be coming home any more. How will they ever sleep at night? How will they ever feel safe enough to leave their homes?

Kiwis across the country have responded with shock, yes, but also with so much love and generosity. It is so heart warming to see Kiwis say we stand with Muslims and hatred will not prevail.

This is a lesson for us all. We must do all we can, always, to make sure hatred will not prevail. We cannot directly help those victims in Christchurch, but we can make sure our community will not allow hatred to separate us. We must not become "us" and "them." We are a country that is built on diversity, respect and tolerance and each one of us must challenge any injustice we come across.

My hope is that there is no one in our community is being subjected to hatred. My wish is that we all will undertake acts of kindness towards one another to make certain that we all feel safe and loved in our community. He kura te tangata.

Mary Moore  
Manaiā

## Christchurch terrorist attack

Due to the recent massacre in Christchurch, I will not talk about anything trivial like local councils, hoons in vehicles, or cover anything egocentric like sports people looking like they have gained weight in photos, or going a little grey on top, etc.

I have seen and heard a lot of praise for Jacinda Ardern from around the world, and have American friends that commented on her intelligence and style for which she has embraced the Christchurch and Muslim communities. I was also stunned to read that she is only 38 years old. There is talk about her receiving a Nobel peace award. A T.V presenter said this morning, (tongue in cheek) that "a

good politician will make the most of a crisis."

The police need to be praised as the alleged Christchurch shooter was caught in 21 minutes. That is/was fast police work. The alleged Australian gunman was also on his way to a third shooting. Way to go N.Z police. There was also a great team effort by ambulance staff, doctors and nurses.

I think that we can, and have learnt a lot about others by their opinions posted on social media re the Christchurch attack. I have read posts on Facebook where some people are gob smacked by opinions and posts (by F/B friends) re their views on the Muslim community, and also comments about the shooter. If anyone has not been emotionally moved by the vigils, minutes of silence, funeral services for the victims, then they must have hearts made of steel, or they have been weaned on pickles.

I still consider New Zealand to be a great and peaceful country to live in, and probably one of the best places in the world to reside in.

Aotearoa is still the 'peaceful oasis' that many people are searching to find.

Yvonne Wara Ward,  
Opunake

## Americana an embarrassment

I would like to express my feelings concerning the ongoing Americana Day held here.

On driving through Opunake, the morning of Americana Day, I noticed that the streets were lined with American flags emblazoned with their red, white, and blue. I felt embarrassed. Embarrassed that this community can openly associate with this nation, at a time when the elected Head of State in the USA, Donald Trump is a known bully and intimidator of women. This is clearly seen by his actions, for example, in stalking Hillary Clinton across the stage during the US election campaign. He is a known adulterer, as reported by the women he has paid to keep quiet about his extra-marital affairs. He is a racist, as demonstrated in his actions by building a wall between the USA and South America, fuelled by false accusations that Mexicans are terrorists.

I was, and remain embarrassed. That this community openly sides with a nation that, via their elected reprehensive,



Letters to the Editor

condones this type of behaviour.

Why then cannot this event be renamed for example, Classic Car Day? For I would like to add that America is not the only nation to have manufactured motor vehicles.

Come on Opunake – what do we stand for?

Gwenyth Richards  
Opunake

## Pro Heavyweight boxing title on the line

I am so pleased to see that James (Batman) Langton who was approached by the New Zealand Professional Boxing Association to see if he was interested in defending his Professional Heavyweight boxing title took only 10 days to say yes, and has appointed a manager to manage his farm, which would give him time to train, as his challenger is 24 year-old Nikolas Charalampous of Auckland, which will be staged at New Plymouth's TSB Stadium on May 24, with Sam Rapira as promoter. He's seen sense to have it in New Plymouth, while he's got legal proceedings under way over the Honours Board issue, so he's done the right thing by choosing this venue instead of having the fight in Opunake.

This Honours Board issue with James has gone on for too long, yet according to this so-called committee, it's only for amateurs, which to me is utterly stupid. My question to this so-called sporting committee is how come the Barrett brothers, Scott, Beauden and Jordie got their photographs on the board, yet these brothers are all professional rugby players, and do they know that most sporting codes nowadays have gone professional?

James Langton is representing New Zealand as a professional like the Barrett brothers. I believe this committee will lose their court case and be forced to resign, and a new up-to-date committee formed. The old

worn out rules need to be redone, so the battle lines have been formed. I do hope the people of Opunake and surrounding districts support James

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth

## Vigilantes

A writer stated that due to donuts and burnouts in Opunake in various streets, a group may form to take matters into their own hands, as there are 1500 residents in Opunake, and only three enforcement officers...

The writer obviously doesn't take into account that we also have Maori wardens in town, and also regular patrols of police from Hawera and New Plymouth. Someone I know called police during a week night. Police were patrolling from Hawera, and attended swiftly...

Forming a vigilante group would only create danger and is/was an incredulous statement. Leave the policing up to our very capable law enforcement officers...

Sensible,  
Rahotu

## Calling all Menzies

Every two years, we, the Menzies Clan, have a gathering. We are currently updating our mailing list to Clan's folk and descendants of the clan for the 20th year Anniversary Gathering, 17th/18th/19th April 2020. Over the last 18 years, many who have attended past gatherings, have shifted without notifying us of their new address, or phone number. We would, through your newspaper, like to make contact with these Clan members or Descendants.

Can we, please ask for Menzies Clans folk and Menzies descendants to contact us for further information to either, Lindsay and Rayelene Withington; phone (03) 216-4366 or Dennis Menzies, Phone (03) 578-3115, or e-mail menziesgathering2020@gmail.com

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EDITORIAL

United we mourn

Taranaki joined with New Zealand and the rest of the world in mourning the 50 people who died in Christchurch on March 15 in New Zealand's first terrorist attack.

A series of vigils were held in the province in Opunake, Okato, Hawera and New Plymouth. Cards, flowers and soft toys left in town centres and places of worship also spoke eloquently about a tragedy that a reeling New Zealand has struggled to understand.

Perversely the attack has not done what the gunman intended, to divide and incite hatred towards immigrants but had the reverse effect. An outraged New Zealand has sent a message to all that it considers as New Zealanders all those who have chosen to make this country their home.

Prejudice and hate is often borne from ignorance. The film *The Green Book* inspired by a true story which has been screening at Opunake and New Plymouth during the last tumultuous fortnight so aptly illustrates this. If the Muslim immigrants

previously felt marginalised in any way, they no doubt now know that New Zealand embraces them.

It's also been an education for many New Zealanders who had never really much come into contact with Muslims in a personal sense. Never been in a mosque. Never tried to understand their deeply held faith.

It has shown us all that we're all the same underneath. And the prayers promoting peace and harmony of the differing faiths a reassuring theme. I'd never previously set foot in a mosque. I did for the first time on Friday and was welcomed with kindness and warmth.

We're all the same on the inside and the experience certainly reinforced that. After being at the mosque I visited an advertiser who said he lived near the mosque.

They keep saying we now accept them. We always have, he commented. One of the most heart rending things I've read in the last fortnight was how

the youngest victim, 3 year old Mucad Ibrahim, ran towards the gunman thinking it was a game. Perhaps he'd been given a gun as a toy.

What happened to enable someone who once a little boy like the three year old victim into a mass killer.

It has taken this terrible event to get rid of military style weapons. Our Prime Minister acted swiftly as did the former Australian Prime Minister after the Port Arthur massacre recognising that New Zealand is not immune from terrorism and must be protected from the means by which a lone gunman can so easily destroy 50 lives.

New Zealand will continue to grieve. But we will get over it. Stronger and more united.

This fortnight has not only sent a message to our Muslim family but similarly, when a less united New Zealand sent a message to the rest of the world over the Springbok tour, New Zealand stands firm against racism.

Bernice McKellar

Christchurch atrocity

"I think she's been brilliant and is showing great leadership."

This was the comment made this week in Hawera by the Hon Nikki Kaye MP, speaking of the Prime Minister Jacinda Adern, who was reacting with thoughtful compassion to the tragedy in Christchurch where fifty people were shot dead and a similar number wounded.

It is ironic that the perpetrator was also an immigrant in his murderous objection to other immigrants who were worshipping peacefully in one of the two Christchurch mosques. However, though many of these people originally came here as immigrants, they are certainly esteemed as an important part of our nation; "one of us" as has been repeated positively many times.

Hopefully some good can

come out of this tragedy making it difficult for a similar atrocity to be repeated.

Apart from sadness, I feel a sense of anger and outrage that semi-automatic and military style guns were not outlawed at the time of the Aramoana murders, as seemingly promised by the (then) Minister of Police at the time, John Banks MP. Also, why did the Labour Government under the eight years leadership of Helen Clark not enact the legislative changes to dispense with these guns?

It is to Jacinda Adern's credit, with warm support from National's Simon Bridges, that what should have been carried out many years ago, has been dealt with virtually immediately. Good riddance to these dreadful rapid fire killing machines and who cares what any lobby, gun or otherwise, cares. Sadly, it's

too late for the 100 victims and their loved ones and friends.

It's appalling that the majority of a Royal Commission's reform findings were not carried out. Shame on you certain politicians and others.

From now on all guns should be registered, no just their owners. As one columnist pointed out that if an individual is accumulating several guns the police authorities need to know why. Also, we should follow the example of Australia after the Port Arthur massacre and have an amnesty for all unwanted guns. Compensation should, however, be available where requested. I recall with a positive feeling the huge mountain of guns piled up in Australia destined for destruction.

Rolland McKellar

ADELPHOS

Celebrating Our Naki Coast and New Zealand

Milk fat, Farmlands, stuffed fences and huntaways.

Rope swings, silage stacks, feeding out and sale days.

Fishing trips, meat pies, number 8s and cow grates.

Weather bombs, my hay barn's fate, quad bikes and calf days.

Early starts, tractor parts, sunny weather and say giddays.

Gumboot throwing, payments late, petrol thefts and God's grace.

A & P shows, smoko breaks, wife's buttered scones slows down the pace.

Shearing gangs, Taranaki gates, cows nicked at night to my dismay.

Kina Road waves, toast high on a plate, bobby calves waiting their bobby truck fate.

Rahui rogue waves, interest rates, sleepless nights and where's God's grace?

Feeding out, good time mates, spotlighting parties and celebrate.

Taranaki, Oh Taranaki, shed tears on our paddocks their thirst to slake.

Taranaki, Oh Taranaki, hold your temper till far distant days.

Taranaki, my Taranaki, God bless our coast and tena koe.

E te Atua, E te Atua, ake ake amine.

Adelphos

PS. \*\*\* This Adelphos article is a Naki coast dedication supporting the bereaved families of our beloved Muslim brothers and sisters who were senselessly murdered, the greater Christchurch community and the cherished way of life in our great land of Aotearoa, New Zealand. God defend New Zealand and our way of life.



At the New Plymouth mosque prayers before observing the two minute silence aweek after the attack.

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## COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

## High speed is here

Great news Opunake, Chorus has now completed installing the high-speed fibre cables throughout the town. This means that anyone within the town boundary can now get the fibre cabling from the street to your door – for free.

I recommend that you take up the offer to get the cable into your property now, while there is no cost (I don't know how long it will stay free) even if you do not wish to connect at this stage (note: Chorus will get the fibre cable to your 'door' for free, you will have to go to a retailer/service provider to hook into the ultra-fast fibre service).

If you wish to watch the World Cup Rugby later this year you will need a good internet connection as it will not be available through Sky.

To check if your property can be connected to fibre, just log your address into the Chorus Fibre map on their website.

Good news also for Manaia as Chorus have started installing fibre for you too, so it will not be long and you will be able to connect to high speed fibre as well.

For those of you in areas where you have the ability to connect to high speed fibre and have a landline, please discuss with your retailer the ability to keep your landline through the fibre. When you connect to internet through the fibre you can also connect your landline through the fibre and get both internet and phone for about the same cost as you get for just having a landline phone now.



PHIL NIXON

For the third year running, the Dog Splash Day held at Kaponga Pools was a resounding success. Approximately 50 dogs and 100 people attended the afternoon. From a giant Leonberger, a Deerhound cross, to tiny Bichon crosses, every dog had fun

cooling off in the pools. The council's new 'spokesdog' Red, made an appearance to hand out flyers for the upcoming events to inform people about the upcoming Dog Control Bylaw which Council will soon be reviewing. In the lead up to our formal consultation we want to get feedback from as many people as possible about what you want to see in our Dog Control Bylaw. For more information check out our Facebookpage Dogs of South Taranaki or Instagram @dogsofsouthtaranaki.

A fresh, new look, Patea LibraryPlus was officially opened last Wednesday (13 March) by Mayor, Ross Dunlop. The opening was a

real community affair with around 60 members of the public in attendance, as well as councillors, community board members and students from St Joseph's School who put on a short performance. The \$300,000 worth of refurbishments, which included reroofing and recladding, have been completed on time and on budget and represents a significant investment in the Patea Community. Patea LibraryPlus is one of seven LibraryPlus centres we have throughout the district, which along with other facilities such as our pools, halls, etc demonstrates the Council's ongoing commitment to our smaller towns. I hope everyone

enjoys the LibraryPlus centre's new look.

Finally I can't finish without reflecting on the terrible attacks on the Muslim community in Christchurch. While many of us are still in a state of shock and disbelief, I have been heartened by the way our community and our nation have come together to support our Muslim brothers and sisters, standing against hate and intolerance. We must embrace this sentiment to build a more tolerant and caring society. We are all one – united together.

Phil Nixon  
Deputy Mayor  
South Taranaki District

## Meeting held to discuss lake's future

As reported in the March 14 issue of the Opunake and Coastal News concerns have been raised about the state of the Opunake Lake.

"Opunake has it all. It has the beach, the mountain and the lake, but the lake ain't much good at the moment," Opunake and District Business Association chairman Bob Clarke told the Egmont Plains Community Board "We used to have a pristine lake, but I'm told you now can't take a kayak

out there, because there's so much weed."

Taranaki Regional Council resource management director Fred McLay said they are working with locals, South Taranaki District Council, the hydroelectric consent holder, iwi, DOC and Fish and Game to identify and resolve environmental issues with the river and lake.

He says they had coordinated a "positive meeting" on March 14 with

the hydroelectric scheme owner, local people, the South Taranaki District Council, Department of Conservation and Taranaki Fish and Game Council.

"The approach to be taken on the scheme resource consents was discussed and environmental issues /mitigation measures identified," he said. "The key environmental decision concerns how much water is required for the river below the lake intake. Public

submissions in support or opposition will be able to be made on the applications.

"Cindy Dobbin called for STDC to investigate preparing a strategy for the lake and surrounding area to give an integrated and efficient approach to the management of this important freshwater resource going forward. This approach was strongly supported."

Public

## Scammed

About a week ago one of our staff members at Opunake & Coastal News received several emails supposedly from the Editor Bernice McKellar. The first email explained (using the staff member's first name) that 'Bernice' was tied up and requested that the staff member perform an errand. This entailed buying \$600 worth of iTunes (six cards at just over \$100 each) and emailing them to 'Bernice', who stated that she would recompense the staff member. The staff member's first reaction was, "What the hell are iTunes and where

on earth would you get them from anyway?"

After seeking some information about where to purchase iTunes, which evidently allows people to buy songs (under copyright) over the internet, the staff member set off to carry out the errand.

The iTunes could be bought at any supermarket in New Plymouth. After finding the items, which were small oblong shaped cards, the checkout operator warned that there was currently a scam doing the rounds concerning these things and was the staff member sure he/

she was not being scammed. The staff member pointed out that it was the employer who had made the request to which the checkout operator replied, "Oh that should be okay then."

The fourth email requested that the staff member remove the silver paper tab and email the contents to the sender. The staff member didn't notice that the email was not the Editor's usual one.

The staff member (luckily) was not sure how to go about this and emailed 'Bernice' to say they had been left on her desk.

When the staff member next saw the Editor she registered disbelief and said she had made no such request. "You're joking!" she exclaimed. But it was no joke.

Luckily - about \$600 worth of luck - the iTunes had not been emailed to the scammer/sender. A senior boss at the supermarket said the scam often originates in Asia and Asian people cannot download American songs but need one of these iTunes. He said the iTunes are on sold for about \$300 or

Continued page 5,

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# United in prayer

Several hundred people attended a vigil at the Opunake Town Hall on Thursday March 21 at 7pm to commemorate those who died in the Christchurch tragedy.

Representatives from all the local churches lead a moving service which included lighting 50 candles in memory of the 50 people who, six days earlier, lost their lives at the hands of a lone gunman.

The religious service was conducted under visible police presence as in other such vigils throughout New Zealand.

Rev Ian Sargeant began by saying we are in troubled times adding that the churches decided to have a combined event in support of the Muslim community in Christchurch.

"We stand beside them as they mourn the loss of their family and friends. Though different we are all children of God," he said.

Those gathered then sang How Great Thou Art, after which there were readings from the scriptures by church leaders beginning with Corbus Blom who read, there is a time to be



**Opunake ministers. From left. Geoff Williams, Fr Vijay, Ian Sargeant.**

born, a time to die, a time to mourn.

Other readings followed with Pastor Murry McEwan read perhaps the most quoted passage in the Bible, a message which seems to have been reverberating throughout a reeling New Zealand since the terrorist attack, that of love: It includes the words Love is patient, love is kind ... it does not insist on its own way....

Father Vijay then spoke from the St Matthew gospel beginning, when people abuse you and persecute you, rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in

heaven. Added Rev Sargeant, "Events like this remind us we are all children of God. We're all created equal." Maybe we have a different skin colour and other differences, he added "but we're all looking to go home. We're all looking to find God." He reminded those present "We all originated from an area in the Middle East. We're all related. There's no point in trying to say we're different. So the DNA tells us. So when something like this happens we must stand against evil."

He made the only reference to the gunman stating he



**Lighting candles in memory of those who died.**

will likely spend the rest of his life in isolation. "I hope he uses the time to reflect wisely," concluding "New Zealand values may have been raped but they have not been destroyed. New Zealand will not be put down by a radical zealot".

The only way to stand together is to stand together in love, in peace, in the light. Following a period of silence, Father Vijay asked volunteers to come forward to light the 50 candles, some came wearing hijabs in solidarity with the female Muslim community who have unsafe following the slaying of their kinfolk. Others brought flowers.

The vigil was a moving monument to a terrible event that has profoundly affected all New Zealanders



**Grief etched on the faces of those at the vigil.**

## Scammed

Continued from page 4

\$400 for each single \$100 iTunes card. The staff member did reply to the scammer ('Hi

Scammer') informing him/her that the scam had been reported to the Police and that hopefully a prosecution would follow.

Please be wary of anyone

who asks you to buy iTunes, as you end up the victim of a scam.



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# Time to check those alarms

Well there has certainly been a big change in the weather since my last column. The recent rain should certainly keep the farmers and gardeners happy for a while. As I am writing this article we are experiencing a few rain showers over Opunake and its looking pretty dark as I look out towards the mountain. This rain has removed the need for a total fire ban so things are back to normal once again. As I drive around the area I see lots of farmers now burning piles of hedge trimmings etc. If you are wanting to check the fire conditions for your area just go to [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz) This site provides up to date information on fire conditions including if/when you need a permit to light a fire.

While on the subject of fires, the Opunake Brigade carried a live fire training exercise last week. This was part of an annual refresher training for the crews which included search and rescue. As the number of structure fires attended by our crews is dropping, opportunities to carry out training in heat and smoke is really valuable.

With the end of daylight saving not far away its time for us to think about checking our smoke alarms. The Opunake brigade offers free home fire safety visits



It's time to check that your smoke alarms are working.

which will include checking the location and condition of your smoke alarm. If you have children under five, or are over 65, or disabled, we can supply a free 10 year battery life smoke alarm as part of this visit. If you live in rental accommodation then the landlord has a legal responsibility to provide smoke alarms for you. If you would like us to come and see you or require any fire safety related advice give the Opunake Chief Fire Office Craig Dingle a call or txt on 0274446148.

An early morning call on Friday March 15 had the Opunake Brigade responding to assist Rahotu at a motor

vehicle accident involving a car and a tractor. The Rahotu Brigade arrived first and found that there were only a few minor injuries, and they didn't require any further assistance. The Opunake appliance was stood down before reaching the accident scene.

On Saturday morning at 1:40am the brigade received a call to an alarm activation in a premises on Tasman Street. No qualified fire appliance drivers were immediately available so we sent our Operational support van with a crew to check it out while also responding Rahotu as a back-up. An external search of the

building was carried out and nothing found. Rahotu was stood down before arrival at the incident. This incident was recorded as a false alarm with no apparent cause.

This incident highlights the shortage of volunteer fire fighters the Opunake brigade is currently experiencing. If you or any one you know would be interested in joining this valuable community service organisation please give our Chief a call.

*John Nicholls  
Volunteer Support Officer,  
Area 12 Taranaki  
New Plymouth Fire Station*



## Reining in social media

Following the Christchurch shooting, questions have been aimed at social media companies over content shared on their platforms.

The alleged offender live-streamed the attack on Facebook and video later appeared on YouTube and other social media sites.

In a statement, Facebook said the video was viewed fewer than 200 times during the 17-minute live broadcast but was not reported by any of those viewers. Reports during livestreams are prioritised because "if there is real-world harm we have a better chance to alert first responders and try to get help on the ground," the company said.

The first report was received 12 minutes after the broadcast ended but as the video was reported for reasons other than suicide, "as such it was handled according to different procedures". Within 24 hours, Facebook

had removed 1.5 million versions of the video, 1.2 million of which were blocked at upload.

AUT's head of the department of computer science Associate Professor David Parry said automatically spotting and removing offensive videos "is an extremely demanding task".

"Although Facebook does employ human moderators there are probably less than 10,000 of them whereas the number of posts per day is in the billions."

Dr Alistair Knott, from the University of Otago, said he believed "big tech companies should be required by law to devote sufficient resources to important tasks like this".

Kiwi telcos, including Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees, wrote an open letter to Google, Facebook and Twitter calling for change in the wake of the mosque shootings.

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## Twenty five years of Probus

On Friday March 15, the Oakura Probus club celebrated its 25th Jubilee with Murray Gillespie from the New Plymouth Rotary club presenting their certificate to president Brenda Ryan. Norton Moller gave a talk on the foundation of the club. He and the late Bill Marshall, who were both members of the New Plymouth Rotary club had started the club after they shifted into the village on retirement. The idea arose from a group of retired people in the area who would meet up for dinners and fellowship and realised there was probably others in the village who would enjoy some fellowship.

Original members still with the Club are Norton Moller, Roy Phillips, Moira Day and Peter Clemanse. The Club now has 80 members and meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at the Oakura Bowling Club. The Club has some great speakers, enjoyable bus trips and other outings.

Right: Cutting the cake is Norton Moller and Roy Phillips with Brenda Ryan on the left.



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# Patience and harmony the message at mosque

A large crowd gathered at the New Plymouth Mosque joining the rest of New Zealand in a two minute silence to mourn the victims a after the terrorist attack in Christchurch.

The two minute silence was preceded by a sermon on peace and harmony then prayers and followed by a second sermon and prayers ending with refreshments outside, an opportunity to taste some traditional food and hospitality.

Recently returned from Christchurch after helping out community members with funeral arrangements, Taher Mohammed at the New Plymouth mosque said when first arrived in Christchurch everyone was "in shock". He had a mentoring role to play to help the first respondents with moral support. One of the first on the scene was an employee from Naki Labour Hire.

Taher also went down to try and speed up the process of the returning of the bodies to family for burial and was frustrated by the time it took for the police to release the bodies.

"We know who did, why he did it and how he did it," what's the delay he questioned in Christchurch.

"Are we short of resources or facilities to do autopsies." According to Muslim custom, the bodies should be buried within 24 hours.

Taher's presence seemed to have the desired effect of speeding up the process with the five bodies being released on the Tuesday afternoon after the shooting.

"Things started to move," he said.

Taher acknowledged though that the police had done a "very good job" and had special praise for the quick action of the two country cops who were helped by a member of the community who was outside the second mosque. Someone in the Linwood Mosque had bravely pursued the gunman and thrown one of the assassin's

empty guns through the back window. They had immediately reported it to the police which had helped in the gunman's swift apprehension.

The gunman had been heading for Ashbuton to continue his deadly attack.

Taher had a word for the effect on the victims and particularly those who witnessed the attacks who could suffer "survivor guilt" and have long term mental issues such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The support from the New Zealanders "I have found overwhelming," said Taher adding it brings back a sense of belonging to the Muslim community.

As for the gunman, he began with the conciliatory comment "We stood up together (which was) what we needed to do". He also



Taher Mohammed holding one of many cards received at the New Plymouth mosque.



The Hon Andrew Little, Minister of Justice was at the New Plymouth Mosque. at the extreme left is New Plymouth District Council councillor Gordon Brown.

paid tribute to the New Zealand Government's response to the "act of terror."

Any words to the gunman. "He should go back to Australia. He should be sent back there," said Taher.

The incident "would have tarnished the New Zealand image" though, many New Zealanders in conversation with him had taken pains to distance themselves from the gunman and, seeking consolation in the fact, reminded him "he was not a kiwi".

## Health Warning Lifted at Waingongoro River Mouth

South Taranaki District Council environmental health officer, Chantelle Denton, says the health warning for Waingongoro River Mouth (Ohawe), has been lifted.

Testing by the Taranaki Regional Council has found that levels of Escherichia coli (E.coli) at Waingongoro River Mouth have returned to normal.

Warning signs have been removed.

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# Kotahi tātou: We are one

It has been heartening to see a great coming-together of people from all walks of life following the tragic events in Christchurch.

The mosque shootings were an assault on a law-abiding community, on the city of Christchurch, and against the values of all New Zealanders. The freedom for people to express their faith and celebrate their culture



**JONATHAN YOUNG MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH**

is one of the great pillars of modern democracy.

We as a nation have been grieving and have stood together in a spirit of unity.

I'm proud to represent a multicultural community. We celebrate our diversity with events like the multi-ethnic extravaganza and WOMAD which have become true reflections of who we are. At a time like

this it's been comforting to see the overwhelming feelings of unity and aroha coming through.

I think our aim from now on should be to take every opportunity to push back against extremism. We need to calmly and objectively call out hate and fear when we see it, both online and in real life. Because what we say has the ability to

influence the actions of others.

Martin Luther King put it so well. "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

It is my hope that we can continue to support each

other as we move to a more peaceful and prosperous future.

Kotahi tātou: We are one  
Jonathan Young | MP for New Plymouth  
National Party Spokesperson | Energy and Resources | Regional Economic Development (NI) Chair | Economic Development, Science and Innovation Select Committee

## Gun Policies set to change

The Government has announced urgent changes to gun policy after the Christchurch tragedy

Up until Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's announcement of a ban on military-style weapons, New Zealand had a system of licensing firearms holders and used a process of application, vetting, reference checks and attendance at firearms safety lectures.

Knowledge of the Firearms Code was required and tested. A firearms license holder was able to then legally acquire any number of firearms. New Zealand has not set up an arms register since the Arms Act was enacted in 1983.

There is no tally of how many firearms are in New Zealand, and no log of how many firearms any individual may have. There



**PM Jacinda Ardern announces the ban on military style semi-automatic weapons.**

is an estimated 1.3 million firearms legally owned in New Zealand, and nothing beyond speculation about how many illegal weapons have found their way in.

With a certain class of license, military style semi-

automatic weapons (in unlimited numbers) could be acquired legally. Some 14,000 of these weapons are thought to be legally owned in New Zealand.

Loop holes in current legislation abound. These make it possible to modify weapons and obtain large magazines, and even to buy armour-piercing bullets. Why, in a peaceful, democratic and open society, does anyone need a military-style automatic weapon and armour piercing ammunition?

Prime Minister Ardern has shown the decisive leadership we should see from a leader who genuinely cares about the people she leads. She has finally grasped the nettle, exploiting the current situation to drive through the changes New

Zealand should have made 23 years ago following the Port Arthur massacre.. She has outwitted those who might oppose her move because there is no argument that anybody could muster now that would in any way resonate with the vast majority of New Zealanders.

Ardern has announced the ban on a number of weapons, signalled changes to the firearms licensing regime and the need to keep tabs on the national recreational arsenal. But there is a tough road ahead.

Politicians have an unquestioning faith that legislation is sufficient, but it is largely impotent without adequate resourcing for the enforcement of new rules. With only an estimate to work on, New Zealand Police (the administrators of firearms regulations) will have to identify and locate the owners of these weapons and implement the buy-back and amnesty that will be required.

Many owners will give them up. Their humanity will outdo their desire to have them, but the shocking reality of panic buying of semi-automatics since the Christchurch tragedy signals that clearly there are those who will seek to subvert the government's intent. Police will have to investigate those who fail to cooperate, safely seize the weapons and prosecute the offenders.

Most firearms license

holders in New Zealand do not own military style semi-automatic weapons. Many are rural, recreational hunters or use their weapons on ranges. They look after their weapons responsibly, secure them safely, own them legally and use them at no risk to the general public.

Most who own semi-automatic weapons are no different. We should not demonise a section of society simply because of the horrific, obscene and brutally inhuman actions of one lonely individual who no more represents gun owners than he does any other group of New Zealanders.

But this is not the issue. The issue is that the privilege of owning a certain class of weapons is not worth the terrible cost of 50 people being gunned down in prayer. New Zealand is already seeing the steady illegal importation of firearms, often tied to the increasing movement of illicit narcotics. Banning semi-automatics will increase the demand for the importation of these weapons illegally, adding extra pressure on law enforcement agencies.

For a ban on military style semi-automatics to have meaning, New Zealand's long coast line, its airports and sea ports, through which illegal commodities are moving, will need resources that allow fit-for-purpose enforcement powers, people and tactics.

The changes New Zealand will now make will not guarantee it will be free of terrorism in the future. Other countries have much stricter firearms regulations, having taken far stronger measures years ago, but they have still suffered terrorist attacks. Firearms reform is one small step for a country that will need to address a plethora of gaps in its security approach.

New Zealand's terrorism legislation is inadequate. It was found wanting when police attempted to apply it in 2007 during the "Urewera raids," but charges could not be laid then. New Zealand's then Solicitor General David Collins described the Terrorism Suppression Act then as incoherent and unworkable.. How New Zealand manages social media needs review, and the traditional minimalist approach to national security will no longer suffice.

New Zealand has faced security crises before during the Russian scare in the 1880s and the Second World War in the 1940s. It has often been caught out doing "too little, too late" to be saved only by its distance from any potential threat. The internet has extinguished that distance. It has brought the ills of the rest of the world to us. It is already too late. We must ensure that what we do now is not too little.

*The Conversation*

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The Hon Nikki Kaye speaking at the Hawera High School recently.

## Nikki Kaye MP outlines her educational outlook

The National Party's Spokesperson on Education the Hon Nikki Kaye MP spoke in Taranaki on Monday March 25 in both Hawera and New Plymouth. She has been the MP for Auckland Central since 2008. In 2011 she had the distinction of beating the current Prime Minister Jacinda Adern for the seat. She is also the Spokesperson on Sports and Recreation possibly reflecting the fact she is an accomplished sportsperson. Her talent as a parliamentarian has seen her rise from number 57 on National's List in 2008 to 13 at the 2017 General Election.

Ms Kaye spoke at Hawera High School and was introduced by the Member of Parliament for the Whanganui electorate Harete Hipango. The public meeting was entitled the 'Future of Education' with special focus on the Tomorrow Schools Independent Taskforce Report, which was published by the Ministry of Education in November 2018. The document is entitled 'Our schooling Futures: Stronger

Together'. The Taskforce was appointed by the Minister of Education, the Hon Chris Hipkins, in April 2018 to carry out a review of the compulsory schooling sector.

While explaining that she was happy to work with the Minister of Education Chris Hipkins, "We have a constructive working relationship." Ms Kaye did point out that the closing date for submissions of 7 April was far too soon. "We need a couple of months at least," she commented. "These are the largest reforms in 30 years, and I'm worried about the time limit."

Ms Kaye explained how busy she has been consulting with educators and parents all over the nation.

"I've been to a hundred meetings in seven weeks."

She highlighted the importance of thorough consultation, outside of parliament. "Good policy is not derived from Parliament, but out of the mouths of principals and teachers."

There is much that she is supportive of in the Task Report. She shares Mr Hipkins lack of enthusiasm

for both National Standards and the Decile Ranking of schools and recognises the need for more positive attention, especially funding, for the more disadvantaged students as well as those with special needs. However, she felt there was the need for more "sophistication" regarding the proposed reforms. She was uneasy that too many of the proposed hub leadership positions would be "political appointees."

Ms Kaye pointed out, however, that it was important to secure a good measure of cross-party agreement on what optimal reforms were needed. She was aware of much irritation and frustration from educators she meets, when the legislative reforms of successive Governments causes huge swings back and forth - often for reasons which have more to do with politics than education.

Ms Kaye answered many questions and her answers highlighted both her passion for education and knowledge of the educational requirements in this nation.

## National Remembrance Service following Christchurch terrorist attack

A National Remembrance Service for the victims of the Christchurch mosques terrorist attack, and all those affected by it, will be held at 10am on Friday March 29, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced.

The service will be held in Christchurch in Hagley Park and will be jointly led by the Government of New Zealand, the city of Christchurch, Ngāi Tahu and the Muslim community.

Considerations are being given to simultaneously broadcasting the service to events in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin and providing links for events in other towns and cities.

"The National Remembrance Service provides an opportunity for Cantabrians, New Zealanders and people all around the world to come together as one to honour the victims of the terrorist attack," Jacinda Ardern said.

"In the week since the unprecedented terror attack there has been an outpouring of grief and love in our country. The service will be a chance to once again show that New Zealanders are compassionate, inclusive and diverse, and that we will protect those values.

"The terrorist attack has been significant for many countries. We anticipate international guests and visitors will want to attend and to join us in our sorrow and support for the victims and their families," Jacinda Ardern said.

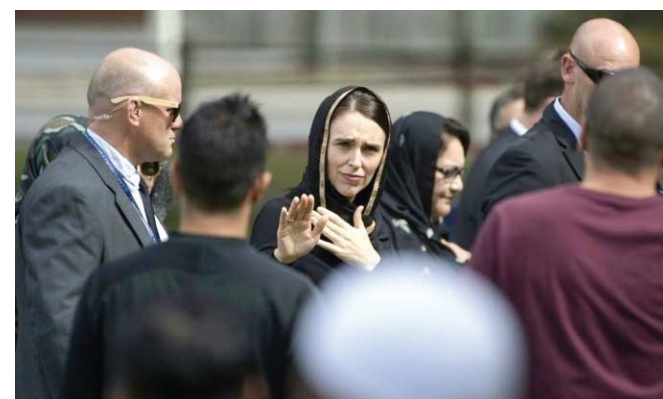
Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel says this will be a time for everyone, locally, nationally and internationally, to come

together in unity.

"I am very proud of the way our city and nation have responded to this terrorist attack. What happened on Friday, March 15, 2019 will never define us. It is what has happened since, the love and compassion, that's what defines us. Coming together on Friday will

demonstrate support for all our communities, no matter where we were born, no matter where and how we choose to express our faith. We do not stand alone, we stand together.

"We will not be divided by hatred, we will be united by love," says Mayor Dalziel.



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# Hawera's five star park

Hawera's King Edward Park appears to be on a roll.

Last year, as reported in the Opunake and Coastal News, the park got its Green Flag, one of 23 in New Zealand to receive this internationally recognised award for parks and green spaces. While Pukekura Park in New Plymouth had received there's for the sixth year in a row, this was first time lucky for the South Taranaki District Council as they had never applied before. The flag now flies proudly from the park's landmark observatory.

At that time the park held a four star rating with the New Zealand Gardens Trust and was being assessed for its 2019 rating. In January the New Zealand Gardens Trust upped the park's rating to five stars.

"The maintenance of the park is exceptional and there is plenty of interest

with lots of pathway options and seating areas to rest and relax in," New Zealand Gardens Trust chair Kerei Thompson said. He said the park was an outstanding example of a public park space with well-considered, healthy, innovative and inspiring plantings and well integrated features such as the playground and Oriental garden.

Last week the granting of the fifth star was celebrated with a special morning tea at the park.

South Taranaki District mayor Ross Dunlop spoke to a small gathering outside the observatory with the green flag overhead.

"Given the events of the last few days it's good to have something to come and celebrate," he said, alluding to the terrorist attack in Christchurch just four days before.



Ross Dunlop (left) and David Bruce cut the cake.

"We should recognise the decision our forefathers made in 1875 when they decided to allocate this area for recreation."

Similarly the decision to plant oak trees had been a wise one as this enabled the park to be protected from the salt-laden winds that came off the Tasman Sea.

It wasn't until 1902, however that the people of Hawera got round to naming the park, and with Edward VII being crowned that year, King Edward Park seemed an appropriate name.

Mr Dunlop praised the park's current curator David Bruce for keeping alive the

park's Edwardian theme.

He said one of his favourite features of the park is the lake, and one of the things which had first motivated him to stand for the Council was his concern over a plan the then council was looking

at back in the 1980s to fill in the lake and replace it with a mini-putt.

Among those there to celebrate the occasion were Stan Foster who had been the park superintendent from 1978-96 and former South Taranaki District Council property and facilities manager John Sargeant.

David Bruce paid tribute to the work of past curators.

"We've drawn inspiration from things which Stan(Foster) has told us."

He noted the contribution of Henry Climie, the park's surveyor/engineer back in 1902. He was "a man of many talents," who had designed the Eltham septic system and the Foxton-Sanson railway line, and had also been responsible for King Edward Park's distinctive two intersecting avenues.

David paid tribute to Charles Goodson who believed that the purpose of

the park was to show what could be grown here.

"Look around you and you see twenty something different hedge types," he said.

"This place has been a very special place to me and a lot of people for a long time."

Enjoying the occasion was John Sargeant who had retired two years ago after 21 years in charge of the council's parks. In that time he had looked at bringing more events into the park, and two of these which had started under his watch, Arts in the Park and the Scale Ships Regatta are still going.

He said King Edward Park with its formal Edwardian layout complemented Naumai Park on the eastern side of town with its less formal native plant theme.

"This remains a park for the people," he said. "It always has an element of surprise to it. There's always something to explore."

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## Lions give helping hand



Opunake High School Board of Trustees chairman Andy Whitehead and Opunake Lions president Ian Armstrong with Opunake High School student leaders.

Opunake High School student leaders attending a conference in Rotorua next month have received a financial boost from the Opunake Lions Club.

Last week Opunake Lions president Ian Armstrong was at Opunake High School to present a cheque for \$1000 towards the costs of 14 school prefects attending the GRIP leadership conference to be held in Rotorua on

April 5. This is one of five such conferences to be held around the country.

Students will be able to mentor and pass on what they have learned at the conference to the other year levels at the school, principal Peter O'Leary said.

Also at the presentation was Andy Whitehead, who as well being chairman of the Opunake High School Board of Trustees will be

taking over as president of the Opunake Lions Club later in the year.

Ian Armstrong said Lions has always had a focus on youth.

"We see you guys as the future for our community," he said.

The students had offered to help out with a Lions project. Ian said the Opunake Lions

*Continued page 11*

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# Vicar visits former parish in Okato

The Reverend Earle Howe was vicar of St Paul's Church in Okato from 1973 to 1980. On Saturday March 16 he paid a visit to his former parish after travelling from his Auckland parish, St Thomas' Church in Whitford. It was his wife Ruth's birthday and this was the impetus for the visit. As well as Earle and Ruth, also visiting were their two adult sons, a daughter-in-law and three grandchildren.

Not only did Earle give two services each Sunday morning at St Paul's and he also conducted services in nearby churches such as Oakura, Warea, Pungarehu and Rahotu, although mainly on a fortnightly basis for each of these places of worship.

Earle has happy memories of his time in Okato, but

admits it was hectic. "I was very busy with church life. There were lots of wonderful people in the parish and an excellent community spirit in Okato."

Earle and Ruth recalled a number of people in their congregation, including Vera Putt who planted the iconic oak (as an acorn) a hundred years ago; Putt relatives celebrated the century of the resultant oak tree on February 23, 2019. Earle and Ruth attended Lorraine Whittle's funeral in Okato in November and were surprised they didn't see Merv Putt at the service. They were sad to hear Merv had died earlier this year.

Earle said there were three churches in Okato when he was vicar in Okato - the other two were Methodist and Catholic; St Paul's was

Anglican at the time. He became the first minister of the Okato Co-operating Parish (Anglican-Methodist) in 1978.

Earle pointed out a Kauri tree he planted back in 1974. It is to the left of the driveway as you go down from the church. It is near the entrance on the fire station side.

Earle recalls an earlier vicar of the parish, P.A Reeves - better known as Sir Paul Reeves who served as vicar 1964 to 1966. Sir Paul was later Anglican Archbishop of New Zealand and the first person of Maori race to serve as Governor-General (David Lange was Prime Minister at the time). Sir Paul was one of Earle's lecturers at Saint John's Theological College in Auckland, "He was one of the best," Earle comments.



From left, Laura, Tim, Emma (these three are David's children), David (Earle and Ruth's eldest son), Ruth, Earle, Kathleen (Stephen's wife) and Stephen (Earle and Ruth's younger son).

# Giving to and helping those in need

Before the Pakeha came to this country, a pataka was a community pantry used for storing food. For the last month Opunake has had a pataka on Tasman Street. Anybody with a surplus can leave food there and anybody in need can help themselves.

The idea is the brainchild of Jill Smith, who is on the leadership team at The Wave Church.

"About six months ago I saw a post on Facebook about patakas, mainly in Auckland, and I had a real

## Lions give helping hand

*continued from page 10*  
had been working on the Opunake Loop project and he believed the students could possibly help out with riparian planting at some stage.

desire in my heart to help out people in Opunake," says Jill. "I thought it would be a good idea to have one here, and I was mulling about it, and then a friend texted me and said, do you think your church could do a pataka?"

Sinclair Electrical donated a cabinet and things got moving from there.

"I rounded up the men of The Wave and it took four guys to bring it down here," Jill said.

Word of the pataka quickly spread and two days after opening, the whole town was talking about it.

"People have given heaps and people have taken heaps," says Jill.

Donations have been mainly from the public, although The Wave Church has topped things up when stocks have been low. Jill says there is a definite need in Opunake and she sees the



Jill Smith

pataka working alongside rather than in competition with the Foodbank. Some people may feel embarrassed about asking for help and having the pataka on the

edge of the town's CBD can cater for them. Often they may come and help themselves at night or send

their children along to pick up things the family need.

So far the pataka stocks only necessities although Jill says at some future date they

may look at stocking items like toiletries.

"I'm just really pleased that people are using it," she says.



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# Agrimec Autos under new management



The new owner Mike Walsh and former owner of Agrimec Steve Barratt. Steve who's owned the business for 11 years and is now semi-retired said he was "very impressed with the improvements."

Mike and Julie Walsh are the proud new owners of Agrimec Autos in Opunake. They have recently returned to the area after being away for seven years.



When renovating the building Mike found the very first ledger book dating back to 1959 when it was Chadwick Motors. On opening it he was amazed to discover the first customer was his father Phil Walsh who'd paid 20 pounds for goods.

The farm in Opua Road has been in the Walsh family since 1896. Mike's great grandfather Aubrey Cross who arrived in Taranaki from England in 1864 was a prominent early settler in the district. He carved out the Eltham Road," says Mike adding that he began a general carrier service around the mountain in 1871. He subsequently bought the farm in Opua Road in 1896 building the house which still stands.

Later his "grandad Walsh" who arrived in the district in 1900 from Ireland bought the farm in Opua Road from the Crosses. Now managed by Mike and Julie's son Brendon, he is the fifth generation of Walshes to run the farm.

Mike and Julie left Opunake to manage a dairy farm in Ashburton.

They spent five years 50-50 share milking 1300 cows," says Mike. "It was a totally different farming system," from the 300 cow property in Opua Road, Oaonui they'd previously farmed, and now managed by their son Brendon. He confessed it took a bit of getting used to.

In a small self contained unit you're a jack of all trades, said Mike. It was very different to the "totally system based venture" they went to in Ashburton where, with a staff of 8, Mike found he was mostly managing people.

After five years they decided "We'd had enough of dairy farming," said Mike.

Opting for a complete lifestyle change they then moved to Tauranga and ran a heavy transport engineering business for two years before returning to "good old Taranaki."

In fact the intention was next to "have a gap year" and do some "OE," says Mike. They bought a caravan and were going to travel around for 12 months but only got as far as Opunake in December

last year.

While looking around Opunake for a shed in which to store Mike's vehicles they came across Agrimec Autos for sale. After a thorough discussion and realising the huge demand in the town and agricultural community for the service, they decided to buy the business and keep it going.

And Mike and Julie have been busy..

They have extensively renovated the building, rewiring it, replacing walls, adding a new smoko room and recladding the exterior.

The revamped Agrimec Auto 2018 supplies all types of tyres for cars, tractors, ATVs, wheel barrows baby buggies, golf carts, etc at a competitive price.

"If it isn't in stock at the time, it can be delivered the next day," says Mike.

They also do on farm breakdown call outs for punctured tractor tyres, silage wagons etc.

Although tyres and batteries are their core products, they also have a fully equipped hydraulic hose and fitting service, recently upgraded, for the agricultural sector.

Oil changes and small mechanical services will also be provided, along

*Continued page 13*

## SINCLAIR ELECTRICAL

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# Fostering a lifelong love of the game

A few pre-season games may already have been held, but the Taranaki Club rugby season will kick off in earnest this weekend.

Last week the Taranaki Rugby Union (TRFU) had their 2019 CMK Club Rugby launch at Crowded House in New Plymouth. Club representatives and supporters, sponsors and TRFU officials enjoyed an evening of light hearted fun and banter.

Mention was made of the elephant in the room. For the last two years Coastal had made the Premier finals, only to fall at the final hurdle to Tukapa in 2017, and NPOB in 2018.

"We got to the finals the last two years, and the boys are pretty proud of that," said Ray Barron, representing Coastal. "We were not quite able to pick up the silverware."

This Saturday they kick off their campaign at



**Jack Kirifi makes a point.**

home against Spotswood. Double Sevens international Warwick Lahmert has a house inside Coastal territory at Okato, but is player/coach for Spotswood. Originally from Waikanae, he came to Taranaki 12

years ago to further his rugby career. He represented New Zealand at sevens from 2012-13 and England from 2015-17, where he was based at Putney and trained at Teddington, 10 minutes south of Twickenham. He

now works for the Taranaki Rugby Union. Asked about the highlights of his rugby career, he says it's the friends he's made.

He said he is looking forward to the season and hoping to get the title for Spotswood.

Southern Club chairman Vernon Cleaver said he is looking forward to having Sevens International Jackson Ormond back in the team and former Chiefs and Taranaki captain Craig Clarke coming in as coach. They hope to do better than they did last year when they started well but dropped off the pace as the season went on.

One of the several interesting pieces of trivia to come from a quiz session held during the evening was that Stratford-Eltham is the only current club not to have won a Taranaki title, although Stratford did so, before merging with Eltham.

One man who would like to change all that is John Dazley. As well as representing Stratford-Eltham, he is principal of Taranaki Club Rugby sponsor CMK Chartered Accountants. Before coming to New Zealand in 1997, he played semi-professional rugby in the north-east of

England, as a prop or as a flanker. In his time in Taranaki he has become a longtime supporter of Stratford rugby and has a passion to get younger people interested in the game.

"It's not just about the premiership, it's more about the people you meet," he says. "It doesn't matter if you're in the All Blacks or anything else, you make lifelong friends."

His team had got off to a good start, defeating Inglewood in a pre-season game. He joked that he was looking forward to a Stratford-Eltham versus Coastal final.

Maori/Pasifika Rugby Academy manager Jack Kirifi was born in Samoa, lived in Auckland, married somebody from Taranaki and shifted to New Plymouth 22 years ago. Three of his sons play for the Hurricanes. He has twice taken Opunake High School sports teams to Samoa. On one of these occasions, back in 2009 when the rugby and netball teams went, their party ended up being stranded there because of a cyclone.

He loves his job "I love seeing the change in people. It's very important to get to know players not just as rugby players, but as people off the field. We are not only making good players but good people."



**Will Johnston (left) of the Taranaki Rugby Union interviews Ray Barron.**

Taranaki community rugby manager Cole Brown also sees his job as being about making a difference.

"It's about engaging young men and women in clubs and fostering a lifelong love of the game," he said. "I love what I do. You get to make a difference and get young people to play community sport."

"I look at my club rugby days as having the most special memories in life with the camaraderie you build up with your mates and the lifelong friendships."

He grew up in Inglewood, playing rugby for Inglewood High School and the Inglewood Club. He says his dream had always been to play for Taranaki, but his playing career ended through concussion four years ago. He has been in his present position since September.

Paul Rangiwahia said that in a world where people are both more connected but more isolated than ever before, rugby has a role to play in fostering good mental health.

"If someone is not well, ask them. Please don't underestimate the importance you have in society. In rugby clubs there are so many opportunities to influence so many people. Sport breaks down barriers so enable people to be included in your clubs. I think it universally works that if you give something you receive it back."

## Agrimec Autos under new management

*Continued from page 12*

with light engineering and welding for trailers, silage wagons, ATV repairs, bale buggies and broken down farm machinery.

As well as the refurbished showroom is equipped with:

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- \*Engineering Airline Hose and accessories
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Trailer hire is also available on half and full day rates.

Mike, Julie, and the team at Agrimec say they look forward to providing the

community with great products and services at a competitive price.

Mike said the aim was to stock a range of car care products and "all things automotive",

like a mini Repco," so people don't have to go through to town to buy them. And they've got some opening specials on sale.

"Come and check us out" says Mike.



**Jacinta Burt, office administrator at Agrimec 2018.**

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## Celebrate Headlands



Birendra and the team at Headlands will be celebrating being in business in Opunake for a year on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with a Special Indian Buffet dinner with a delicious array of dishes to sample. Please call and book early to avoid disappointment. Headlands also offers a wide range of European dishes for lunch. They also offer an

excellent selection of beer and wine and non alcoholic beverages. There is also a variety of children's meals available and special children's drinks which are very popular. On weekends, it's best to book in advance, particularly for large groups of six or more people. The restaurant continues

to grow in its popularity. And it's not hard to see why. A recent widely travelled overseas visitor commented that their meal at Headlands was "the best" they'd ever tasted. The restaurant is easily accessible for people with mobility issues. You can find Headlands Restaurant on Facebook and Trip Advisor.





# COASTAL RUGBY 2019 DRAW



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## SEN A Premier Division

## SEN B Division I

March 30	Spotswood United at Rahotu	Spotswood United at Rahotu
April 6	Clifton at Rahotu	Clifton at Rahotu
April 13	Southern (Away)	Southern (Away)
April 20 EASTER SATURDAY	NPOB (Away)	NPOB (Away)
April 27	Tukapa at Rahotu	Tukapa at Rahotu
May 4	Inglewood (Away)	Inglewood (Away)
May 11	Stratford/Eltham (Away)	Stratford/Eltham (Away)
May 18	Spotswood United (Away)	Spotswood United (Away)
May 25	Clifton (Away)	Clifton (Away)
June 1 CLUB DAY	Southern at Rahotu	Southern at Rahotu
June 8 SPONSORS DAY	NPOB at Rahotu	NPOB at Rahotu
June 15	Tukapa (Away)	Tukapa (Away)
June 22 OKATO CENTENARY	Inglewood at Okato	Inglewood at Okato
June 29	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu
July 6	Semi Final	Semi Final
July 13	FINAL	FINAL



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## SEN 3rds Division 2

## COLTS

March 30		Spotswood United at Rahotu
April 6		Clifton at Rahotu
April 13	Southern (Away)	Southern (Away)
April 20 EASTER SATURDAY	NPOB (Away)	NPOB (Away)
April 27	Tukapa at Rahotu	Tukapa at Rahotu
May 4	Stratford (Away)	Inglewood (Away)
May 11	Spotswood United at Rahotu	Stratford/Eltham (Away)
May 18	Clifton (Away)	Spotswood United (Away)
May 25	Kaponga (Away)	Clifton (Away)
June 1 CLUB DAY	Inglewood at Rahotu	Southern at Rahotu
June 8 SPONSORS DAY	Bell Block at Rahotu	NPOB at Rahotu
June 15	Patea at Rahotu	Tukapa (Away)
June 22 OKATO CENTENARY	Okaiawa at Okato	Inglewood at Okato
June 29	Semi Final	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu
July 6	Semi Final	Semi Final
July 13	FINAL	FINAL



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# Blushington Beauty Lounge available very soon



cosmeceutical line that uses anti-oxidants, peptides, vitamins, AHAs and stem cells and is widely used by physicians and dermal therapist world-wide.” Another product Sam uses is Aspect Professional in some of her salon peels. She also stocks RawCeuticals HunterLab, Licious Colour Science, Eleanor Dorn Make up, JBronze and Maraca Candles.

Blushington offers a very wide range of treatments and here is a selection: waxing, eye treatments, manicure and pedicure, facial treatments, peels, dermal needling and at home skin care - basically you name it.

Sam’s Dermafrac treatment is one of her main treatments. “It is such an amazing machine,” she enthuses. The infusion serums rejuvenate skins using a super cocktail of peptides, vitamin C to provide a brightening and anti-oxidant boost, hydrate using hyaluronic acid for intense hydration and lighten using Kojic acid to lighten

*Continued page 17*

**The beautiful reception area at Blushington Beauty Lounge.**

An exciting new beauty salon is opening on April 2, with award-winning beauty therapist Samantha Best at the helm. This very experienced therapist won the Caci Clinics Top Beauty Therapist New Zealand Award in 2011. Sam won an all expenses paid trip to the United States, “It was an amazing experience. I met other beauty therapists from all over the world,” she says. It also allowed her to do “a lot of research” into skin care and the best products to use. Meeting a world authority in beauty therapy Dr Murad was a highlight.

Sam graduated from the New Zealand Institute of Electrolysis and Beauty Therapy in 2005 with several

qualifications namely NZIEBTH, CIDESCO and CIBTAC. She has worked in day spas, salons, as well as with cosmetic doctors and nurses. “I think I’ve accomplished a lot,” she says.

She thought the time was right to set up her own business which is situated at 776 Patiki Road, RD 32, Te Kiri. With two small children this home-based arrangement allows her more time and flexibility. “I’m excited to have set up my own business from home,” she comments. A prominent sign will make finding Sam’s business easy.

Blushington’s hours include Tuesday 9am - 8pm, Wednesday 9am - 8pm,

Thursday 6pm - 8.30pm, as well as the last Saturday in the month 9am - 5pm. However, Sam points out that she is flexible and clients can contact her for appointments outside of these hours. “My focus is on luxury pampering in a setting where clients can feel relaxed with treatments ‘tailored’ to their needs. This can be their chill-out time. The treatment will be results-driven.” She adds, “I intend to go the extra mile for my clients.” As time goes by, Sam expects to increase her hours of availability.

Sam stocks only the products of highest quality, with Societe Clinical Skincare the main one. “Formulated in America, Societe is a boutique



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Blushington Beauty Lounge offer a very wide range of treatments.



# The Sustainability Chronicles

There is a lot of responsibility resting on my shoulders. "Me" referring to the new age of country bumpkins. The millennial, if you will, as the term seems to cover everyone under the age of 30 despite being born well before the 2000s. "Me", "we", "us", all inclusive of the up and coming farmer, consultant, stock agent, and most importantly, the consumer.



NINA POLETTI

for something other than yourself. We also learn how to stay strong in times of utter despair, when floods have washed away half of our hard-chiselled tracks and cut the power to our house. Most importantly, we learn what to value within our world; our land and our animals.

Raise a hand if you hate hearing a herd of heifers bawling at you over a hot wire. We all work incredibly hard to ensure our animals are performing to a high standard, setting up future generations. Quite literally, we are controlling the age-old cliché of "survival of the fittest". As we start to get clued up on how important being the "fittest" is, we start looking at how we can ensure our systems last for years to come.

Sustainability. It's a big word with even bigger connotations. Google Dictionary lists it as "voidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance." But to every

young person rising up in the farming industry, sustainability can mean something different.

I grew up in an innovative household. My father practiced as a vet and as a consequence instilled a strong "animal comes first" mentality. The simple matter of just "looking after" our animals wasn't enough, with one parent working off farm and four children, six chickens, seven horses, six dogs, four (give or take) cats and couple of guinea pigs to look after, we needed to find a way to make farming simpler. So began the Animal Centred Approach, sitting around the kitchen table trying to figure out how

we could make this easier on ourselves and on the animals. We needed to decrease stress and manipulate our grass to grow smarter.

This Animal-centred idea is different to conventional thinking, but to be honest, even at my age, it made sense; improve farm performance by allowing the animal's welfare and nutritional needs to guide decisions around feeding, pasture management and soil amendment.

A friend of mine described sustainability as "a way of farming in which generation after generation are able to continue farming with minimal impact to the land." It's our turn, we are the ones

to take on the reins, handle bars and tractor wheels. We have a chance to make an impact on the way we run our operations and the way we present our produce to ever-savvy consumers. We have a chance to leave a footprint on our world that is felt for generations to come. But the big question is how. I may seem pretty waffly now, all rainbows and grass growing but stick with me. The Animal-centred approach and challenging how we run our operations; the future is pretty big but we have an even bigger opportunity to make a difference. We'd be silly not to take it.

Nina Poletti

## Treat methane differently says report

DairyNZ chief executive Tim Mackle has welcomed the report released by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, recommending methane should be treated differently to carbon dioxide and doesn't need to be reduced to net zero.

"This work adds to the growing evidence base

developed over the past few years about how methane, a biological emission from animals, differs from carbon dioxide in terms of its impact on global warming," says Dr Mackle. "The paper states that methane needs to be reduced and stabilised in order to achieve no additional warming, rather than go to net zero. This is consistent with the

international science.

"Mr Upton also recommends that nitrous oxide does not need to be reduced to net zero. We would welcome further research into this approach.

"This paper demonstrates again how the science around the impact of biological gases on global warming is continuing to develop. This is why the

implications of any policy decisions for dealing with these gases needs to be carefully considered. But it is clear that total emissions must reduce."

"The science to date has supported methane being treated differently to both nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide. A split gas approach, under consideration for the Zero Carbon Bill, could recognise the differences between the gases by providing a separate target for methane.

"We agree forestry and planting will be vital to helping New Zealand meet our greenhouse gas reduction targets," says Dr Mackle. "Many of our farmers are already planting for other environmental reasons, and often with trees and species currently excluded from the greenhouse gas inventory. It would be great to see them recognised for the carbon sinks existing on their dairy farms.

"While Mr Upton proposes forest offsets be used only for biological emissions, we think there is a role for forestry to offset carbon dioxide. We agree however that reduction efforts must

occur across all sectors, and forest sinks shouldn't be used to avoid reducing carbon dioxide emissions. All sectors need to do their part.

"Mr Upton makes an important point that unless there is a strong focus on reducing carbon dioxide emissions, our efforts to reduce biological emissions will be of little value. I expect the Climate Change Commission, once established, will examine how forestry offsets in carbon budgets can be applied across the different sectors.

"The dairy sector is concentrating on how to continue improving our emissions efficiency and reduce our total emissions. While we have options available to reduce biological emissions, the reality of doing so is quite complex due to farm system and regional differences. We are working through these challenges at the moment.

"We are also working with

the Government on how best to incentivise action and recognise the good work already underway across the sector to address greenhouse gases, water quality and biodiversity. This is why we support the establishment of customised Farm Environment Plans which recognise the differences between each farm.

"Leading efforts for our sector to identify and implement strategies to reduce our greenhouse gases is part of our Dairy Tomorrow sector strategy. We are already one of the lowest emissions producers of dairy nutrition in the world, but we know we can do better while keeping our sector, our communities and our economy viable."

*"The science to date has supported methane being treated differently to both nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide."*

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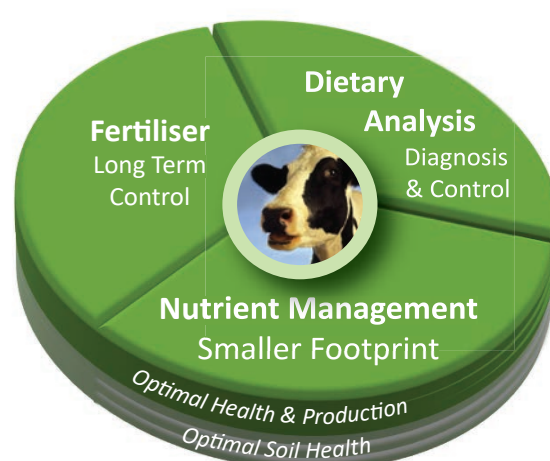
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# Job combines love of science and outdoors



**Brenna Coleman**

**When Brenna Coleman bites into a burger she knows it's possible she played a part in producing the ingredients.**

The 23-year-old is an agri manager with Ravensdown, which helps farmers grow food sustainably for livestock and people.

The job ticks all the boxes for the Central Taranaki Young Farmers member; she gets to practice her love of science and work outdoors. "I spend about four days a week on-farm helping Taranaki farmers achieve their production and environmental targets," she said.

"In spring, I spend a lot of time collecting soil samples, which are analysed for nutrients to determine soil fertility."

Changing practices mean

more producers now opt for whole-farm soil testing, resulting in detailed data for every paddock.

"I will then sit down with the farmer and go through the results, coming up with a tailored fertiliser plan for each paddock," she said.

"Some paddocks won't receive any fertiliser, others will be given a specific blend to rectify deficiencies."

Brenna grew up on a sheep and beef farm in Dannevirke and knew from a young age she wanted to work outdoors.

"I didn't want to be stuck in an office, but I wasn't entirely sure what it was I wanted to do," she said.

Brenna was a boarder at Feilding High School and helped get the school's first TeenAg club off the ground in 2012.

She went on to study a

Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours) at Lincoln University.

As Brenna neared the end of her studies, she applied for a place on Ravensdown's coveted development programme.

She was one of 12 graduates accepted in her intake.

The programme provided an invaluable training ground, and helped her see New Zealand.

"Trainees are in the development programme for a minimum of six months," said Brenna.

"We all start in Christchurch and then get seconded to different regions to fill in for agri managers who are on leave."

Last August she moved to Taranaki for a six-month posting, which she has just completed.

"I loved it there. Both the Ravensdown team and local farmers were so supportive and willing to teach me about the region's climate and soils," she said.

"For example, Taranaki soils are really deficient in

potassium, but soils back home in Dannevirke are low in sulphur."

Being a member of NZ Young Farmers made the move easier.

"I got to Taranaki I didn't really know a lot of people, so I joined Central Taranaki Young Farmers," she said.

"NZ Young Farmers is a great way to meet likeminded people especially when you're new to an area."

"But it turns out I did know some people. I got to the first meeting and I ran into people I knew from university and through NZ Young Farmers, which was pretty cool," she said.

Brenna fully immersed herself in the region, even running Ravensdown modules at two qualifying events for the FMG Young Farmer of the Year.

The 23-year-old has some helpful advice for high school students considering a career in the primary industries.

"Know what university you want to attend and make sure you're taking the right subjects in Year 13," she

said.

"My other key tip is to apply for scholarships. There are loads available, especially for agriculture. Many close in August, so be prepared and get your application in early."

"Apply even if you don't fit the scholarship criteria

because if you're the only applicant you could still be successful," she said.

One of the scholarships on offer is the PKW-Ravensdown Scholarship for whānau of Parininihi ki Waitotara shareholders.

*Brad Markham*

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# Opunake Surf Club news



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# THANK YOU!

Brian & Lynette would like to thank all their loyal customers, friends and the people on the Coast that have supported us over the past 28 years.

It has been a pleasure servicing the Coast and we have enjoyed the friendships we have made and listening to all those fishing stories that have been shared with us.

It's now time for us to move on and make more time for fishing and spend time with our families.

We would like to wish Terry and Jacinta Graham all the best when they start trading on 1st April, and hope you give them your continued support as you have with us.

### Surf Club members training for Oceans 19.

Another season has come and gone and firstly, thanks to everyone who has been at the beach

and helped us keep you safe. We appreciate it when you swim down in front of the clubhouse end of the beach and swim with others.

Our junior surf training has been so successful this year. We received generous sponsorship

from Pub Charity for us to purchase new boards. With over 100 kids involved in junior surf, this

generous sponsorship has enabled us to ensure our kids

have the right gear. This was so

important when we took kids away for the first time ever to compete at Oceans 2019 NZ Junior

Surf Champs. Thanks Pub Charity.

We have such great local support too. Our local campground donated proceeds from their summer holiday camp programme recently. Thanks Opunake Camp Ground.

Our lifeguards qualified four new guards this season. We are only a small club so we appreciate

parents' and experienced guards' support in doing this. To all our volunteer

guards, you guys are amazing. You give so much time to ensure our community are safe. Thank you.

Our building renovation is being planned. This is so complicated and feels like it is taking a long

Time, but we are making progress. We just want to make sure that we don't get it wrong. When

the plans are finalised, keep an eye out for fundraising. We will have a couple hundred thousand dollars to

fundraise for. Tea towels are still available - message our facebook page if you would

like one.

It has been warm weather, and the water is still warm. We know people are still enjoying our

beach and swimming and surfing.

Please remember to never swim alone. Always swim at the north end of the beach (in front of the clubrooms) and if you see anyone in trouble, before you think about attempting a rescue,

Dial 111. That way if you do decide to enter the water to help someone, you know the official rescue is also on its way and you aren't on your own



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## Challenging for rugby supremacy

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

2018 was another great season for our club. The

Coastal Women's team secured the inaugural Taranaki Women's rugby title with an awesome win over Clifton in their final. Our club continued our unrivalled appearance on finals day with the Farmsource Premiers, FBT

Spreading Div 1 and Good-in Ag Div 2 teams. These results coupled with a semi-final appearance from a continually improving Corkill Systems Colts saw Coastal awarded top club in Taranaki once again. An achievement we can all be proud of.

The majority of the Premier team are back to have a shot at the title with the (possible) exception of the long serving legend Brett Goodin and backline rock Emmett Hurley. Two of the three successful imports we had last year will be back. Alex and Tevita will once again impose their physical presence in the forward pack and they will be joined by a very promising lock, Josh Lord, who is currently with the Chiefs Under 20s. And from the UK a young first five and utility back Reid Lloyd will look to make an impression on the club scene. All in all, we feel we have the balance to put a very competitive team on the field. Warmest regards,

*Brent and Paddy*  
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# Manaiia golfer scores success in States



Sam Jones UWG Athletics

Sam Jones who learned his golfing through the Manaiia Golf Club has led his University of West Georgia team to golfing success at the Buccaneer Spring Classic in Southaven, Mississippi.

Sam, who credits his father with introducing him to golf as a 12 year-old is a previous winner of the New Zealand Long Drive Championship. He is at the University of West Virginia on a golfing scholarship majoring in finance with a minor in mathematics.

Play on the first day of the Classic held at North Creek Golf Club earlier this month had been shortened by rain. Sam led his Wolves team with a three-under 67 in the opening round, tying for the individual lead after

18 holes. At the end of the day, the Wolves were lying in first place, six shots ahead of Rogers State in second place, tournament host Christian Brothers in third, with Mississippi College and Delta State tied for fourth.

The following day his 61 was part of a final round 282

from the Wolves, holding off a late charge from Delta State with 274. On the final day Jones was bogey free and made seven birdies and one eagle.

This was the first team win for the Wolves this season.

## Manaiia Golf results

March 9. Saturday Men. 1. Jason King. 2. Kingsly Young. 3. Denis Hurcomb. 4. Blake Symes. 5. Phil Elliott.

March 16. Saturday Men. Stableford. 1. Caleb Symes. 2. Nathan Ngere. 3. John Oliver. 4. Joshua Symes and Jamie Johnston.

March 23. Saturday Men. Stableford. 1. Kingsly Young. 2. Neil Scown. 3. Rod Le Fleming. 4. Trevor Larsen. 5. Grant Gopperth. 6. Phil Elliott. 40.

# The man with the whistle



Pero Brophy.

Pero Brophy was told that while he may not be good enough to play in the NBL, he could be good enough to ref there.

It is not a story that Pero would tell, but it is one his mother, Chantal is happy to share.

In January, the unassuming 15 year-old Opunake High School student was one of 10 New Zealand referees on the Basketball Pacific NZ Koru Tour to control games at the Australian Junior Basketball Country Cup held at Albury and Wodonga in Australia.

This is Pero's third year refereeing basketball. Last year he refereed at the New Zealand Under-13 nationals. In January he was in Australia, along with referee co-ordinator Tony Eldershaw of New Plymouth,

and financially helped along the way by Opunake's two Lions Clubs, the Opunake Basketball Association and Opunake High School Home and School Association.

Taking part in the tournament were Australian state teams as well as teams from New Zealand. Pero was refereeing Under-14 matches, and like other referees there he was assigned a mentor.

He found basketball in Australia to be a lot different to what he was used to in New Zealand, and not just having to cope with the 44 degree heat.

"There are a lot of hand signals. There's when to use the voice, and they are very picky about when to use it. Saying eight blue instead of blue eight could mean the difference between being at the finals or the semi-finals," he says. "It's been a very good learning experience and it's helped me to improve my discipline."

He is asked what qualities make a good referee. The obvious ones include knowledge of the rules and

temperament.

"There's the way you hold yourself in court, and being more part of the game rather than isolating yourself. There's the way you relate to players and coaches. If that's not right it's not going to be a good game for any of you."

He says one of the highlights for him was sessions with one of the world's best,

FIBA Oceania mentor Albie Joseph.

"He walked in and straightaway cracked a joke about the smell in the gym. I knew then that while we were going to be here for refereeing, we were also going to be here for a good time."

Looking ahead there's Easter Tournament in

Tauranga, from which the refs for next year's Australian Junior Basketball Country Cup will be chosen. He is keen to go again, maybe refereeing Under-16 to Under-20 games.

The thought of controlling games played by players older than he is doesn't faze him.

"You're the one with the whistle," he says.

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# Barrett Cup contest for Coastal Juniors



The Coastal Junior Rugby Club ran the inaugural Barrett Cup Pre-season Rugby 7's tournament on Sunday March 24.

Five Coastal Schools had teams in the tournament with Auroa, Opunake Primary, Opunake St Josephs, Rahotu and Coastal Taranaki School in Okato all taking part. The day was a huge success with over 190 players taking part across the grades. Grades were under 13, under 11, under 9 and under 7 ripper

rugby.

When approached by the Coastal Juniors, Robyn and Kevin "Smiley" Barrett and family kindly provided a Cup for the tournament with Robyn providing spot prizes of "Beauden's" kicking tees. Smiley named and congratulated the players of the day across the grades and Blake refereed games and presented the Barrett Cup to the overall winning school, Rahotu. The players of the tournament were Under 13's Caleb Terry (CTS), Under 11's Jahrese Tamatia (Opunake Primary), Under 9's Will Harvie (Auroa) and Under 7's Coco Lamb (CTS).

The day was a great family day out with parents, grandparents and locals alike

supporting the players and their teams. The competition was extremely strong and played hard, but with a high level of sportsmanship shown across all teams throughout the day.

Members of the Coastal Seniors Club supported the Coastal Juniors, providing referees for games throughout the day. An ice cream truck, sausage sizzle and coffee cart provided food and refreshments for all.

The intention is that the Barrett Cup will continue to provide an opportunity each year for kids on the coast to have a good day playing rugby with their friends supported by the wider Coastal community.



Left top: Robyn Barrett, Kevin Barrett and Blake Barrett award the Barrett cup to Rahotu School.

Left bottom: Chris Gawler refereeing a Rahotu and Auroa game. The Coastal Senior Players helped organise the games at The Barrett cup last weekend.

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Popular as ever, the New Plymouth Sanitarium Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon saw hundreds of local kids don the iconic blue and red t-shirt to take part in the annual event.

1,848 children aged 7 to 15 swim, cycled and ran their way through the sporting course, crossing the finish line to collect medals from former Black Sticks captain Kayla Whitelock, slalom canoeist Luuka Jones, and paraclimber Rachel Carter.

The nationwide, participation focused event has seen over 30,000 entries since it's start in 1992 (which boasted just 800 entrants).

# TRYathlon a big success

## Weather and athletes come to the party

The weather was glorious for the 800 people who turned out to participate in one of the 21 sports on offer in the 22<sup>nd</sup> TET Taranaki Masters Games held from March 4-17. Entrants not only came from Taranaki, but also from many areas around the North Island. Many are now making it an annual event.

There was plenty of action around the region. Just to mention a few. Everyone enjoyed themselves at the weightlifting (push/pull event) and the over 60's category entrants asked for more events in their age group at the next games. Volleyball saw the return of two previous World Master Games medal winning teams so there was plenty of hotly contested games in the competitive category. In addition to the 35 years and over category, football introduced a 45 years and over category which was well supported, and overall 116 people turned up to play football over



Photo. Paul Elkerton

the two age groups. Wine Appreciation enjoyed a record number of entrants with 11 teams imparting their valuable knowledge on wine tasting. It seems there are quite the connoisseurs around the region.

The winner of the early registration \$1000 prize was Craig Gibson who entered the Football. The winners of the two gift baskets were Jolene Cox who entered the Netball and Volleyball and Sarah Austin who entered the Netball.

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES**

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

**Opunake Catholic Church**

Sunday 8.30am at Pungarehu (St Martins), 10am at Opunake (Our Lady Star of the Sea) 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

**The Wave**

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Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday  
Men's Group 7pm Wednesday  
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Come along or contact Pastor Murray 027 688 7378

**St. Barnabas Anglican Church**

141 Tasman St, Opunake  
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Communion 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday  
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Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service

**Okato Community Church**

Meets 6.30pm Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome

**WORK WANTED**

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**LOOKING FOR WORK?**

At the suggestion of a regular advertiser, the Opunake & Coastal News is considering starting a Work Wanted column in the classified section of the paper which will be free. This is partly to fill a gap in the media. Another newspaper used to run such a column. Anyone seeking work is invited to submit their details to the paper. Your skills, experience, availability etc, is a suggestion but this will be up to the person.

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Opunake High School is a decile 4, 9-13 co-educational school located 50 minutes south of New Plymouth. We are looking for an experienced PA to provide administrative support services to both the school Principal and the Board of Trustees. The successful applicant will have a proven history of managing the office of a busy executive as well as:

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Experience with school payroll systems, such as Novopay, would also be an advantage, but is not essential.

Applications should be submitted in the form of a CV with an introductory letter, as well as contact details of three employment referees.

Applications close at 4pm on Thursday 11th April, 2019 and should be addressed to the Principal Opunake High School, P O Box 4, Opunake 4616 or emailed to: principal@opunake.school.nz

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**OPUNAKE & DISTRICTS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

The Opunake & Districts Business Association wishes to advise that two security cameras have been installed in Opunake and are now operational



**OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Meeting 1st Monday of each month at 5.30PM  
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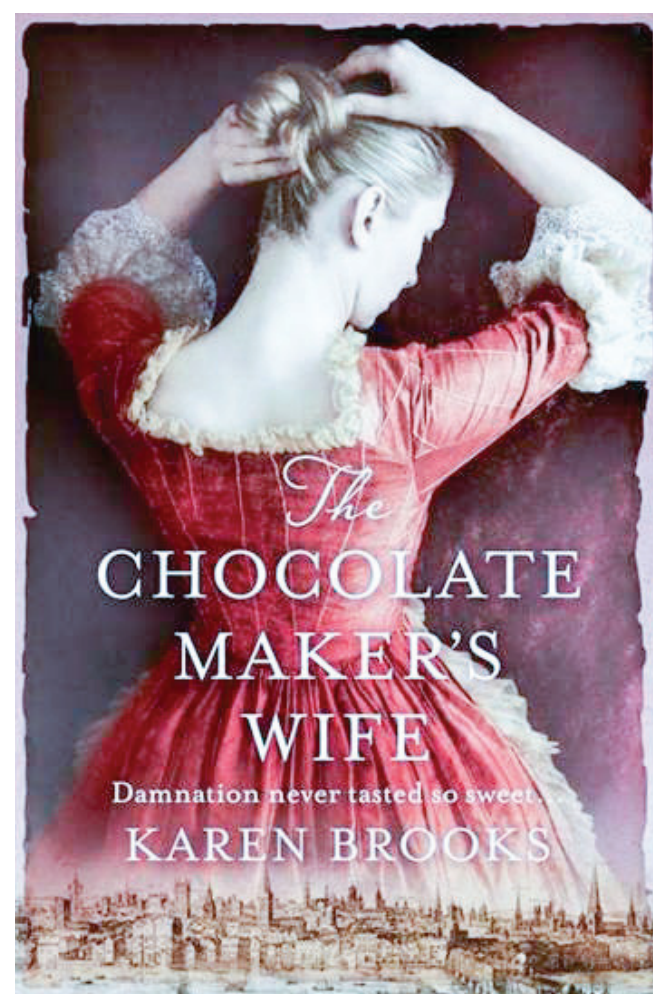


## Opunake Library Plus Book Review

# The Chocolate Maker's Wife by Karen Brooks.

This is an excellent second offering by this author (The first being *The Locksmith's Daughter*) and most certainly does not disappoint. Set in London it begins not long before the time of the Black Death and the Great Fires. We are introduced to Rosamund Tomkins, born out of wedlock to a nobleman and raised until the age of eight by her wealthy grandmother. Rudely jerked from the life after her grandmother's death Rosamund is put to work as a slattern in a tavern owned by her pretentious mother and drunk abusive stepfather. Abused also by her step brothers Rosamund thinks she is saved when she is injured by Sir Everard Blithman's horses as she flees from an attack. Sir Everard is stunned by her similarity to his dead daughter and finds that he desires her above all else. Marriage to this nobleman however, ends up being nothing like Rosamund expected.

A chocolate maker by trade Everard has a shady mysterious past bound up with scandal, incest and murder. He uses Rosamund to promote his exquisite chocolate drinks in his brand new establishment and makes her a weapon of his revenge. What he doesn't bargain for is Rosamund finding her love of all things chocolate and the talent she has of binding people to her and earning their



loyalty. When his plot fails, Rosamund finds her world exploding around her and all she can do is fight back against society, the rules and a stepson who mysteriously comes back from the dead bringing a whole new threat to her way of life.

This is an excellent read for fan of historical fiction and for a potentially rainy day.

You can reserve this book at any South Taranaki

LibraryPlus branch in person, or call us on 0800 111 323.

You can also visit <https://www.southtaranaki.com/Live/LibraryPlus>.

*Maria Brewerton*

*RLIANZA*

*Branch Librarian*

*Opunake & Manaia*

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*District Council*

### ONGOING

**The Opunake Music Club** - Come along every fortnight and take part or just watch. Anyone welcome. Next meeting November 27 at Coastal Care, Napier Street 7:30pm.

**Jonathan Young:** Need to chat with your Local MP Jonathan Young? Jonathan will now hold his meetings at Coastal Care. For more information phone: 06 7591363. Or email [newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz)

**Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake:** Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

**Pregnancy Help Taranaki:** Is now in OPUNAKE! Are you pregnant? Do you have a baby or young family? To hear more, like us on facebook [www.facebook.com/preghelptaranaki/](http://www.facebook.com/preghelptaranaki/). Please come and meet us and find out how we may be able to help you.

### SUNDAYS

**Opunake Country Music Club:** Second Sunday of each month at the Opunake Town Hall, 1-4pm. All welcome

### MONDAYS

**Tainui Day Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake:** Each Monday 10 am - 12:230 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

**Opunake Friendship Club:** Meeting last Monday of each month in Opunake Town Hall at 1.30pm. All welcome.

**Opunake Business Association:** Usually meet on the 1st Monday of each month.

### TUESDAYS

**Club Hotel Pool:** Tuesday Nights. New players welcome.

### WEDNESDAYS

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

**Schnitzel Night:** Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato

**Club Hotel Texas Holdem Poker:** Wednesday and Thursday Nights at the Club Hotel.

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

### THURSDAYS

**Club Hotel Texas Holdem Poker:** Wednesday and Thursday Nights at the Club Hotel.

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

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

**Egmont Euchre Club:** Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

### FRIDAYS

**Eltham Business Association Friday Markets:** 8am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.

### WEEKENDS

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

### NOW ON

**Paul Hutchinson - Backup Exhibition:** At Koru on Devon

**Velger Howighorst - Best Before, Reviving the useless:** At Koru on Devon.

### MARCH 12 TO APRIL 5

**'The Art of Cheesemaking' Exhibition:** At the Village Gallery, High st, Eltham. Open 10am to 3pm Mon-Sat.

### APRIL 1

**New Plymouth Boys High School Boarding Open Day:** At NPBHS from 11am to 3pm. Email [office@npbhs.school.nz](mailto:office@npbhs.school.nz) or Phone 06 757 6116 for an invitation.

### APRIL 5 AND 6

**The Christmas Village opening weekend:** Friday night from 6pm to 10pm, Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Refer ad.

### APRIL 6

**Market Morning:** Saturday April 6th 9 am - 12 pm at St Barnabas Church Hall and Front Lawn, 141 Tasman Street Opunake. Refer to advert & editorial.

### APRIL 6 TO APRIL 9

**Coastal Pacific / Trans Alpine 4 Day trip with Travelsmart Stratford:** Refer ad from previous issue for details on this incredible package. Ph Travelsmart Stratford on 0800 00 3804.

### APRIL 7

**Sport Taranaki Rainbow Run:** New Plymouth Coastal Walway. Refer article and advert from last issue for details

### APRIL 17

**Pihama Women's Institute Annual Walk for Cancer:** At 309 Patiki Road, Pihama. Registrations from 9.30am. Walk starts at 10am. Refer article and ad.

### JUNE 7 TO JUNE 15

**Hawera Repetory Society presents 'Annie' :** To be performed at the Hawera Memorial Theatre. Early bird tickets on sale now. Refer advert for details.



The Opunake & Coastal News wish to extend our condolences to all those affected by the Christchurch shootings. Our thoughts are with you all.



## MARKET MORNING VARIETY OF STALLS



Wooden kitchen utensils & toys, Quilting, plants, posies & floral displays, baking, preserves, chocolate, Felting hats & scarves, soap, perfumes, paintings, Bric-à-brac, raffles

Saturday April 6th 9am - 12pm  
St Barnabas Church Hall and front lawn  
141 Tasman Street, Opunake  
**Look for our 'Open' flag'**

## Annie comes to Hawera

Rehearsals are only ever a long day away for the two young stars of Hawera Repertory Society's upcoming musical Annie.

Niamh O'Sullivan (9) and Brenna Johnson (11) love every opportunity to flex their performance muscles as they share the demanding young lead role as a happy-go-lucky orphan searching for her parents and finding family in 1930's United States of America.

They will perform in alternate shows, each with their own cast of orphans, over the course of 10 performances.

Neither girl is afraid of

taking on the internationally beloved role as an orphan who never gives up hope.

"I wanted to get a big role. It's fun and a challenge," says Brenna, who is no stranger to the stage. A singer and dancer from a young age, she's acted, sung and danced solo and in groups throughout her childhood.

"I wanted to do a show with my mum. I've done that before and it's so much fun."

Niamh thought she was too young and inexperienced to be chosen for the role, despite her performing talents as a singer, dancer and actor.

"I just went with it. I thought 'lets do this.' I'd never done an audition like this before," she says.

"It was scary and exciting. Rehearsals are the best part of my day, they're amazing." Their beautiful and trained singing voices, performing abilities and fun personalities bring character and energy to the stage, ensuring every show will be their best.

Both girls are working hard to perfect their American accents. Director Shaun Campbell is aiming to make the show as authentic as possible.

Practices are already surpassing expectations, Shaun says.

"Our orphans are ahead

of schedule. These kids are dedicated and they're working hard. I can't wait to see this show develop.

"The beauty of Annie is that it's a show for all ages. Chances are you'll know a child or adult in the cast. The themes are child friendly and authentic, and the musical qualities are really engaging.

"Everyone knows the story of Annie. It's a delightful opportunity to see it live on stage at a reasonable price."

Early Bird Tickets are currently available until March 31 through Ticket Direct online and at all outlets. Performances from June 7-15 at Hawera Memorial Theatre.

## Market morning at St Barnabas

We are holding a Market Morning in the Church Hall and on the front lawn on Saturday April 6 from 9 am to 12 pm. You will find us at 141 Tasman St. Opunake. Look for the open flag, sign and decorations. Please watch for the flyer in your letter box. Stall holders from Hawera, Eltham, Normanby and Opunake will be selling a variety of merchandise, wooden utensils and toys, paintings, quilting, crochet

items, macramé, wall hangings, floral posies, felting, soaps, perfumes, plants, preserves, baking, plus bric a brac and two raffles. Our kitchen will serve morning tea.

The event was held for the first time last year and was a great success. This is completely different to our annual fair held each November.

Please come along and see what is on offer.



Niamh O'Sullivan and Brenna Johnson.

Hawera Repertory Society

# Annie

HAWERA MEMORIAL THEATRE  
7-15 June 2019

Early Bird Tickets on sale until 31 March  
Standard ticket prices apply 1 April

South Taranaki

On Saturday March 30  
from 9am to 1pm (only)

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# Opunake and Coastal residents asked to have say on future roadmap

The Opunake community is being invited to contribute to the roadmap for our region's future at a community workshop at Sandfords Event Centre from 5.30 – 7.30pm on Wednesday April 3.

“The Taranaki 2050 Roadmap is a hugely important step in making sure we can preserve everything that's great about the region as we plan our move to a low-emissions economy,” says Venture Taranaki's General Manager, Transitional

Economy Natalie Wiseman. “It's vital we have as many voices as possible speak up about what's important to them and what they think our region could be like in 2050.”

The process has so far included more than 20 themed workshops spanning arts to energy, with over 500 participants registered, and a children's creativity competition which has seen hundreds of entries from the region's schoolkids.

“As we have more conversations about what

people think is important for Taranaki in the future, the more diverse and interesting the ideas become,” Natalie said.

Ideas that come out of the workshops will contribute to the draft Taranaki 2050 Roadmap which will be launched at the Just Transitions Summit in New Plymouth on May 9-10.

The workshop is presented by Sustainable Taranaki and Venture Taranaki.

“This is something we're encouraging everyone to be part of. The workshop is a

co-creation model, which has been designed so that everyone gets a say, and all types of views are welcome,” said Laine Phillips of Sustainable Taranaki.

“When I talk to people about the event I ask them when they last had the opportunity to help shape the future of our region. It's a really exciting process and we want everyone to join the conversation.”

“It's a really exciting process, and one which needs as many contributors as possible because it's our

chance as a region to plan our future, together,” Laine said.

The event will take place

at Sandfords Event Centre, from 5.30 – 7.30pm on Wednesday April 3. Entry is free and all are welcome.

**PIHAMA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ANNUAL WALK FOR CANCER**

Wednesday 17th April 2019.

Meet at Jen and Peter Trolove's Home 309 Patiki Road PIHAMA.

Registration from 9.30am Walk to commence 10.00am. (Participants must sign a safety waiver before beginning the walk)

The walk will be approximately 8 kms.  
PRICE Adults \$10-00 Children \$2-00  
All proceeds to the Taranaki Cancer Society  
COUNTRY LUNCH PROVIDED  
CONTACT: Bernadette Gopperth 06 7617346

# Pihama Annual Walk for Cancer



The Pihama Walk for Cancer was started by Val Wallace in 1995 when her grandson had cancer. At that time she wanted to raise some money for the Cancer Society. Val contacted Jen Trolove and talked about how they could achieve this. Jen came up with the idea of a walk being a good fundraising activity. Since then the Pihama Women's Institute have raised \$36,156 for the Cancer Society and much of this money has stayed in South Taranaki.

This year the walk will start from Jen and Peters home at 309 Patiki Road on April 17. Registration is from 9.30am and the walk starts at 10.00am. The cost of \$10.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children includes a country lunch. Please take note of the advertisement in this paper with the details. This is a great school holiday activity.

*The Art of Cheesemaking*

MARGARET SCOTT  
TONY RUMBALL  
HENRIETTE REASON  
RHONDA BUNYAN  
AMY TAUNT  
ANDREA NICHOLAS  
KRIS WHITE

12 MARCH - 5 APRIL 2019

HISTORICAL MEMORABILIA FROM ELTHAM & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ARTWORKS FROM CHILDREN OF NGAERE SCHOOL  
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upcoming  
**OPUNAKE CLINICS**  
28 March  
11 April  
18 April

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MARCH & APRIL

Lollies, Popcorn, Ice-creams, Chocolate bars, Coffee & Tea For Sale	No Eft-Pos	Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs \$8, Under 4 free Senior Citizens \$8.
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Byr and under must be supervised by 14 yr or older ID required for all R movies

<b>A DOGS WAY HOME</b> Family, Adventure   1hr 37mins   PG As a puppy, Bella finds her way into the arms of Lucas, a young man who gives her a good home. When Bella becomes separated from Lucas, she soon finds herself on an epic 400-mile journey to reunite with her beloved owner. Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm   Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1pm	<b>EIGHTH GRADE</b> Comedy, Drama   1hr 34mins   M; Sexual references, Language Thirteen-year-old Kayla endures the tidal wave of contemporary suburban adolescence as she makes her way through the last week of middle school -- the end of her thus far disastrous eighth-grade year. Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm
<b>SWIMMING WITH MEN</b> Drama, Sport   1hr 43mins   M; Offensive Language Rob Brydon finds a surprising solution to his mid-life crisis—joining an all-male, middle-aged, amateur synchronised swimming team—in this British comedy. Based on a true story Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 7pm   Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1pm	<b>HOTEL MUMBAI</b> Drama, Thriller   2hrs 5mins   R16; Violence, Cruelty & Language In 2008 the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai becomes the target of a deadly attack by Pakistani militants. Dozens of people are held hostage as fire rages through the building. Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm   Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm
<b>VOX LUX</b> Drama, Festival   1hr 50mins   R13; Violence & Language Celeste is a 13-year-old music prodigy who survives a school shooting. Guided by her sister and a talent manager, the young phenom transforms into a rising pop star with a promising future. Eighteen years later, Celeste now finds herself on the comeback trail. Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm   Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm   Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm	<b>CAPTAIN MARVEL</b> Fantasy, Science Fiction   2hrs 5mins   M; Violence Set in the 1990s in a previously unseen period in the history of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, the film follows Carol Danvers (Larson) as she becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes. While a galactic war between two alien races reaches Earth, Danvers finds herself and a small group of allies at the centre of the maelstrom Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm   Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm   Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7pm
<b>ROMA</b> Drama   2hrs 15mins   M; Violence, Nudity & Offensive Language Cleo works for Sofia, a mother of four coping with the absence of her husband. Cleo loves Sofia's children, but bad news threatens to relinquish her employment. While the country faces political upheaval, Cleo and Sofia quietly wrestle with changes infiltrating the family home. Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 1pm	<b>FLYING THE NEST</b> Adventure, Family   1hr 23mins   G A young plover chick named Ploey is struggling to learn to fly before his family migrates south in this animated family adventure. Isolated and afraid, Ploey embarks on a journey where he must use his cunning, and rely on the help of new friends to make it through the winter and see his flock once more. Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1pm   Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1pm   Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1pm

Wed	Fri	Sat	Sun
	29 Ben is Back 7pm	30 A Dogs Way Home 1pm Eighth Grade 7pm	31 Cold Pursuit 7pm
3 Roma 1pm Swimming with Men 7pm	5 Captain Marvel 7pm	6 Flying the Nest 1pm Hotel Mumbai 7pm	7 **Boutique** Vox Lux 7pm
10 Swimming with Men 1pm Vox Lux 7pm	12 Hotel Mumbai 7pm	13 A Dogs way home 1pm Vox Lux 7pm	14 Captain Marvel 7pm



# National Pastel exhibition for Stratford

Purely Pastel. National exhibition by PANZ members. 29 March – 21 April 2019

This stunning exhibition comprises a selection of artwork by members of the Pastel Artists of New Zealand.

Pastel art groups are spread throughout the country, with artists encouraged to attend the PANZ conference each year alternating between North and South Island destinations. This year the three-day event is being held in Stratford.

In conjunction with the conference, there is a national exhibition, Purely Pastel. This national exhibition at Percy Thomson Gallery features more than 90 selected works, as well as a section comprising precious award winners. The exhibition includes portraits, landscapes and contemporary work and explores the myriad of ways the medium can be utilised.

The word pastel is derived from pastello, Italian for paste. Chalk Pastels are made from finely ground pigment mixed with water and a small amount of glue, usually gum tragacanth. Pure colours are made lighter by adding white chalk called calcium carbonate. The finished paste is shaped into round or square sticks and allowed to harden.

The softness or hardness of a pastel depends on the nature of the pigment and on how much binder is used, the more glue the harder the stick. Oil pastels are made by cooking raw pigments with an oil-soluble wax binder into a buttery paste, which is then moulded into crayons.

Pastels are very versatile and can be used as both a drawing and a painting



**Pendragon by Julie Greig**

medium. By twisting and turning the pastel stick you can create several different effects – fine, precise lines; broad, sweeping strokes, and solid dense layers of colours – and these can be combined in an almost infinite number of ways. Pastels are quick and direct, have pure vivid colours and can be mixed with a variety of other drawing and painting mediums, for example: watercolour, acrylic and oil paints, pen and ink, monotype prints, pencils and ball point pen. An abrasive surface or 'tooth' is required as a ground for pastel to hold onto. The finer the tooth the quicker it fills, the rougher it is the more pigment it holds. There are many types of papers and supports that can be used including; velour, pastel, watercolour and sanded papers; canvas and museum mat boards.

Pastel is an immediate,

spontaneous and luscious medium to work with. It can be used in many exciting ways and, with proper care and attention, will never discolour or darken, crack or fade.

Pastels can be traced back to the 17th Century when they were used for highly refined portraits in a range of colours rivalling the palettes of many oil painters of the time. Leonardo de Vinci produced limited works in pastel, and later Edgar Degas was a recognised artist in the medium. Today's pastel artists find it an immediate, spontaneous and luscious medium to work with.

Gaining popularity, pastels had their peak in the 18th century when Venetian pastelist Rosalba Carriera introduced the medium to Paris. In her first year there she completed 50 portraits. Pastel portraits

became all the rage, with Maurice Quentin de La Tour becoming one of the most successful proponents. Later in the century Chardin created a new look for pastels, painting boldly with individual strokes of colour, a contrast to the soft, delicately blended style of other pastel painters. It was in the mid-19th century that pastels were first used in a truly expressive way. The Impressionists loved pastel for the brilliance of colour and the quick application. Edgar Degas was the most experimental, combining it with oil, gouache or monoprint, using it wet and dry, even steaming sections of the painting to create special textures. Mary Cassatt, a pupil and friend of Degas, was responsible for the introduction and popularity of pastel in America. French artists, such as Picasso, Redon and Vuillard, continued their love affair with pastels into the 20th century, until World War I brought a decline in its use worldwide. Since the end of World War II however, pastels have experienced a growing acceptance and popularity, largely through the efforts of the many pastel societies and groups.

Pastel Artists of New Zealand (Inc) was founded in April 2002 when 30 people attended a meeting in Blenheim called by local pastel artist Walter Scott. Since then membership has grown to more than 200, encompassing beginners to professionals, and is steadily growing as knowledge

of the diversity of pastel spreads. The revival of pastel as a fine art medium is due in no small part to founding president Walter Scott, who was awarded the society's highest honour, that of Fellowship, given in recognition of his efforts to establish Pastel Artists of New Zealand and promote the pastel medium.



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