



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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## Inside



Signs raises questions rather than answers. p.3.



Dr Tom keeping farmers healthy. P13.



Okato hosts NZ History Federation AGM. Page 7.



Interesting artistic flair at Village Gallery. Page 21.

# Whanganui winnable says Labour candidate

For 64 of the last 82 years the Whanganui electorate, in its various forms has had a Labour Party MP. Labour's candidate for the seat Steph Lewis believes it will do so again come September.

"Chester (Borrows) is the only the third National Party MP to have held the seat and the only one to have lasted more than one term," she says of the National Party MP who is retiring this election. "He only has a majority of 4500, which isn't that big when you look at some of the other majorities around."

Steph cites the electorate's last Labour MP, Jill Pettis as being one of her formative political influences, having spoken to her class at Waverley Primary School about life as an MP, and then going on to select Steph to be her Youth MP for Whanganui in 2004.

Steph was dux at Whanganui City College and graduated with a BA and LLB from Victoria University. She has been working in Wellington as a lawyer/investigator for the Privacy Commissioner and has helped out with the



Whanganui Labour candidate Steph Lewis.

Labour campaigns of Annette King and Grant Robertson.

The Whanganui electorate includes traditionally Labour

voting Wanganui city as well as National Party strongholds like Hawera and Stratford, and the countryside in between.

Steph, who grew up in Waverley and Wanganui, says she is capable of relating to the "bluer" parts of the electorate as well as the Labour heartland.

"I'm a South Taranaki girl, and I grew up on a sheep and beef farm. I know what it's like to do a day in the shearing, and I know what it's like to do a day cutting scrub.

"The regions are the backbone of the New Zealand economy, and our region in particular has been neglected by the current government."

She says that across the electorate, she has come across people raising similar concerns.

"The issues that matter most to people are the same, like health and access to affordable health care. People keep talking to me about being bumped down the health waiting list and then being told they can't carry on working. There's access to affordable quality education. A recent report revealed it now costs an average of \$38,000 to put a child through

school. For a number of working families it's getting harder and harder to meet these costs. I've been talking to people who have been applying for a huge number of jobs. In South Taranaki one in six young people aren't in work, education or some kind of training."

"We've seen job losses at local producers like Yarrows Bread Factory in Manaia, and the local dairy farming community has been hit hard

by the drop in milk prices. Last year in Normanby 36 workers lost their jobs at DTS as a direct result of the drop in milk prices."

She says she isn't worried about Labour's positioning in the opinion polls.

"The latest opinion polls have shown Labour increasing, while under Bill English, National's percentage is dropping. I believe this is a trend we will see more of approaching September."



Also recently selected Whanganui Greens candidate Nicola Patrick. See page 3.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Let's not get too carried away

Our province was named Lonely Planet's second best region in the world, but still got only two per cent of the international visitors that came to New Zealand, which is pretty poor considering, yet we have 6.8 per cent unemployment. I still cannot see why Lonely

Planet did this.

We're all fully aware what's going to happen to State Highway 3 north and to our province's airport, which is really great, but instead of pushing our visitors to our major tourist hot spots, why not take our visitors to a marae, taste the

food from a hangi, followed by a Maori concert? They can go to some of our province's big dairy farms, and see some sheep shearing. Is there anything wrong with that? I don't think so.

So to Mr Young, let's not get too carried away with the Weet Bix. Remember we've got to crawl before we can walk. We are only getting one big shot at getting this right. Otherwise we can lose all these tourists with one major blink, and say goodbye to our tourist industry.

In the meantime let's get our unemployment figures down. I know we can do this by taking one giant step at a time and not getting our heads cut off, which will happen if we are not careful enough.

*Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth*

### House prices still rising

As stated in the Opunake and Coastal News, Taranaki property prices have reached new highs.

Last year as we all know, house prices rose dramatically in Auckland at a fast rate of knots, so that young families couldn't afford the down payments and mortgage rates, so they

have been forced to leave. Likewise the middle and elderly aged groups. This has forced them to find a province which better suits their lifestyle. That's the reason provincial house prices have risen.

Once this government felt the pressure from us, the people, they realised overseas investors were buying for somebody else, rather than for them, and put a stop to it. But by then, the damage had already been done big time.

We, the people of this country must realise this government, like many national governments we have had before has cost our country dearly. So much so that we have lost, and are still losing far too many skilled people to overseas companies who are paying and appreciating our New Zealand skilled workers joining them.

*Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth*

### Books wanted

We will be in Opunake collecting second hand books for our annual book fair held at St Joseph's Hall Victoria St Hawera from October 5-7. This is now the biggest book fair in Taranaki. The book fair is jointly organised

Send your your views to:  
Letters to the Editor  
23 Napier Street, Opunake.  
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email: [editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz](mailto:editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz)  
You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.

### Opunake's Margaret Thatcher connection



Margaret Thatcher.

I read with interest the article about the Thatcher connection with Opunake.

After some investigation we have come to the conclusion that the sections Thomas Thatcher owned in Opunake were where Headlands is now. Of course I stand to be corrected. The Thatcher connection doesn't end in Opunake. It extends to Otakeho where one of Dennis Thatcher's cousins-Jack Thatcher married one of the Putt girls. Jack's two daughters still live in Taranaki.

*Bev Davy  
Auroa.*

*Jill Williams  
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It had just started to rain. The windscreen was a bit fogged up and a bit dirty. And I was wearing my sunglasses.

I'd just set off that morning and was driving down Ihaia Road and was well past the 100km sign on the open road when suddenly on the other side of the road I saw a woman wheeling a bike gesticulating wildly in my direction.

My eyes returned to my side of the road to see a toddler running towards the car.

Of course I braked and swerved and the child was avoided. The woman however gestured angrily at me and so I did a u-turn partly to ascertain the child was OK and to reassure the woman who I surmised to be the child's mother that I had taken the precaution and avoided the child and wasn't

trying to run the little boy down.

Anyway, a sobbing child now in his grateful father's arms, told the complete story. All was well.

I wasn't speeding, but reflected to my passenger that a moment's inattention such as fiddling with the radio or some other device - I don't currently own a cell phone - and it could have had a different outcome.

Afterwards, by coincidence a woman called out to me as I was walking past some shops in New Plymouth introducing herself as the woman on the bike.

She wasn't the child's mother. She had a flat tyre she explained and had been wheeling her bike when she noticed the child and saw me coming over the brow of the hill in the opposite direction and warned me of the child.

So, full marks to the

woman on the bike for her action in alerting me to the child.

I could have done without the fingers though!

I'm clearly not the only victim of a computer scam and perhaps I shouldn't admit it. I sat down to the computer at home when alarmingly the screen flashed the message that I had a virus and must not turn off the computer or I would lose all the information on my hard drive but instead immediately ring this 09 phone number which I duly did.

A foreign sounded voice answered and then came a lot of complicated instructions which I could barely understand. Half an hour later I was still talking to this man; still totally confused at a lot of techno talk he was instructing me on. Between the language barrier and my computer

illiteracy I was well out of my depth and wondered if we would ever get to the end of this navigation marathon.

Finally he informed me that in order to stop these viruses attacking my hardware in future I could sign up to a plan of several hundred dollars a month. Actually there were several plans which he emailed me, the Gold Plan, the Silver plan and the Bronze. The Silver was misspelt. It was only then it became clear.

Thanking him I said I had a computer consultant I usually used and feeling pretty stupid hung up.

Our distribution man, a man in his senior years however had a more amusing story. Rung up at 11.05pm one night he too was informed that he had a virus in his computer.

Peter said he strung them along for a bit, answered some of their questions and then told them truthfully, mate I don't even own a computer!

On this month in history

### NZ loses the America's Cup

On March 2, 2003 the Swiss yacht Alinghi won the America's Cup by beating the NZ yacht 5 - 0. The Swiss yacht was skippered by Russell Coutts (later Sir), while the NZ yacht was skippered by Dean Barker.

Three years earlier Team NZ retained the America's Cup (headed by Sir Peter Blake) by beating the Italian

yacht Luna Rossa five nil. Russell Coutts skippered the first four races, but handed over to Dean Barker for the final race.

When Russell Coutts and other prominent members of Team NZ jumped camp (to Alinghi) Russell commented, "It's not about the money" to which the only response is surely "Yeah Right!"



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# Regional councillor to stand for the Greens

Continued from page 1

The Green Party has selected a Horizons regional councillor as its candidate for the Whanganui seat in this year's general election. Nicola Patrick is a 44 year-old mother of two with an environmental science degree and a journalism diploma. At last year's local body elections, she was elected to represent Wanganui on the Horizons Regional Council.

Previously she had worked for the Department of Conservation for 10 years, including operational leadership at Ruapehu. She was a project manager and sustainability advisor for seven years at global engineering consultancy

AECOM and worked for 18 months at Akina foundation, a social enterprise charity. She currently works part-time for Te Kaahui o Rauru at Waverley.

She says she has voted Greens for some time, and decided to become a member four years ago.

"It was the first round of RMA reviews which pushed me," she said. "Since then every time I've been involved, I'm more convinced that this is the party for me."

Nicola says she will be campaigning to boost the party vote as the best way to persuade future governments to adopt environmentally friendly policies. She will not be after a place on the party's list, and says she

will continue to live in Whanganui and be on the regional council.

She has family links to Taranaki, with a grandmother born in Kaponga, and a mother who attended St Mary's Diocesan school in Stratford.

"As a kid I grew up spending most of my Christmases at Fitzroy Beach," she said.

She sees the issues of dairying and water quality being important.

"I want to see a strong dairy industry in New Zealand, but in places where it works, like Taranaki," she said. "We do have people in South Taranaki leading the way in wanting to see New Zealand having more highly placed dairy operations

which enhance rather than damage our reputation."

She cites Waitotara farmer David Hopkins and his farming operations as a positive example.

"I'm keen to see a closing of the growing urban rural divide. We need more honesty around the challenges ahead and call out poor practices. Where there's a need to improve, we need to get all parties, like the farming groups agreeing to it. Where things are going well, we need to celebrate."

She is less enthusiastic about the future of some of the extractive industries for which Taranaki has become known.

"I can see the writing on the wall for oil and gas.

These extractive industries are not going to get the same return as they have done in the past."

She says she wants to see long term sustainable development and doesn't believe proposals like seabed mining are likely to achieve long term jobs for the region.

On the other hand she cites the setting up of the call centre Global Connect in Waverley, which has created nine new jobs as an example of what could be done.

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# Signs cause stir at Middleton's Bay

The recent appearance of signs at Middleton's Bay warning against shellfish collection has angered former Egmont Plains Community Board member Ron Brewer.

The signs which carried no logo say, Health warning. Due to a recent sewage discharge, eating shellfish from this area may make you ill.

Ron says just putting up a sign is not good enough.

"If they had a spill recently, the public should have been informed," he says. "It's only 200 metres across the headland. You can't tell me the sea only goes one way. Once the discharge goes into the sea you've got no control over it. It can go north or south, into Middleton's Bay or the main bay or anywhere."

South Taranaki District Council communications advisor Rachael Harris said there had been a wastewater overflow after a sensor had broken down on February 14. The overflow was then discharged into the emergency outfall line into Middleton Bay. This line, which discharges 200 metres offshore had been had been the main outfall line until the 1990s.

Rachael said the Council



This sign in Middleton's Bay has raised questions

had fulfilled their statutory duty of informing the Taranaki Regional Council, Taranaki District Health Board and iwi, and signs had been put up saying there should be no recreational use. After three days, the signs were taken down.

The Taranaki District Health Board then advised the Council that signs should be put up for 28 days warning against collecting shellfish.

With no suitable signs immediately available, replacement signs were

borrowed from the New Plymouth District Council, with the NPDC logo blocked out. These signs have since been taken down and the Council is working on getting new signs of their own. The sensor which caused the original problem has been fixed.

Ron says the Council should have done more to let the public know what was happening.

"They should let the public know rather than just shove a sign up."

## Note to readers

Please note that because of delivery problems on Good Friday, the next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News will be delivered a day earlier than usual, on April 12 and 13.

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## COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

# Connecting with your council

Hi all

This week, connecting with your council, Opunake floods, freedom camping, Easter Sunday trading.

How do you connect with your council? By email contact at @stdc.govt.nz, by the web www.southtaranaki.com, by over the counter at one of our library plus or council office, or by the phone- 0800 111 323. This number should be saved to your phone in case of an emergency, flooding, road wash out, fallen trees, waste water, drinking water etc. Remember the squeaky wheel gets the oil, so who are you going to call? Remember if you ring after hours you have to be clear if it needs



Cr Bryan Roach

immediate attention or can it wait for the next working day.

Opunake floods Stage 1 is presently being dug to the Otahi stream. The design of Stage 2 to the Waiaua River is almost complete and then

it will go out to Tender. Stage 3 is to fix the retention pond over flow, so water will go south instead of flooding people's houses.

Freedom camping. There is no such thing as free. Someone has to pay. At the moment the government has put aside money to help, but mostly the cost falls on the council. Is that fair? There are a lot of costs still to come -new toilet blocks, extra cleaning, extra rubbish bins, signage, security etc. we have been told to expect more freedom campers next season.

Easter Sunday trading has been voted to go ahead by your council, I didn't like the old legislation and

I don't like the new one. They both have flaws. The old legislation said some businesses could open and some couldn't, depending on your circumstances. The new legislation could have some districts allowing shops to open, and other districts may not allow them to open. How confusing is this if you are a tourist to our country?

To my fellow dairy farmers, holy smoke what an incredible summer for grass growth. It has been the best summer ever for grass growth that I can remember. Be prepared for next year, it could be the worst.

*Roachy on the Coast*

## A Focus on natural hazards

Focus on natural hazards

Two research papers on major natural hazards and an internal review into September's East Cape earthquake have turned the spotlight on natural hazards.

It's no secret that Auckland sits on a large volcanic field, but new research has modelled what would happen if there was an eruption within the city limits.

Researchers from GNS Science, the University of Canterbury and Massey University considered what could happen during a hypothetical two-month period of unrest and eruption near Mangere Bridge.

The biggest danger would be pyroclastic surge - a hot mix of gas, ash and other substances - and within 2km of the vent there would be "near total destruction", according to UC Associate Professor Tom Wilson.

The team worked with local lines company Vector to model the effect on key infrastructure. GNS Science's Dr Natalia Deligne said under the scenario, some residents could experience rolling outages anywhere from a month to a year or more.

Meanwhile, a team of scientists studying the Alpine Fault have further refined the average period between earthquakes.

Using a new study site at John O'Groats River, near the mouth of Milford Sound, GNS Science researchers have found more information about the last 2,000 years of earthquakes on the major faultline.

The new information brings the estimated average interval between earthquakes down to 291 years; however, the study authors emphasised that did not change the fundamental

story, that there is roughly a 30 per cent chance of a magnitude 8 earthquake on the southern part of the fault in the next 50 years.

This year is 300 years since the fault last ruptured, in 1717.

An internal review into the response to the September 2, 2016 magnitude 7.1 earthquake off the East Cape identified several issues, including the time it takes for the Tsunami Experts Panel to convene and provide an assessment.

Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM) director Sarah Stuart-Black says that the debriefing process after any emergency covered "what went well, what didn't go so well, and what can we do different in future".

"The challenge was the earthquake itself was very unusual," she said. "If it's in a grey area, which is

where it's not necessarily big enough to have created a tsunami, or it's not deep enough, then we actually need some advice before we decide whether we're going to issue a warning or not."

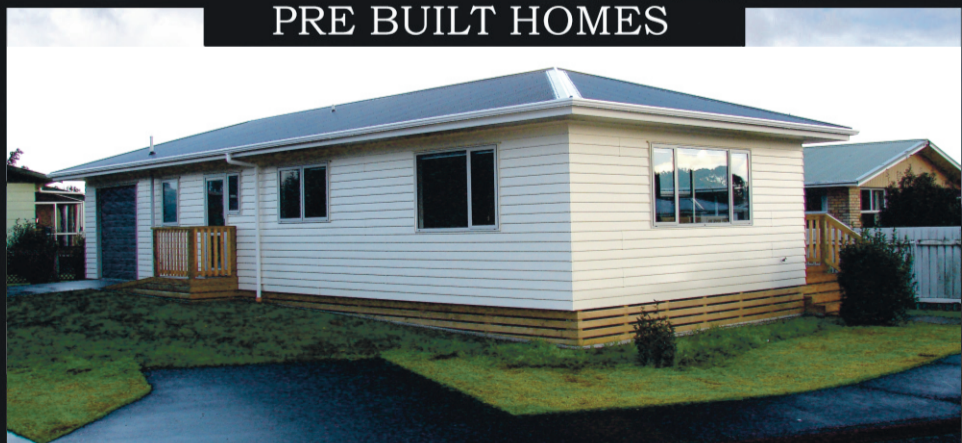
But she emphasised that because the earthquake was close to the coastline, people needed to be aware of natural signs - the long and strong, be gone message - because there wouldn't be time to generate an alert and be sure people would get it.

"In a local source tsunami it's really important that people are aware of what action to take because it could be minutes before a tsunami could reach the coastline," she said.

Civil Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee has said that a nationwide system for broadcasting public text alerts about emergencies would be live by the end of the year.

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# Record for mountain to sea ride

The Opunake Lions Mountain to Sea Cross Country Bike Ride was held on Taranaki Anniversary Day, March 13. The weather leading up to the 13th was very wet which presented quite a few challenges to the organisers. The day started overcast and deteriorated as cars began arriving at the top of the Arawhata Road. There were 291 riders taking part in the event ranging from the very young to the oldest at 78 years on an E-bike. All comments heard were positive with people saying, "although the ride, because of the weather conditions, was harder than last year, being very slippery and muddy, it was warm and a lot of fun." A number thought the ride was better for being wet.



The first three girls to make it home, Poppy Mitchell, Lee Boon and Catarina Poletti.

Riders started at the top of the Arawhata Road crossing 10 different farmers' land and finished at the Opunake Beach. It was just over 36 kilometres, taking most about two to three hours. It was primarily aimed at recreational and family riders although for those more serious there was a race option with cups for the first male and female riders. For the third time the first rider home was Darry Stevens from New Plymouth in a time of one hour 24 minutes. Poppy Mitchell from Oakura was the first female home.

As mentioned weather caused a few challenges to the organisers. The safety of the competitors was obviously paramount. With heavy rain in the days leading up to

the ride, ground conditions were very wet. The course crossed three streams where the riders had to cross in the water. This was of considerable concern as it was not known whether the streams would be in flood. The course was marked during rain the day before the event, and one stream crossing was considerably up on normal. Steps had been put in place to postpone or cancel the event if conditions were too extreme, however alterations were made to ensure that competitors were safe, and hopefully would still enjoy the ride. An early morning inspection on the 13th saw that stream levels had dropped, although ground conditions were still very muddy.

One of the great things with this ride that the organisers would like to acknowledge is the degree of community involvement. The ride is approximately 90 per cent on land owned by 10 farmers and the rest on roads. Without the support of these farmers the ride would not occur. Approximately 200 vehicles were parked in Phillip Field's freshly harvested hay paddock at the top of the Arawhata Road. A number had to be towed out using his tractor. Paul O'Rorke volunteered to park a large trailer the morning of the ride in the stream which was deeper than the course markers expected. He also secured ramps up and off the trailer so riders could cross

the stream without entering it. Pickering Motors assisted with taking drivers who were also riders back to their cars from the Opunake beach. Unfortunately because of the wet conditions a lot of these people were very wet and muddy. A considerable amount of this was transferred to the bus.

While it is too early to give details of the profit, 291 riders are the most that have entered in any one year. This year the profit will be given to the Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club, with profits from previous years having gone to the Opunake Fire Brigade, Opunake St John's and the Opunake High School Hillary Challenge team.

## Maata WI hold AGM

The AGM of the Maata Womens Institute was held in the Maata Hall on Tuesday February 7.

Officers elected were President Val Campbell. President, Secretary Barb Campbell, Treasurer Brenda Boddie. Committee Angela Wright, Joyce Lawrence, and Deborah Clough.

Members again decided

to adopt the Eltham Toy Library as their Project for the year.

Competition winners and trophy winners for the year were as follows:- Bloom: 1st. Joyce Lawrence. 2nd. Deborah Clough. 3rd equal Brenda Boddie and Gill Campbell. Shrub: 1st equal Joyce Lawrence and Glenys Turner. 2nd equal Deborah

Clough, Angela Wright and Gill Campbell. Homecraft: 1st. Gill Campbell, 2nd Val Kerr. 3rd Joyce Lawrence.

Molloy Cup (Floral). J.Lawrence. Woosnam Cup (Homecraft) Gill Campbell. Sally Ann Edwards Memorial Trophy (Most points overall). Joyce Lawrence.

Competition winners were

each presented with prizes, and the evening concluded with supper being served by the Committee.

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# Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade

Don't forget to check your smoke alarm this Sunday.

It's been very quiet on the fire and rescue scene for us lately, so I will share with you an extract from a newspaper article dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 1913. The article relates to one of the worst fires Opunake has ever seen, as it wiped out about 11 businesses as well as the Middleton's Hotel where it started. From further information it seems that the fire started about midnight in the laundry part of the hotel. There was practically no water supply, and the fire spread so rapidly that by 2:40p.m., the greater part of the town was reduced to ruin, and presented a desolate appearance. *The fire*

*brigade dynamited Nichol's tea rooms, and the gap thus made and the concrete wall of Burton's shop arrested the progress of the fire on that side of the street."*

I bet the good folk of Opunake are pleased to hear we don't carry dynamite on the appliances so we won't be blasting the garage apart to save the house. If we did have the odd stick of dynamite however, imagine how many courses we would have to attend to satisfy our good friends at Work and Safety. Actually, we used to carry a chainsaw on the truck, but were told to take it off because we hadn't been to the two day training course.

We were called out to Dorset Street on Saturday 25 to

help the St. John ambulance crew lift a patient from her house into the ambulance. It was a pretty straightforward exercise, so we were back in the station in record time. That's except for one of our crew as he ended up driving the ambulance until they met up with one from New Plymouth to transfer the patient over.

Our Sunday started at 1:30 in the morning because we were dispatched to a private fire alarm on the Tai Road that had earlier been sounding off. The occupants had reset it and gone back to bed so you could imagine the surprise they received when we turned up. We had a check around with them but found nothing so we headed back home to

get our beauty sleep.

On Sunday 26, our brigade hosted the Taranaki Provincial Fire Brigade Association bowling tournament at the Opunake Bowling Club. A wonderful day was had by all on the green, and straight after prize giving many of the teams wandered over to the fire station for a beautiful barbecue tea and a chat. The Stratford team "The Kinky Hoses", took out the major prize, with our own team "Rodney's Rebels" coming home in second place. The last bowl of the day was a drive onto the kitty, but sadly it missed. If they had of connected, and Kitty went into the catchment area, Opunake would have won.

*The Happy Bowlers*

## Te Kiri celebrates 80 years of WI

Te Kiri Women's Institute has had only 15 Presidents in its 80 year history. Seven of those ladies were present at the luncheon on March 9, 2017 to celebrate exactly 80 years from the formation of Te Kiri Women's Institute on March 9, 1937 with 42 members.

Fifty four women from many parts of New Zealand joined together at Soul Kitchen to celebrate this special event; including past and all present members, the executive of South Taranaki Federation of Women's Institutes and members of neighbouring institutes to share our history and learn a little of the walkway sculpture ideas proposed by the Egmont Community Arts Council.



**Past Presidents, five are still members of Te Kiri WI:**  
Back Row – Merle Clement, Dorothy Hughes (now in Southland), Sue Muggeridge (current President), Pauline Clough, Colleen Wester (now Whanganui), Front Row – Shirley Langlands and Kath Perrett.



**Cutting our birthday cake made by Pauline Clough and decorated by Janice Walsh are foundation member Mrs Stanley-Robinson who had joined as Miss K. Hargreaves; with current member and holder of a 60 year membership badge – Joy Collins.**

## More money for tourism infrastructure

Jonathan Young National MP for New Plymouth welcomes the opportunity for extra funding for tourism infrastructure in the Taranaki Region

"Tourism is now a \$14.5 billion export earner for New Zealand, with 188,000 people working in the industry. These visitors are incredibly important to our economy,

particularly in the regions", he says.

"We need to provide core facilities to support this tourism growth and continue to attract high-value visitors. Such facilities benefit local residents and domestic tourists, as well as our international guests.

"In the last round of funding for the Regional mid-sized

Tourism Facilities Grant Fund, a total of \$3 million was allocated to the best 14 projects. This saw the development of important amenities such as carparks, toilets, rubbish disposal and minor water management projects.

"Due to the initial success of this scheme, an additional \$5.5 million has been made available for further tourism

infrastructure developments. This next round of funding could be an excellent opportunity to develop or improve tourism infrastructure in the Taranaki Region Budget 2016 has allocated \$12 million over four years for the Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund. Applications for the second round of funding close on April 13.



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# New Zealand History Federation Annual General Meeting held in Okato

Hempton Hall in Okato was the venue for the 46<sup>th</sup> New Zealand History Federation Inc Annual General Meeting. At the front table were Lisa J Truttman (President), Neil Curgenven (Secretary/Treasurer) and representing Okato & Districts Historical Society, Meg Cardiff (Researcher). About sixty delegates were present as the well-conducted meeting dealt with a wide range of issues, including the election of officers.

One noteworthy change was the replacement of the existing Patron Dame Anne Salmond with Robin Astridge, a Life Member. "I'm dumbfounded at the honour and I'll accept," he commented to applause.

Virtually all officers were nominated and retained. These include:

President: Lisa J Truttman  
Vice President: Kenneth Stringer

Secretary/Treasurer: Neil Curgenven

Committee: Garth Houltham, Wynne HaySmith, Kathryn Parsons, Catherine Stewart and Jim Baker. (Jim Baker is the only Committee member from Taranaki).



From left, Meg Cardiff (Okato and Districts Historical Society), Lisa J Truttman (President) and Neil Curgenven (Secretary/Treasurer).

The Presidents Annual Report suggested that the organisation is in good heart. Member societies now number 94, up from 87. There are 48 Associate members and 51 Institution members – an increase of three.

Health and Safety requirements are an issue at present and seminars have been organised in Auckland and Hamilton to explain new legal obligations. Members

were urged to "check them out." The Auckland one will be held on Saturday May 27 at St Jude's Church Hall from 1pm to 4pm, while the Hamilton seminar will be held on Saturday July 1 at Hockin House with the same time span.

The Federation should soon have a more readily accessed website by allowing mobiles to access the internet.

The number of 'likes' on

the Federation Facebook has greatly increased to 143 as of March 21, 2017.

It was pointed out that the magazine Legacy is for members use, not just academic writers. "... your contributions, your articles, images from your collections that you'd like to see showcased along with commentary as to why they are so special, are not only welcome, we would appreciate them as part of the

publication."

The Editorial Committee consists of Editors David Verran, Lisa Truttman, Wynne HaySmith and Neil Curgenven. There are three issues of Legacy published each year.

The Financial Review was undertaken by J McKay and while basically sound, the comment was made, "You don't need to be an accountant to see we run *close to the wind*." Subscription fees were kept the same as last year.

The Website Report was positive. "The numbers seem impressive. We are lucky to have a website" said Vice President Kenneth Stringer. The period 1.4.2016 to 21.3.2017 revealed a monthly average of 1,768 unique visitors, with a high of 2,181 in October 2016. New Zealand, as expected had the most visits at 44%, but the United States was second with 33%.

With Russia on 3% a huge roar of laughter greeted the witty comment from the floor that "I hope this will not influence the election of officers."

Near the end of the meeting Meg Cardiff spoke and paid tribute to Graham Chard for the excellent catering and apologised that President Karen Chard was unable to attend. Meg mentioned places of historical interest delegates should try and see and referred to the range of books on the table to be looked at and (in some cases) purchased.

The AGM concluded with a delicious afternoon tea.

If you would like to contact the New Zealand History Federation Inc you can contact Neil Curgenven, 5 Elmira Ave, Chartwell, Hamilton 3210. Phone 027 244 1348 or email ncurgenven@gmail.com

## Robin coming back to Taranaki

From pre-schoolers to petroleum workers - the Taranaki community is pitching in to bring tōutōwai/North Island robin back to Mt Taranaki.

The birds are being returned in April after an absence of more than 110 years, in the ecological restoration project, Taranaki Mounga.

Mealworms are the larvae of the darkling beetle and are a popular food with many bird species.

"Robins find mealworms delicious," says DOC com-

munity ranger Denise Goodman. "So, by having community volunteers farm lots of them we hope this will encourage the robins to stay close to the release site where they can be seen by the public and monitored by volunteers and staff."

New Plymouth pre-school Jump Start is one of 12 schools around the district growing mealworms. "The children are absolutely loving it, they know the mealworms are for the robins and all want

to help look after them," says teacher Nikki Popata.

Farming mealworms for robin food is simple: there are no fences (just a few ice cream containers with air holes) very little food (they rather like oatbran and carrots) and the containers require sifting occasionally to draft out the adults from the larvae.

The mealworms will be harvested in late March, in time for the translocation of robins from the Puerora Forest onto

the mountain. North Island robins haven't been seen on Mt Taranaki since 1905.

Schools taking part are: Stratford Primary School, Ratapiko School, Central School (New Plymouth), Urenui School (two classes), Highlands Intermediate science class, Lepperton School, Huirangi School, Omata School, Moturoa School, Spotswood Primary, Jump Start pre-school, and Makahu School.

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# National bold on international trade

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And it's also why the cost of living here remains historically low, with things like cars, appliances and cell phones becoming more affordable.

Ultimately it's part of the reason why we are such a confident and successful country, but we must not take that for granted. We must continue to forge new and improved ties with the rest of the world, to ensure



Jonathan Young MP for New Plymouth

we sustain that success.

The opportunities presented to us through trading with the world are immense. We know that we won't get rich by selling things to ourselves. But we might by selling them to the world.

Successive New Zealand governments have finalised trade agreements with a number of countries including Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea and China.

Our agreements so far are

working well for exporters and getting Kiwis a good return.

Our goods exports to mainland China are now four times what they were before the FTA and our wine exports to South Korea have increased by 30 per cent, just six months into our agreement.

Exports are worth \$70 billion to our economy and this Government knows not only how important trade is to Kiwi businesses, but how much of the world these businesses still struggle to trade with.

Prime Minister Bill English recently set out the National-led Government's commitment to forging new and improved trade ties, and further investment to achieve that, when he launched our new trade strategy – Trade Agenda 2030.

Under Trade Agenda 2030 we've set the ambitious goal of having free trade

agreements cover 90 per cent of New Zealand's goods exports by 2030, up from 53 per cent today.

\$91.3 million over four years will be dedicated to helping us achieve this under Budget 2017.

This funding will go towards forging new trade agreements, maximising the benefits of existing ones, establishing new diplomatic posts in Dublin and Sri Lanka and supporting Kiwi exporters to enter new markets.

It's difficult to overstate how important trade is to New Zealand and how closely it is linked to our prosperity and it's exciting to see our Government acknowledge trade as the lifeblood of our economy.

Jonathan Young MP for New Plymouth

# Lowering the voting age is more than just changing the number



Chester Burrows

A few weeks ago, Children's Commissioner Andrew Beecroft proposed having a rational discussion about quite a radical move: lowering the voting age two years to 16.

Many people see such a move as the answer to connecting with the younger generation of millennials especially, who, simply do not get out and vote. But it's more than just not taking the trouble to cast a vote at a polling place, it's really the fact that they are not interested in politics. Nor do they understand it

or understand the important significance with everyday life in New Zealand. And the statistics speak for themselves. In the 2014 General Election, 37 per cent of the 18 to 24 year olds who enrolled to vote didn't bother to exercise their right at the ballot box on Election Day. So around two thirds didn't bother and the percentage of 18 year olds who did manage to get to a polling place hardly reaches double figures.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my four terms in Parliament has been hosting local school groups who come here with parents and teachers, along with the 100,000 visitors who have a look through the place every year. It's always good fun because they arrive here wide-eyed and forthright with their questions. Do you live in this building? How much is the pay? Who don't you like in this place?, But after all these visits over twelve years, from littlies right through

to Year 13s I struggle to recall any questions (even with Crunchie bars on offer) which show any grasp of the real business of politics or the process of Government.

So this is where the argument about connecting early before apathy sets in starts to go awry. It's not apathy that is the barrier. It's actually a lack of understanding, because before you start work, buy a house, enter a relationship or have children etc, you are only starting to grasp the relevance of politics in your life.

Not being a neuro surgeon I had better skip the technicalities of brain formation before I have an avalanche of under 25 year olds who may claim that I am implying that their thinking is all a bit fraught. But making a choice at the ballot box requires some reasoning and rational thinking amid a huge amount of decisions which our young people have to make, many of which they

won't in fact get a second shot at: leaving school, leaving home, joining the forces or starting a career. Just because our laws allow people under 16 to do a lot of important things, it doesn't follow that they should be allowed to vote.

I agree that younger people need to have some interest in politics and there's a strong case to make politics a serious NCEA subject. However to give them the vote before they are educated and experienced in life enough to make truly informed decisions would be a disaster.

Children of this young age are hardly likely to have found their ideological positioning or anything like it, but I feel that allowing under 18 year olds to vote will not result in them taking a sudden interest in political parties or election issues. On the whole, our young people are concerned with specific issues and causes and so are politically active in other ways through signing petitions and going on protests. And where will we draw the line? Will we be considering the vote for 14 year olds soon?

The Children's Commissioner is quite right, in his role, to invite discussion which is relevant to that demographic, but I don't think a lowering of the voting age will do anything to benefit sixteen to eighteen year olds or their long-term commitment to connecting with politics.

Chester Borrows  
MP for Whanganui

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# Sentiments - the Coastal connection

I once filled a gumboot with greenery for a funeral, says Jasmin Warren from Sentiments florist in Moturoa. "Everyone's a little bit different in what they want, we like to make things personal."

Last year Sentiments were runners up in the Taranaki Weddings Industry Awards in the Florist category.

The popular florist is currently owned by mother and daughter Katrina and Jasmin Warren from Okato. Continuing the Coastal connection, they bought the business two and a half years ago from Denise Fleming from the Coast who bought it from Janice Thompson who founded the business with Winsome Sartenin in 1986.

"It's had a Coastal connection its entire history," says Katrina adding that it's been "fantastic" so far owning the business.

Katrina and Jasmin say there is "surprisingly no" arguments between the mother and daughter which may be partly because they complement each other and have different areas of expertise.

Jasmin who had previously worked in another florist for some years does the flowers while Katrina is involved with the bookwork and administration side of the business and does all the running around.

Also employed in the business is Nora Jordi. Originally from Switzerland Nora is, like Jasmin, a qualified florist.

When they took over the business there was already a trained florist working there who is now back home in Switzerland doing a Masters in Floristry. "She taught me a lot, and with that grew my love for flowers!" acknowledges Jasmin.

"We do everything and nothing is too big or



From left Nora, Katrina and Jasmin.

small," says Katrina. Some "interesting cards" have been sent to accompany the flowers says Katrina with a grin, refusing to elaborate. They also sell novelty gifts, homewares, cards and helium balloons in their shop so there's something

for everyone. The flowers are sourced from a flower market at Fitzroy, and also via a broker up in Auckland who gets them by auction as well as sources directly from growers in New Zealand. Do flowers go in and out of

fashion? Yes says Jasmin. Gypsophila, a small white flower - for example was very popular 20 years ago then went out of fashion. "Now they're back." Some flowers however never go out of fashion, such as roses. "Roses are classic. But what it really comes down to though is keeping

up with styles and trends and knowing how to make any flower shine," says Jasmin.

And yes, they do send flowers to men.

They also do gift baskets to suit anyone from children, to Dad and even Nana there really is something for everyone. And of course Interflora which can pose challenges if you're liaising with a foreign country where English is not spoken. Handily Nora speaks German, English, Spanish and French!

They pride themselves on their sales pitch which says nothing's too small or too big. Prices range from as little as \$2 for a single

stem to, in the case of some weddings, thousands of dollars.

Being a florist it can be stressful they say, dispelling the perception that they're just "playing with flowers". Overall though the three clearly love what they do and have a lot of laughs says Katrina.

Mothers Day is the busiest day "by far". When it's especially busy Katrina's husband Bruce who farms in Okato, son and brother Danny, along with his wife Sarah get roped in to help with deliveries.

"It's a family affair," says Katrina adding that "Nora's part of the family now."

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One of the floral displays that contributed to Sentiments coming runner up in the Taranaki Weddings Industry Awards.



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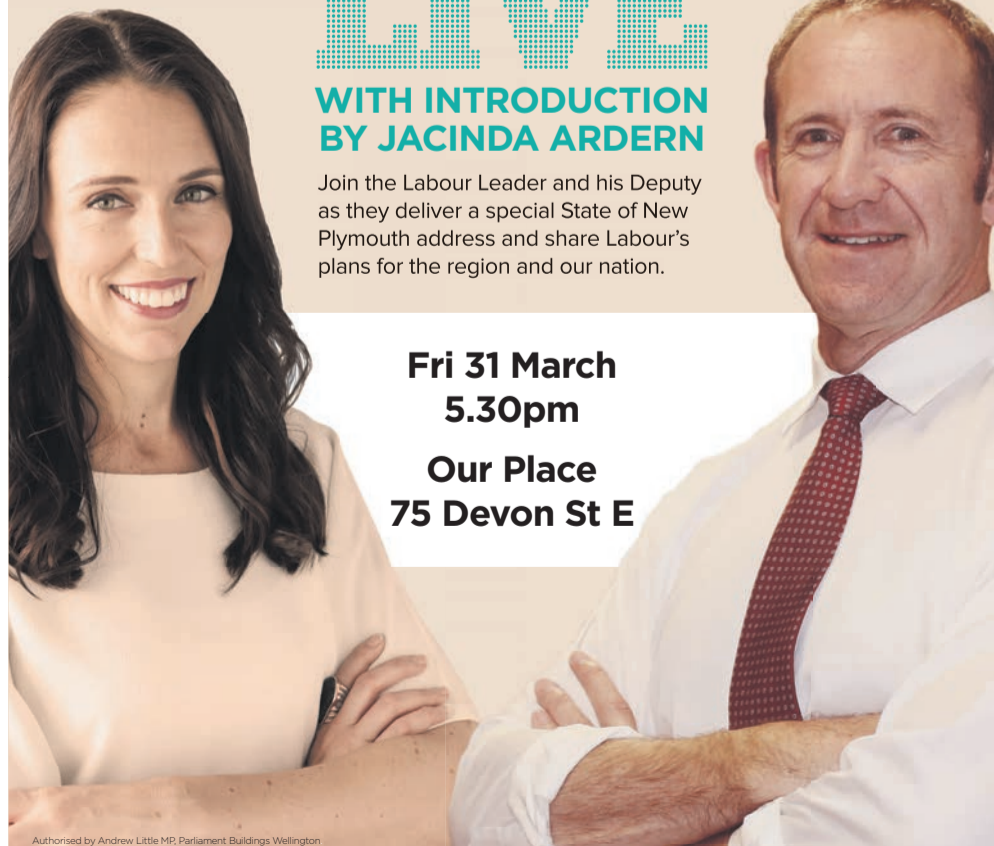
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# Drivers prepare for derby

Roger Dettling and Michael Stratton are gearing up to compete in their first teams demolition derby together.

Competitors from across the North Island will converge on Stratford Speedway on April 1 for the derby.

“You have a team of five drivers and six cars, with the sixth one being a spare,” Roger said. “The aim is to block and ram the opposing team’s cars so your lead driver can make it across the finish line first.”

Drivers are often forced to carry out repairs between races to fix damage.

“The idea is not to bang your car up too much because there are several races,” Michael laughed. “But we have spare tyres and radiators just in case we need them.”

“It’s the first time in ages Stratford Speedway has run a team’s demolition derby,” said Roger.

“It’s awesome fun and totally different to a normal demolition derby where the last man standing wins,” Michael said.

A well thought out strategy and reliable cars are the key to winning the teams event.

The pair, who are Central Taranaki Young Farmers members, have been busy stripping cars ahead of race night.

“We have to remove all the glass, plastic and flammable material from each vehicle,” Roger said. “We then mount a roll bar inside, install a five-point harness and chain the doors shut.”



Roger Dettling and Michael Stratton with their support crew.

# More in-school support is needed to deal with rape culture

The NZ Association of Counsellors (NZAC) wants action in schools to prevent one in four girls and one in six boys from experiencing sexual assault in New Zealand.

The NZAC wants universal access to programmes such as ‘Mates and Dates’ (ACC) in all New Zealand high

schools. “We have a real youth problem in this country with a rape culture,” said NZAC spokesperson, Sarah Maindonald, who is a school guidance counsellor.

She says this problem could have been addressed if the 2013 Education Review Office (ERO) review of in-

school guidance and pastoral care recommendations had been followed.

The review found that Kiwi youth from 49 secondary schools were desperate to have trusted adults to talk to and appropriate guidance programmes.

Guidance counsellors were named as the number one choice for students to talk to about sexual issues, family violence, peer and family relationships, and drugs and alcohol.

“Counsellors support the ERO report and urge the government to resource those recommendations and return to tagged funding of one counsellor to 400 students.”

Ms Maindonald says the

current ratio at several large boys’ schools in Wellington and Manawatu is about one counsellor to between 1400 and 1600 students.

Guidance counsellors regularly run guidance programmes and work alongside health teachers in the provision of programmes in sensitive areas.

This is a positive preventative measure right under the government’s nose, Ms Maindonald says.

“You can roll out programmes, but you need specialist teachers such as school guidance counsellors to deliver them and deal with some of the difficult issues and conversations which arise from this kind of education.”



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# Practical education for young students

School children from Toko Primary School had a fascinating few hours visiting Pihama Lavender recently.

After watching how lavender oil was extracted from Lavender flowers using a still, the young students then had a go at making their own scented candles.

It is another great initiative for Toko Primary School which is the first school in Taranaki to receive a Green Gold award in Sustainability. Sue Fergus who teaches the year 3 pupils added that they had a worm farm and a chook house at the school.

It was her idea to visit Pihama Lavender.

“We had a few lavender plants and over the years. All we’ve done is harvest it and put it into little gauze bags and sold them in the community, but we decided we wanted to do something more,” said Sue who came and visited Liz “to see what she did”. She then went back to the principal of the school who gave her a Curious Minds application, a Venture Taranaki initiative. Josh from Venture Taranaki introduced her to Jim Bennett who distils his own plant material extracting essential oils.

Apparently the oil from plant material has a multitude of uses. Rosemary for example is good for memory says Sue while the extract distilled from pine needles is “great” for general cleaning and hand lotion. Sue said ultimately they would like to make their own cleaning products and



Toko School children preparing the lavender flowers by removing the stalks for putting them in soap. The flowers go directly into the soap adding fibre said Jim. Lavender in your pillow helps you go to sleep, he says. “It relaxes your mind” and “sends you off to sleep.”

He recommends it also for pacifying unruly students and comments on one school where they had such students they hung it from the rafters. “The kids were as calm, as sedate, as focussed as could be.”

from plant material has a multitude of uses.

Rosemary for example is good for memory says Sue while the extract distilled from pine needles is “great” for general cleaning and hand lotion.

Sue said ultimately they would like to make their own cleaning products and

hair shampoo.

Jim Bennett, the founder of Still Valley which sell Essential Oils and Hydrosols who was also instructing the school children had some of his wares on display including a range of oils and hydrosols. He explained that hydrosols were “mostly water” being the distillate

from the extraction of the oil and used as a spray on skin. The oils, are the more concentrated skin care products. “All have antiseptic qualities and can be used for wound dressing and reduce scarring,” said Jim. Manuka oil is particularly renowned for these qualities, he added.

“Each wood or flower has its own distinct aroma and properties.” “Some are good for cleaning, some are good for skin care.” Solvents are good for removing stains and marks.

Pihama Lavender sell their own Lavender oil and other products at their shop. There is also a host of stalls

at their monthly Market Day which is becoming very popular. Last Market Day was a hive of activity with various stalls, live entertainment and all sorts of food available. The next market day is on April 23, followed by a music event until 8 pm. We’ll keep readers posted.

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# Continue the legacy this Anzac Day with the Opunake RSA

The 86th AGM of the Opunake and Returned Service Association was held on the 17th of March at the Clubrooms at the Opunake Fire Brigade Premises. Yes, we have been serving this community for 86 years! Officers elected at the meeting were – President: Shane Butler; Secretary: Rev. Geoff Williams; Executive: Brian Vincent, Bill Hayward, Mo Murray, Rodney Woods.

The time of year is approaching when the RSA is at its most visible. Anzac Day is a national day of commemoration observed on 25 April each year. It commemorates those who died serving New Zealand during war while honouring returned

and current servicemen and women, past and present. This year, the 21st of April will be the 95th official launch in 1922, Poppy Day has continued to be the longest running street appeal in New Zealand. This means that for 95 years, the RSA has been raising money for the sole purpose of helping those who need it: our past and present service personnel.

This year the Opunake RSA will have official RSA merchandise available for purchase leading up to Anzac Day. These include the popular WW100 Poppy/Fern Pin commemorating the centenary. Other merchandise includes the: Battle Pin - Battle of

Jutland 1916-2016; Battle Pin - Battle of Romani 1916-2016; Battle Pin - Battle of the Somme 1916;



## This month in NZ Military History:

From the NZ History website at [www.nzhistory.govt.nz](http://www.nzhistory.govt.nz)



**1st March 1916** - NZ Division formed: After the evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915, New Zealand forces returned to Egypt to recover. In February 1916, it was determined that Australian and NZ infantry divisions would be sent to the Western Front



**7th March 1941** – NZ troops arrive in Greece: The Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force's first campaign was to end in dispiriting defeat.



**15th March 1944** - New Zealand forces capture Castle Hill at Cassino: The 6th New Zealand Brigade attacked the Italian town of Cassino as part of the Allies' advance on Rome.



**17th March 1860** - First Taranaki War erupts at Waitara: The opening shots of the first Taranaki War were fired when British troops attacked a pa built by Te Ati Awa chief Te Rangitake at Te Kohia Waitara.



**19 March 1946** - Main body of Jayforce lands in Japan: After Japan's surrender in August 1945 the New Zealand government agreed to participate in the US-led occupation as part of a Commonwealth force.

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**After the War**  
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The cost of the pins are just \$10.00 and the book is \$24.00 and will be available for purchase on Poppy Day, and at the function after the Anzac Day dawn parade in Opunake. Alternatively, contact either Rev. Geoff Williams (06 761 8510), Shane Butler (021 1439336), Brian Vincent (06 761 8353), Bill Hayward (06 761 8478), Mo Murray (06 761 8453), or Rodney Woods (06 761 8747).

See you all on Poppy Day on the 21st of April, and on Anzac Day on the 25th April. Details of Anzac Services to follow shortly.

*Shane Butler, President*

# A need for farmers to stay connected

On March 16, Dr Tom Mulholland was back in familiar territory. For the last two and a half years he has been on the road spreading the message that farmers need to take regular health checks.

The man affectionately known as "Dr Tom" was in Okato, where he had practiced medicine, been on the school board of trustees, coached his children's rugby and still owns a house.

He and Cambridge farmer and newspaper columnist Marc Gascoigne were speakers at a Be well for your farm, family and community event run by the Taranaki Rural Support Trust held at Okato on March 16.

Farmers are less likely to come forward and get their health looked at, Tom said.

"They might live too far away, they are too busy, and when the payout is low, they won't go. They often put their cows before themselves."

He and his team had also been holding a workshop and carrying out health checks on about 35 people. On the way they had picked up problems with pre diabetes, high blood pressure and high levels of lipid fats which in turn could mean a bigger risk of heart disease.

He has been on the road carrying out tests like this for the last two and a half years. From Okato, his next stop was going to be Molesworth Station in the South Island.

He and Marc Gascoigne both spoke about some of their own experiences with depression. Marc is a third generation farmer at Rotorangi near Cambridge. Twenty two years ago he converted the farm from dry stock to dairying and now milks 460 cows. For the past year and a half his column has appeared in the New Zealand Farmer.

He said that what he perceived as the stigma of depression stopped him from talking about it to anyone, even members of his own family. The onset of winter and calving were particularly stressful times. Two years ago things got particularly bad.

"It was not just calving but the anticipation of calving," he said. "In April I hit rock bottom. I couldn't even make simple decisions. The phone would ring and I would hate



From left, Tom Mulholland, Marcia Paurini (Taranaki Rural Support co-ordinator), and Marc Gascoigne.

it. The rain would make it worse. Some townies think we farmers love as much rain as we can get, but at that time of year it's not the case. I remember one morning getting in for milking and feeling totally overwhelmed and shit scared, but there was nothing to be shit scared about."

Then he found there were others going through the same emotions, including some he thought were more resilient than he was.

A year ago, following the funeral of a nephew who had taken his own life, he tackled the issue head on in one of his columns and shared something of his own struggles.

He said he got 50 emails in response including one from a former rugby mate who said he had been thinking about ending it all, until he read Marc's column.

Marc said it was important to connect with others and stay active.

"Getting out for a run clears my head and puts things into perspective."

It's also important to keep on learning and not get

bogged down into the same way of doing things. Giving is also important.

"Whenever I give to anyone I get back 10-fold."

Tom Mulholland also spoke about the need to have a healthy life balance. As well as being a doctor and motivational speaker, he is also the author of Healthy Thinking: How to turn life's lemons into lemonade.

"Healthy thinking is about recognising your thought patterns. The more you can understand how you work, the better you will be," he says.

His interest in mental health dates back to his days as a medical student.

A condition known as SAD (Seasonal affect Disorder) meant that winter could be a particularly stressful time for farmers, he said.

Signs of depression could include irritability, a lack of libido, weight gain, self medicating and an inability to sleep, as well as not looking forward to doing things

develop a healthy balance between work, rest and play.

Taranaki Rural Support co-ordinator Marcia Paurini said she knows there are farmers hurting along the

coast.

"If you know someone who used to come to events, but is now starting to withdraw, you need to go see them," she said.

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# Autumn fertiliser choices – What kind of Spring will you have?

A client posed a question this week when we were discussing fertiliser options. He said, "I can buy a heck of a lot of magnesium oxide to supplement the cows in spring with what you are proposing we spend on magnesium fertiliser this autumn why not just supplement the cows directly?" It's a good question.

Magnesium deficiency in Taranaki is famous. There are even some old timer names for it – "Taranaki anaemia" and "leather bag". Magnesium is a requirement of just about every biochemical process. Deficiencies then, even marginal ones, have the potential to limit animal performance in many different ways other than grass staggers and milk fever.

All dairy farmers know this. Cows are drenched, bulleted and injected with the stuff. Tonnes of it is



Pat Poletti

dusted over pastures and poured into water troughs. The amounts used are often not rational – more is better! There are a few problems though and important ones.

I call the problem "supplementation risk". It is rooted in the way magnesium deficiency works in the cow. Cows have a pump mechanism in the rumen that can suck magnesium out of the rumen fluid and into the

bloodstream. As such, a cow can function on low dietary magnesium. However, increasing potassium content degrades the effectiveness of this pump. At 3% potassium in feed the pump function is reduced by 30%. At 3.5%, magnesium absorption by this mechanism is ineffective.

The other method of magnesium absorption relies on maintaining a magnesium concentration in the rumen so that it just floods into the bloodstream. With potassium above 3% (and just about every dairy pasture is) the herd becomes increasingly reliant on a magnesium intake high enough to influence blood levels i.e. a total reliance on the efficiency of the supplementation programme.

Additionally, magnesium supplements generally taste terrible and cows will go to some lengths to avoid it. Dusting is hugely inefficient

and worse in wet weather and water treatment is similarly inefficient in wet weather. Which is why calvings and metabolics are so much more severe in wet springs. At the other end of the scale magnesium toxicity is a real problem notwithstanding the sheer waste and cost of magnesium through indiscriminate use.

Planning on achieving the lowest potassium content and highest magnesium content in pastures over calving takes all the sting out of supplementation risk and consequently a major source of risk for milk fever and the long list of related issues is also mitigated.

Controlling magnesium deficiency in the spring begins with considered fertiliser choices in the Autumn. Simply pumping more magnesium into cows in the spring just does not work overly well.

Pat Poletti

# Local MP welcomes Government investment aimed at women in the primary sector

Barbara Kuriger, MP for Taranaki-King Country, and the inaugural Dairy Women of the Year (2012) welcomes news of Government investment into the Agri-Women's Development Trust (AWDT).

"I am excited to see the recent announcement of almost \$300,000 from the Sustainable Farming Fund to promote women in our agricultural sector," says Ms Kuriger.

The AWDT has received \$289,000 from the fund to design and deliver two-year pilot programmes around the country beginning in July.

"I have had the pleasure of speaking to various conferences and meetings with members of the AWDT over my career, and I know how driven these women are in their chosen profession," says Ms Kuriger.

"Individuals across rural and provincial New Zealand face unique

challenges in their industry, and the AWDT delivers programmes that bring rural women together to develop their potential.

"I am particularly thrilled to see that one of the key groups identified for the focus of these pilot programmes is aimed towards young women entering agri-sector careers. More and more women are choosing to enter the agricultural industry and are recognising it as a viable career path, which I wholeheartedly support.

"Women bring a lot to the industry. I've met women in the industry who ask me how you can become a director or how to advance their leadership skills, but what a lot don't realise is that they are already leaders in their own right.

"The AWDT programme encourages leadership growth, and all who complete the programmes go on to do exceptional things.

The other two focus groups the programmes will be piloted for are Māori women in regional communities, and women with careers outside agriculture whose expertise can be used within the sector. They will be delivered in key economic development regions including Northland, Bay of Plenty, West Coast, Hawkes Bay and Manawatu/Whanganui.

"Last week Minister for Youth Hon Nikki Kaye announced \$146,000 under a new partnership for TeenAg, an agricultural youth programme run by New Zealand Young Farmers. The youth programme aims to promote leadership potential in our young farmers in the agriculture sector.

"I am absolutely heartened to see the Government's commitment to rural and provincial New Zealand with announcements such as these," says Ms Kuriger.

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The crowd listening to a speaker.

## Meeting Taranaki's dairy industry winners

A disciplined savings strategy is helping Shaun Neal progress through the dairy industry at a rapid rate.

The 23-year-old is in his second season managing Simon and Gillian O'Connell's 325-cow farm at Auroa.

He was named Taranaki Dairy Manager of the Year this month and will step up to a contract milking position in June.

"I've probably progressed a bit quicker than I thought I would," Shaun told the crowd at a recent field day.

"Simon O'Connell has taught me a lot. He probably took a risk taking me on, I was pretty green."

Dairy Industry Awards judges praised Shaun's skills in financial management, farm record keeping and feed budgeting.

The farm is working to

reduce its reliance on palm kernel as a supplementary feed by growing 3.5 hectares of fodder beet.

"We hope having the fodder beet will cut our palm kernel usage by 50-80 tonnes," he said.

Shaun's goal is to be 50/50 sharemilking 250-300 cows within three years and he has a strict savings strategy.

"This season I wanted to save half of my gross farm income and I achieved that," he said.

"It was a case of being disciplined and going without some things, but a bit of hard saving never hurt anyone."

Taranaki Dairy Trainee of the Year Tim Bonner has plenty of advice for new entrants to the industry.

"Always ask why you're doing something and learn from your mistakes," he told

the crowd.

Tim's currently second-in-charge on an 800-cow farm at Kapuni, but he's also going contract milking next season. "One of the best things I did was see an accountant who gave me some budgeting advice and told me how much I needed to save," he said.

The field day was hosted by Taranaki Share Farmers of the Year Johanna and Dion Bishell, who 50/50 sharemilk 470 cows at Manaia.

The couple is taking on a second 50/50 sharemilking job of 370 cows in June.

"We will have a contract milker on that farm," Johanna said.

"It's hard to get a second job and convince farm owners you can do both, but we do monthly reports.

"Communication is key

to our relationship with our farm owners."

The 2009 Taranaki Sharemilker of the Year Lorette Astwood-Davidson urged dairy farmers to enter the Dairy Industry Awards.

"The awards helped us leapfrog ahead to achieve our goals quicker than we thought would be possible," she told the crowd.

## Proposed School of Rural Health a timely initiative

Today's announcement by Otago and Auckland universities for a proposed School of Rural Health couldn't be better timed and if implemented will underpin the rural health workforce for the medium to long term future, says New Zealand Rural General Network Chairperson Sharon Hansen.

"A well trained primary health care workforce has never been so important. With the rural sector particularly suffering inequity of access to general practice, it is a timely move. This proposal is a targeted approach to solving looming issues around workforce and service delivery across rural New Zealand.

"It's also about health equity for rural communities and delivering health

outcomes to rural people on par with their urban counterparts," she says.

The creation of a new National School of Rural Health (SRH) is being investigated by New Zealand's two medical schools at the University of Otago and the University of Auckland, in association with the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network (NZRGPN).

The SRH aims to enable a vibrant and sustainable rural component for all health professional students by building a dispersed inter-professional faculty with its own leadership, based at up to 20 sites in rural communities across New Zealand.

Ms Hansen, a Temuka-based nurse practitioner says pressures on the rural health workforce are well-documented. "With a bubble of retiring GPs - 44 percent intend to retire within the next 10 years - there is a clear need to train more doctors, nurses and other allied health professionals to ensure that the integrated rural healthcare team is well equipped to look after the primary health care needs of rural communities."

Ms Hansen said it is not a matter of replacing GPs with other health professionals, such as pharmacists or nurses, rather there is a need to ensure that more doctors, nurses and allied professions enter the rural health training pathway. This will ensure a sustainable workforce into the future.

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# New Zealand title for Campbell

Less than three years after taking up road racing, Campbell Grayling has claimed his first national championship.

The 17 year-old Francis Douglas Memorial College student from Awatuna won the 250cc production class in the nationals which were held over four meets around the country from January-March.

Last year he was placed fifth in the same event.

Winning a national title had been seen as a longer term goal.

"I thought I would be lucky to get in the top three, then I surprised myself by winning it," he says. "When I went to the South Island I found I went faster than I'd ever gone before."

Road racing has traditionally been stronger in the South Island than in the

North, but things seem to be changer. Last year Campbell was one of only two North Islanders taking part. This year, out of 9 or 10 taking part, five came from the North Island.

Racing conditions were good for all the rounds except for the second race at Invercargill, where it was cold and wet. These conditions contributed to him falling off and hurting his ankle.

Nevertheless going into the final round at Hampton Downs, he had managed to build up a 20 point lead, which Campbell said, could still be overtaken were he to have a mishap.

"I had a lead, but I wasn't very comfortable with it. I felt I needed to finish the races and wrap up the title." The honours didn't



Campbell Grayling in full flight

finish with the national championship.

Winning the Christchurch race gave him the NZ GP title, and winning in

Auckland gave him the NZ TT title.

Future racing options could include on to 125GP class bike, or super light class, or

a 650 class bike.

"It would be awesome to race overseas. Just to get the opportunity would be amazing," says Campbell.

In the meantime he is looking towards his last year at Francis Douglas and studying towards an engineering degree in 2018.

## Opunake Bowling Club enjoys success



Opunake winning ladies Val McEldowney, Ann Brophy, Lyn Weir, Anne Duggan

On February 9, Opunake hosted a successful Ladies Fours and Pairs Tournament. There was a full field of Opunake Ladies plus visitors.

1st Val McEldowney (skip)

Anne Brophy, Anne Duggan and Lyn Weir (4 wins, 48 points) from NP Club. 2nd Valda Rowan's team from Paritutu (4 wins, 47 points). 3rd Barbara Batley's Team from Paritutu (3 wins, 41

points).

There was the biggest number of entries for many years for the Ladies Championship Singles. Eight ladies put their names forward.

This is played on a two life system, and is ongoing, with Bev Robinson still having two lives, Eileen Rothwell and Diane Steward have one each, with Kay Fleming defaulting.

The Ladies team who went to Dunedin performed creditably with one win, two draws and one loss. Games were played on very heavy greens, so well done girls.

For the Shield, Opunake Ladies won the Southern

Division and played the Northern Division winners Paritutu, at Stratford on March 21, with each fielding three teams on 21 ends.

Opunake won two games to three. This Shield has been played for 69 times -

Opunake has won nine times and Paritutu three times.

The Men's team of Rodney Woods, Kevin Ratahi, Dan Ratahi and Wayne Field won the Club of Origin Event held each year in New Plymouth. There were two greens full of men from around Taranaki who took part with Opunake taking first prize.

Way to go guys.

## Try-Athlon brings coastal schools together

On Friday March 24 the Mt Spa Coastal Schools Try-Athlon was held at Opunake Community Pools and the High School fields. This is a fantastic event organised by the Pools Committee and a small group of helpers.

On the day there were 154 participants aged from 7-12 from seven different schools in our area. The participating schools included St Josephs Opunake, Opunake Primary, Rahotu Primary, Matapu Primary, Manaia Primary, Kaponga Primary and Auroa Primary.

The race consisted of a swim, bike and run for individuals, or teams could come together to share the load. The day was a great success with Rahotu School taking home the winner's trophy and a cash prize for their school. This is calculated from participation percentages and the first three place getters of each category earning points. There was

also a special prize for good sportsmanship which went to Declan Vermeylen who stopped mid-race to help another biker with a broken chain. It was great to see so many happy kids giving it their best shot and many supporters cheering them on.

There is a lot of work that goes into organising these events as the safety of all the children is our highest priority. We required a heap of volunteers to make sure everything ran smoothly. I would like to acknowledge members from the following groups for their fantastic help. St Johns Opunake, Opunake Fire Brigade, Lakeside Lions, Harry and the Opunake High School, Nigel Robinson, the schools, marshalls and of course the Pool Committee. The list could go on.

A great event for our region, hope to see you all again next year.

Hannah Drought



Lily Bright from Rahotu School participating in the MT SPA Tryatlon at Opunake

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# Hawera target shooters begin their season

Hawera target shooters have started off into a new year of shooting. Thanks to the willing helpers a whole new target holding board was installed. Already scores on practice cards are showing promise. Christina Burr had a 98.5 and an average of close to 95 over 4 cards T C Conchie has moved on to full cards and is

close to the 90s.

On April 1 the season starts for real when scores are recorded for grading and seasons aggregates. 1/3/17 scores: M Peters 90.1, 90.2, D Rangi 85.0, 84.0, B Cameron 98.6, 99.7, 197.12, J Cameron 94.3, 94.3, 190.6, T C Conchie 96gr, 98gr, S Gooding 96.4, 91.3, 195.7, C Barr 91.2,

187.4, 93.1, M Beare 89gr, H Andreoli 95.2, 190.4, F Eustace 100.8, 95.5, 195.8. 8/3/17 scores: T C Conchie 100gr, 79.1, M Beare 82.0, 86.2, M Peters 92.1, 93.2, J Cameron 97.1, 192.5, B Cameron 99.3, 100.7, 195.9, S Gooding 99.6, 97.2, 194.10, A Munro 88.1, 100gr, RS Patterson 90.1, C Robinson 95gr, 100gr,

C. Burr 90.0, 93.1, 15/3/17 scores: D Rangi 79.1, 80.0, TC Conchie 82.2, 87.2, B. Cameron 100.9, 100.8, 197.10, J. Cameron 99.8, 95.3, F Eustace 99.3, 193.9, S Gooding 98.7, 97.4, 193.8, C Burr 91.2, 193.8, 95.2, H Andreoli 95.4, 96.5, 92.1.

Frank Eustace

# Pihama are Taranaki senior champions



Pihama cricket team members celebrate at Pihama.

It was neighbour against neighbour in this year's Taranaki TET senior cricket championship. It's only an eight minute drive between the Pihama and Auroa cricket clubs, but their two teams travelled all the way to New Plymouth to compete for the C.E. Betts Memorial Trophy at Pukekura Park on the first weekend of March. In the end Pihama came out the victors winning by three wickets in the 39th over, after last year's winners Auroa had posted 163/9 in their 45 overs.

For Pihama M.Davis scored 34 runs and G.Batchelor 33. R.Walker had bowling figures of 2-28 and M.Davis (2-49). J.Sinclair and B.Barrett also took wickets.

Auroa's top scorers were N.P.Potter(34) and R.M.Muller(26). T.L.Luxton took two wickets, with D.P.Perrett, K.T.Tai, N.P.Potter, D.F.Fischer and J.F.Fevre taking a wicket each.

Ironically Pihama's only

loss on their way to the final was against Auroa when the two teams had met in the first round before Christmas.

It was also unusual for the two teams to face off in the final as usually one has been able to knock off the other on the way up.

The last time Pihama lifted the trophy was back in the 2011-12 season.

The two teams are long time rivals, having competed for their own Ashes every year since 1985. Honours have been evenly shared in that time, but this time Pihama walked away with this trophy as well.

At the team's prizegiving, Mark Davis was named Player of the year. The team's leading wicket taker was 17 year-old Francis Douglas Memorial College student Jackson Sinclair. Other highlights of the season included centuries from Blake Barrett and Brendan Harvey.

Pihama's championship

team included players from as far afield as New Plymouth and ranged in age from 16 to 54.

Pihama Cricket Club members also speak with pride of their grounds.

"All those city teams from New Plymouth love coming here, with these beautiful grounds and the mountain in the background," Pihama club president and groundsman Hamish Campbell says.

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

**Other areas**

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

ALL WELCOME

**THE WAVE**

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

**ST. BARNABAS**

Anglican Church 141 Tasman St, Opunake  
**Sunday Services** 10.00am  
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**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Meeting 1st Monday of each month at 5.30PM

Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Are you helping the survival of Taranaki's native plants, animals and ecosystems?**

Private landowners, community groups or organizations can apply to the Wild for Taranaki Community Biodiversity Fund for **50% funding** (up to \$10,000) for suitable projects.

Projects could include controlling predators or pest plants, restoration planting, fencing, environmental education or monitoring native plants or animals.

**Application forms are available from:**

- www.wildfortaranaki.nz
- contact@wildfortaranaki.nz
- or phone the Regional Biodiversity Co-ordinator on 0800 736 222



Applications close 30 April 2017

**Performing Arts Grants**

**Your invitation to share the dream**

The Dame Malvina Major Foundation is proud to provide funding opportunities to talented young Taranaki Performing Artists.

Applications are now being invited for the annual funding round, closing at 5pm on Friday 31st March 2017.

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

**Secondary:** For Taranaki Secondary School Students aged 12-18 years.

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

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

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

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



Dame Malvina Major Foundation

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**DRYSTOCK LEASE FOR TENDER**

98 acres 1871 Wiremu Rd, Rahotu. Tender documents available from Margaret Steiner-Joyce at Govett Quilliam, 1 Dawson St, New Plymouth. Ph: 768 3736  
*The lessor shall not be obliged to accept the highest or any tender. For viewing phone: S. Harrop, 763 8460.*  
 Tenders close 21 April 2017,  
 Tenderers will be notified by April 24.

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**OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month.

**OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB**

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

**SCHNITZEL NIGHT**

Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato

**COASTALCARE – LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY**

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**EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB**

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**ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS**

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**THE VILLAGE GALLERY**

STITCHING and TURNING and ABSTRACT THOUGHTS. Work by Tracey Mather, Bruce Tylee, Alison Sulzberger and Frances Busby 13 March - 7 April.

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

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 3645 Surf Highway 45, Fonterra No 42242. Refer advert for full details.

**ANDREW LITTLE LIVE**

with introduction by Jacinda Ardern. Join the Labour Leader and his Deputy as they deliver a special State of New Plymouth address and share Labour's plans for the region and our nation. Friday 31 March 5.30pm, Our Place, 75 Devon Street East, New Plymouth

**PERCY THOMSON GALLERY**

Connections 2017, March 31 - April 30. Refer advert for full details.

**BUTLERS REEF**

SLAM - Great covers band, Saturday April 1. No cover charge, playing in the front bar from 9pm.

**TARANAKI NATIONAL ART AWARDS AGM**

1pm, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake. Further Information at [contact@taranakiartawards.co.nz](mailto:contact@taranakiartawards.co.nz)

**EXHIBITION OPENING – THE VILLAGE GALLERY**

A community art exhibition will be opened by Mayor Ross Dunlop at THE VILLAGE GALLERY, ELTHAM on 9th April, 2.30pm followed by 'The Art of Stained Glass' a self guided tour at All Saints Church 3.30pm

**2017 TARANAKI ROSE OF TRALEE SELECTION**

ENTER NOW at [www.roseoftralee.ie/roses](http://www.roseoftralee.ie/roses). Competition Dates: Easter Monday 17th April, 2017. Afternoon at the Races - Harness Racing – Hawera. Interviews - Auto Lodge New Plymouth 6.30pm

Taranaki Final: Sat 29th April, 2017. Dinner and Dance 6.30pm Plymouth Hotel New Plymouth. Tickets at Reception – Live Band – Irish Dancers

For more information contact: Louise Buhler 06)274 8494 027 330 8510 [p.lm.buhler@xtra.co.nz](mailto:p.lm.buhler@xtra.co.nz)

**THE CUE THEATRE**

Eugenia, 26th April - 6th May. Refer advert for full details.

**TARANAKI TOA TRIATHLON**

Opunake - 22 April. Contact Alf Robson. 021 220 9484. [www.taranakitoea.co.nz](http://www.taranakitoea.co.nz)

**ROSE OF TRALEE**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April at the Plymouth Hotel.

**HAWERA REPERTORY SOCIETY PRODUCTION**

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

**Have a lawn like they do at Tupare**

Learn how Tūpare achieves grass with class at a free workshop on Sunday April 2.

Tūpare is one place where the art of lawn care has been perfected – and you can learn some of the secrets at a free public workshop on Sunday April 2 at the iconic New Plymouth heritage property.

The good news is that it doesn't have to take all of your time -- the workshop will focus on practical, time-saving tips for achieving an

attractive sweep of lawn that you can be proud of.

The workshop will be useful for those preparing and establishing a new lawn, as well as those repairing and maintaining a mature lawn. Topics will include seasonal challenges, aeration, de-thatching and feeding regimes.

Sunday's workshop runs

from 2pm to 4pm at Tūpare, 487 Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth. It is part of a year-round programme of free public events at Tūpare, Pukeiti and Hollard Gardens, the three heritage properties owned and managed by the Taranaki Regional Council on behalf of the people of the region.

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Last years Toa Mounga Tri Series participants.

# Taranaki Toa Mounga Tri Series set to make a return to Opunake

Last year Opunake hosted the inaugural Taranaki Toa Mounga Tri Series Triathlon. Such was the success that the event will make a return on Saturday April 22.

Event organiser Alf Robson is pleased to be able to bring the event

back to Opunake, and was particularly pleased with the level of participation and community support for the event.

Much of the event's success can also be attributed to locals Julie Morgan, Lisa Ison, Marama Ratahi and Angeleigh Young,

who are engaging the local community in supporting the kaupapa.

Taranaki Toa was established to promote hau ora (health and wellness) through exercise and triathlon and aims to get people active.

The events focus on

participation rather than competition and are entry level, allowing participants to have a go with the support of their whanau and friends around them.

The hope is that those that participate in the events will engage in a healthy lifestyle change on an ongoing basis.

Alf is proud to have both travelled the hau ora journey himself, and to have witnessed the amazing journeys of others who have been able to progress from entry level triathlons to as far as completing a full Ironman.

The first event on the

calendar took place in Waitara on March 25, and it is hoped there will be enough support to host an event in Whakaahurangi (Stratford) on May 20.

If you are interested in registering for the event go to [www.taranakitoa.co.nz](http://www.taranakitoa.co.nz)



**Taranaki Toa Triathlon**  
Opunake - 22 April  
Contact Alf Robson on 021 220 9484  
[www.taranakitoa.co.nz](http://www.taranakitoa.co.nz)

Our next issue is due out  
**APRIL 14**

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**1st Mini Concert**  
**Pihama Music Jam**  
Sunday 23rd April 2017



**Venue: Pihama Lavender,**  
3510, South Road, Opunake.

Time 2:00pm - 8:00pm after the growers & makers market.  
Enjoy a family fun-filled day of music & entertainment.  
Bring a picnic rug - food and drink on site, or BYO.  
Bring the kids, bring everyone - come and enjoy.  
Entry \$5 per person, children 10 and under **free**  
Tickets available online from Event Finder.  
See next issue of Opunake & Coastal News for more details.

**Opunake Music Workshop**

7:30pm Tuesday, 4th April 2017

Catholic Church, 33 Whitcombe Road, Opunake.

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## Ricki is hooked on Elvis

The Elvis Presley addiction began when Ricki Marr was about five years old, and he's been hooked on The King of Rock 'N' Roll ever since. Locals and visitors may have heard Ricki singing, and moving those hips to his rendition of songs like 'Teddy Bear' and 'In the Ghetto' as he entertained with the Opunake Music Workshop group during the recent Americarna event held in Opunake on February 22.

Now based in Manaia, father of seven with one step-daughter, Ricki was born in New Plymouth, and raised in Okaiawa, 14 km north-west of Hawera. Okaiawa was once the centre of a chain of private dairy factories, now - with a population count of 537. The youngest of 16 children, and descendant of a German grandfather and Maori mother, Ricki confides he was brought up around music as soon as he could walk, singing in church.

"At school I used to sing Maori songs in class," he said, and "when I was five, I was mowing the lawn and Mum asked me to turn the mower off. I refused, became upset and cried, so Dad turned the TV on, and Elvis was singing. After that I wasn't upset anymore, and I went back to mowing the lawn."

That was obviously an effective method of distraction, which has led

to a lifelong appreciation for Elvis music. Even today, he still watches Elvis movies on you tube.

While living in Tauranga, Ricki recorded a jingle called 'The Polypanel People', to promote a polystyrene product for the company he worked for at the time. Then, during his time as a police warden and police liaison officer, he says, "I used to sing to the young people on the street, and frequently said to them, If you stay out of trouble I'll sing Elvis Presley." This was successful, because, "everyone knows Elvis," he says. His favourite Elvis song is 'King Creole', from the film with the same title, first recorded by Elvis Presley with The Jordanaires in 1958.

Ricki spent 10 years in Australia, where he recorded 20 of his own original songs. Predominantly based in Melbourne, he travelled all over Oz while doing construction work, but still made time to sing at parties, local pubs, and regularly jammed with his local touch rugby team. A multi-instrumentalist, he's self-taught and plays guitar, piano, saxophone and harmonica. A giving, generous person, he recently gave away his trademark pink guitar to his grand-niece Awhina, to encourage her to develop her musical skills. He's now in search of a new guitar.

All are welcome to come



Ricki Marr enjoying his passion for Elvis at the Opunake Music Workshop.

along to our first mini concert at Pihama Lavender, 3510 South Road, Opunake on Sunday April 23 from 2:00pm until 8:00pm. Why not make it a fun-filled entertaining family day and enjoy the Pihama growers and makers market from 10:00am until 2:00pm, and then stay for the concert. Bring a picnic rug. There will be food and drinks on site, or BYO. Support Ricki Marr and other talented singers and musicians from all over Taranaki at the 'Pihama Music Jam' event. Entry to the morning market is free. Entry to the 'Pihama Music Jam' is only \$5.00 per person, children 10 and under - free. Tickets are

available online from Event Finder. A limited number of tickets available on the day at Pihama Lavender. For more information phone Liz at Pihama Lavender on 06-215 8169 or check on Facebook.

All budding performers, please join us at the next Opunake Music Workshop 7:30pm on Tuesday April 4 for our usual fortnightly meeting at the Catholic Church lounge, 33 Whitcombe Rd, Opunake. It would be appreciated if those who can afford to, could make a gold coin donation to go towards the use of power etc. at the Catholic Church.

Anne Montgomery

# The Village Gallery latest exhibition has an interesting artistic blend

The Village Gallery's latest exhibition involves four artists with an interesting blend of artistic endeavour. This most worthwhile exhibition, entitled 'Unification: Stitching and turning with Abstract Thought' runs until April 7. The artists include Tracey Mather from New Plymouth with her abstract paintings and mixed media, Bruce Tylee from New Plymouth with his woodturning, and two quilters - Alison Sulzberger from Eltham and Frances Busby from Hawera.

outset was Tracey Mather's superbly striking 'Cuban Cancan' (mixed media), which was probably my favourite exhibit on display. Another exhibit which I liked was her 'Free Fall' (acrylic on card/canvas). 'Old McDonald's Farm' (mixed media) was intriguing and must have taken many hours to complete to such a high standard.

I was amazed at the huge diversity of Bruce Tylee's wood turned exhibits - there were just so many different useful items such as bowls, goblets, candlesticks, trinket boxes, earring holders even

a needle holder. He also uses a wide range of woods including rimu, yew, totara, golden elm, radiata, kowhai and jacaranda. All exhibits are finished to a high standard indeed.

The work of the two quilters was remarkable in their imaginative prowess, as well as the eye-catching use of many colours. Many of Francis Busby's exhibits would appeal greatly to children, such as her 'My Funny Farm' (hand applique and quilting), which shows the depiction of delightful arrangement of creatures such as giraffes, pigs, cats

and even caterpillars. I was also taken by her 'I Spy Hexus II' (handpieced hexagonal and hand quilted).

Alison Sulzberger's 'My Feelings' (hand applique and quilting) was both thought-provoking and excellent, with a display of different faces depicting different moods such as happy, sad, sleepy and confident - to mention just a few. This was surrounded by an amazing array of a multitude of stars. This was one of the stand-out exhibits of the whole exhibition to my mind. Her 'Dancing Girls' (machine pieces and hand quilted)

was another exhibit worthy of note. Make sure you find time to see this uniquely brilliant exhibition. The Village Gallery is situated at

166 High Street Eltham and is open 9am to 3pm Monday to Saturday. Remember, the last day of the exhibition is April 7.



A selection of Bruce Tylee's woodturning.



'My Funny Farm' quilt by Frances Busby.



'My Feelings' quilt by Alison Sulzberger.



LEFT: Artist Tracey Mather with 'Cuban Cancan' (mixed media).

## Art by Eltham artists

Community Art Exhibitions are a great way to identify, encourage and support local artists and their art. This was true in 1999 and due to the success another was also held, eventually leading to the opening of The Village Gallery in 2001.

Now the Village Gallery is showcasing 'Art by Eltham Artists' from April 10-May 5. This is the first time that this 'local' exhibition has been held at the Gallery. Previously the Community Art Exhibitions were held at the Eltham Town Hall.

"We are always impressed with the quality of the work", says Maree Liddington of the coordinating team. "Many artists have gone on to become regular exhibitors".

Artists who have lived in, or who belong to the now select group of those who were born in the Eltham / Kaponga ward have been invited to submit two art works in any medium. There are several new exhibitors.

Mayor Ross Dunlop will open the Exhibition at 2.30pm on Sunday April 9 at The Village Gallery. All are welcome.

As an added attraction, the All Saints' Anglican Church will be open from 3:30pm for those wishing to view the authentic art of the hand painted Stained Glass windows within the building and view other local exhibits

there. The Church will be open leading up to Easter (Monday to Thursday). A brochure 'The Art of Stained Glass' detailing the windows will be available for the first time.



A brochure 'The Art of Stained Glass' detailing the windows will be available for the first time.



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A community art exhibition will be opened by Mayor Ross Dunlop at **THE VILLAGE GALLERY, ELTHAM** on 9th April, 2.30pm followed by 'The Art of Stained Glass' a self guided tour at All Saints Church 3.30pm

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## PIHAMA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ANNUAL WALK FOR CANCER

Wednesday 19th April at

Michelle and Richard Julians Farm

The Lake, 3645 Surf Highway 45, Fonterra No 42242

Registration 9.30am. Walk starts 10am

Adults \$10 Children \$2

Contact Bernadette Gopperth Ph: 06 761 7346

Meet at Julian's Farm - Fonterra No 42242 on the Main

Road, Rapid No 3645, Pihama

Signposted with parking in the paddock.

Country lunch provided.

All participants must sign the safety waiver.

Promote your events in the

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL  
NEWS**

# Generous gift of \$1000 greatly appreciated

Mike Williams, Chairperson of Coastal Community Transport Drivers, was delighted to receive a cheque from Terry Mullin, President of Opunake Lions on Tuesday March 21. The ceremony was held just outside Coastal Care in Opunake "We absolute need it - it is very much appreciated," Mike said.

Brian Vincent, another driver who was present at the ceremony commented, "We appreciate any help we can get."

Mike's organisation (which is under the "umbrella" of NZ Red Cross), has five drivers at present, and is made up of volunteers who give up their time to drive people to New Plymouth (mostly), but sometimes to such towns as Hawera and Stratford. Members of the community are driven to such places as WINZ, New Plymouth Base

Hospital, medical specialists or perhaps to an audiology centre to obtain a new hearing aid. The drivers then wait until their passenger is finished so they can return them to their homes.

Although the drivers do receive something to cover their mileage costs, there are others outgoings which are not covered.

Terry said, "They wrote us a letter and we didn't hesitate because they deserve it. This is what Lions do. Any money we raise goes back to the community."

Mike has been Chairperson for three years and a driver for four years. "I enjoy driving and talking to people I meet." He adds, "You get a diverse range of people."

If you can help please contact either Mike Williams (phone 06 761 8802) or Brian Vincent (06 761 83530).



From left, Mike Williams (Chairperson of Coastal Community Drivers) receives a much-appreciated cheque for \$1,000 from Terry Mullin, President of Opunake Lions.



## Taranaki rugby kicks off

Rugby officially starts up this weekend with the first games of the season. Rahu will be the place to be for all of the action as Coastal have three games; Division Two play Okaiawa. Division 1 and the Premier side face New Plymouth Old Boys. Go Coastal!



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# Connection and Illumination at Percy Thomson

Connections 2017 31 March – 30 April.

Connections 2017 on display at Percy Thomson Gallery in Stratford comprises five female Taranaki artists who explore the pathways through which their art has taken them, connecting them in a common thread of artistic exploration.

Dorothy Andrews grew up in England but spent most of her adult life in Taranaki.

“My work is greatly influenced by Art Nouveau, Surrealism and ancient Crewel embroidery,” she says. “Our desire for material wealth is manipulating and destroying everything around us. We are greedy and uncaring. If it doesn't make a profit it is not worth doing, regardless of whether it could make the world a better place. Even the beautiful, green hills of Taranaki have dark, oily secrets hiding behind them. I hope my distorted plants and animals and my lack of perspective and composition will leave the viewer just slightly uncomfortable.”

In recent years Jenny Bielawski has worked primarily as a fibre artist.

“Knitting has played a major role in my life since I learned the craft when I was eight years old,” she says. “Most of my energy in the past was spent knitting

garments for my family. Stitch patterns fascinate me and I love the history of knitting and the development of the stitch designs from all over the world. An idea that nagged me for years was that there must be a way to bring knitting into the Fine Arts arena. In this exhibition, I am concentrating more on actual stitches that help me to represent trees for the work White Forest.”

Viv Davy was born in New Zealand and studied and practiced in Canada, Currently settled in Opunake, the coast and the mountains stimulate a strong feeling of connection with the natural landscape. This is reflected in Viv's palette of natural pigments and a natural materiality.

Many of Viv's works challenge our perceptions of life and require close inspection. The current body of work reflects the disruption to the world, while reflecting the collapse of the natural world under the pressures of climate change. Viv explores these changes and their interconnectedness through reflective observations.

Antonia O'Mahony's work is mainly in etching and drawing, but lately she has been experimenting with media she has only touched on in the past. For Connections 17 she exhibits



**Eltham stained glass artist Paul Burgham is showing eight large contemporary lamps in his exhibition 'ILLUMINATION'.**

work created in her home studio in printmaking and other materials.

Juliet Chell is a multi-disciplinary artist, working across sculpture, drawing, painting and printmaking.

Illumination Paul Burgham 31 March – 30 April

Glass artist Paul Burgham's love of nature is reflected in his work. Bright yellow kowhai, paua, fern, flax, and volcanoes feature in eight lamps which take centre stage in his exhibition 'Illumination'.

Paul attributes this love of nature to his mother's teachings and the influence of Art Nouveau, Art Deco and the Arts and Crafts Movement.

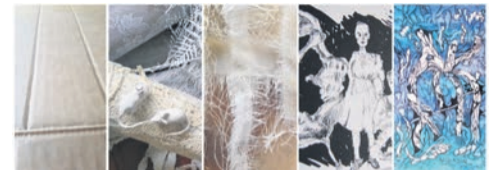
Paul is an Eltham lad. “When I left school I

glass is a favourite medium “I average two stained glass lights per year. It is a lengthy process by the time you design, break the glass, soak the wood, and make bases.”

Paul recently finished a commission for the design, fabrication and installation of new stained-

glass windows for the Mary Phelan chapel at Sacred Heart Girls' College, and has worked on mosaic tiles for the murals in the Eltham public toilets.

Both exhibitions open at Percy Thomson Gallery on Friday March 31 at 7pm. All welcome.

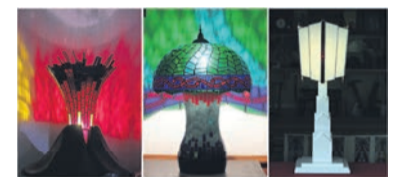


## Connections 2017

Jenny Bielawski • Viv Davy • Antonia O'Mahony

Dorothy Andrews • Juliet Chell

**March 31 – April 30**



## ILLUMINATION

Paul Burgham

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY  
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art education inspiration  
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## CoastalCare Health and Community Centre

CoastalCare offers for hire, quiet, private, well-appointed room's for meetings, training opportunities & social gatherings. This will seat up to 60 people or it has the flexibility to be divided into two smaller rooms. The facilities include a lounge area & kitchenette for self-service of coffees and tea

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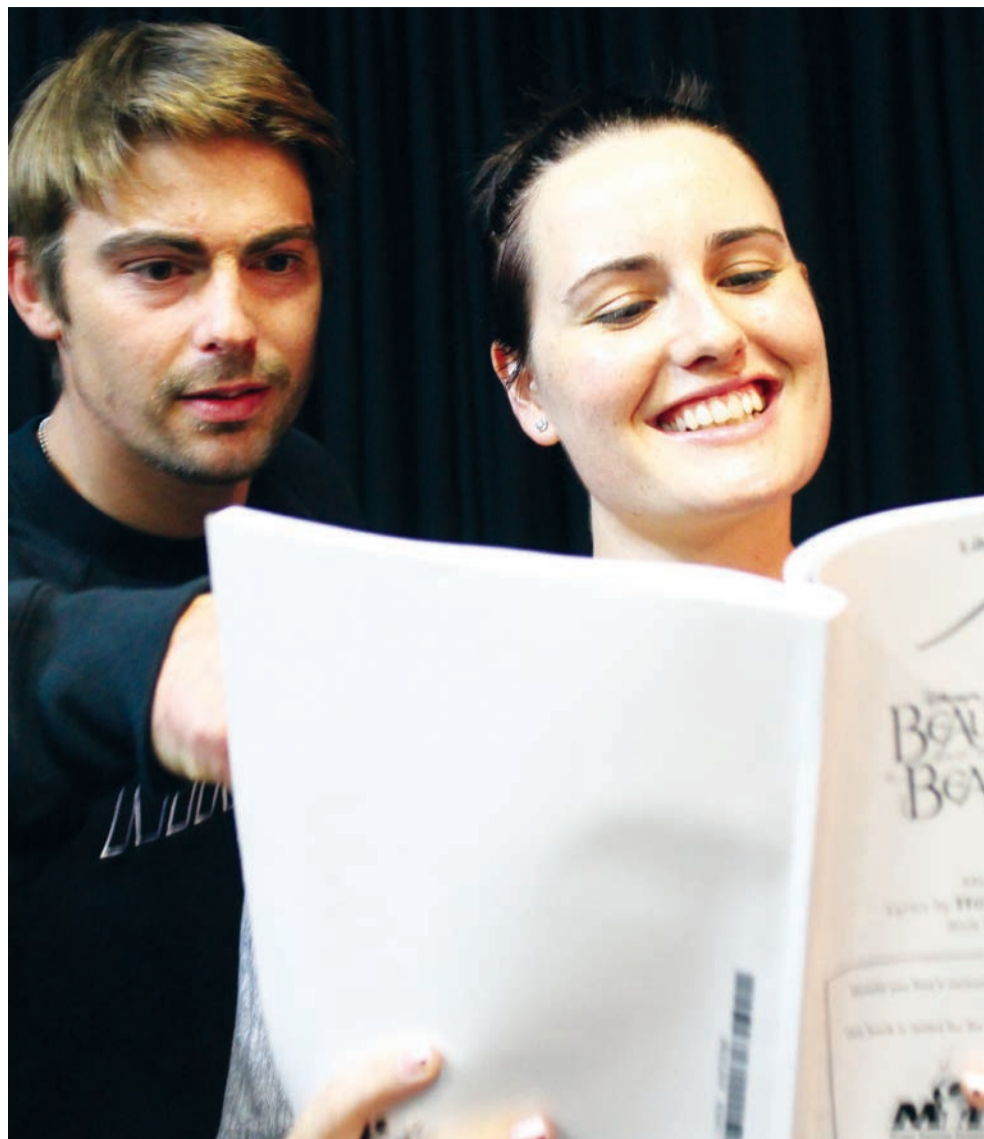
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	<b>KONG: SKULL ISLAND</b> Action, Adventure, Fantasy   118 MINS   M Violence and offensive language Legendary Entertainment's second installment in their Godzilla-Kong series which serves as a prequel to King Kong.		<b>LOGAN</b> Action, Science Fiction   2hrs 17mins   R16 Graphic violence, offensive language & cruelty Logan's attempts to hide from the world and his legacy are up-ended when a young mutant arrives, being pursued by dark forces.
Friday 31 March 7pm Saturday 8 April 1pm	Wed 5 April 1pm	Saturday 1 April 7pm Sunday 16 April 7pm	Friday 7 April 7pm
	<b>FENCES</b> Drama, Historical, Festival & Independent   2hrs 18mins   PG Coarse language and sexual references This drama about a struggling father raising a family in racially-intolerant 1950s America. Co-stars Viola Davis as Rose Lee Maxson, the wife of Washington's character.		<b>GARY OF THE PACIFIC</b> Comedy   1hr 58 mins   M - contains violence offensive language, sexual reference & nudity. N Z & Pacific Gary Vasisi is called back to his homeland in the Pacific, he's handed a great opportunity - the chance to take his dying father's crown and become Chief of an island that is rapidly sinking into the ocean.
Sunday 2 April 7pm Wednesday 12 April 7pm	Saturday 8 April 7pm	Wednesday 5 April 7pm Wednesday 12 April 1pm	Sunday 9 April 7pm Saturday 15 April 7pm
	<b>POWER RANGERS</b> Action, Adventure, Fantasy, Science Fiction   M   2hrs 4 mins The director of Project Almanac takes on a modern version of the '90s action series about a group of teens who find a mysterious source of power.	<b>**BOUTIQUE NIGHT**</b> <b>SUNDAY 2 April 2017</b> <b>FENCES</b> Tickets For Sale at Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration. Tasman Street. Opunake. (Cash only) \$25 per Adult - \$15 per Child Boutique Tickets can be paid for online. Please book tickets by Saturday 1 April 12pm. For more information phone 027 290 2892 Regular seating available upstairs.	
Friday 14 April 7pm Monday 17 April 1pm	Saturday 15 April 1pm Sunday 23 April 7pm		
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
29 Jackie 1pm Manchester by the Sea 7pm	31 Kong: Skull Island 7pm	1 Lion 1pm Logan 7pm	2 **Boutique Night** Fences 7pm
5 Kong: Skull Island 1pm Gary of the Pacific 7pm	7 Logan 7pm	8 Kong: Skull Island 1pm Fences 7pm	9 Gary of the Pacific 7pm
12 Gary of the Pacific 1pm Fences 7pm	14 Power Rangers 7pm	15 Power Rangers 1pm Gary of the Pacific 7pm	16 Logan 7pm

# Behind the scenes at Beauty and the Beast



The Beast (Bergen Raikes) and Belle (Krystal Leuthard) hard at work at rehearsal.

Time is running out to purchase discounted tickets to Hawera's upcoming musical fairytale Beauty and the Beast.

Early bird prices end on Monday April 1 and standard charges will begin to apply.

Director Samantha Turner said people often wondered how much major productions cost the Hawera Repertory Society to stage.

"In the case of 2017's Beauty and the Beast, it's going to be over \$100,000," she said.

"Hawera Repertory produces its own shows. The director controls all the artistic content of the show and the society supplies heads of department and all production requirements."

It can take up to two years for a budget to be accepted, ticket price set and the show dates confirmed.

Beauty and the Beast will be on at the Hawera Memorial Theatre stage from May 25 to June 3.

"Around four to five months before the show is staged, auditions are advertised and held."

The 50 performers began rehearsing alongside show stars Krystal Leuthard (Belle) and Bergen Raikes (Beast) in January, and Turner said they were required to commit three nights every week to preparing for their stage debut.

"Casting successfully is one of the major hurdles. Once we've done that we have to pay advance royalties even though we haven't sold any tickets yet."

Musical director Shaun Campbell said the effort

put in to set construction, wardrobe design, advertising and orchestral development was a crucial component and ensured the production was ready on time.

"About three weeks before opening, rehearsals move the theatre and we add in the lighting, sound and set pieces," he said.

"There can be up to 120 people at the theatre every

night, including cast and crew, making each show happen."

Throughout the process everyone involved hoped ticket sales would be enough to produce and modest profit.

"Without profit there can be no future shows or support for junior repertory," she said.

Turner hoped every performance would be a full

house. "All ages- preschool through to senior citizens- will enjoy the songs, the dancing and the chance to get lost in a fairytale."

Tickets are available from Ticket Direct [www.ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz) and at the South Taranaki i-Site.

Seating choices can be made online.

Petra Finer.

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Claire Richardson 2016 Taranaki Rose

**2017 Taranaki Rose of Tralee Selection**  
ENTER NOW at [www.roseoftralee.ie/roses](http://www.roseoftralee.ie/roses)

**Competition Dates: Easter Monday 17th April, 2017**  
Afternoon at the Races - Harness Racing - Hawera.  
Interviews - Auto Lodge New Plymouth 6.30pm

**Taranaki Final: Sat 29th April, 2017**  
Dinner and Dance 6.30pm Plymouth Hotel New Plymouth  
Tickets at Reception - Live Band - Irish Dancers

For more information contact:  
**Louise Buhler 06)274 8494 027 330 8510 p.lm.buhler@xtra.co.nz**  
Taranaki Irish Club

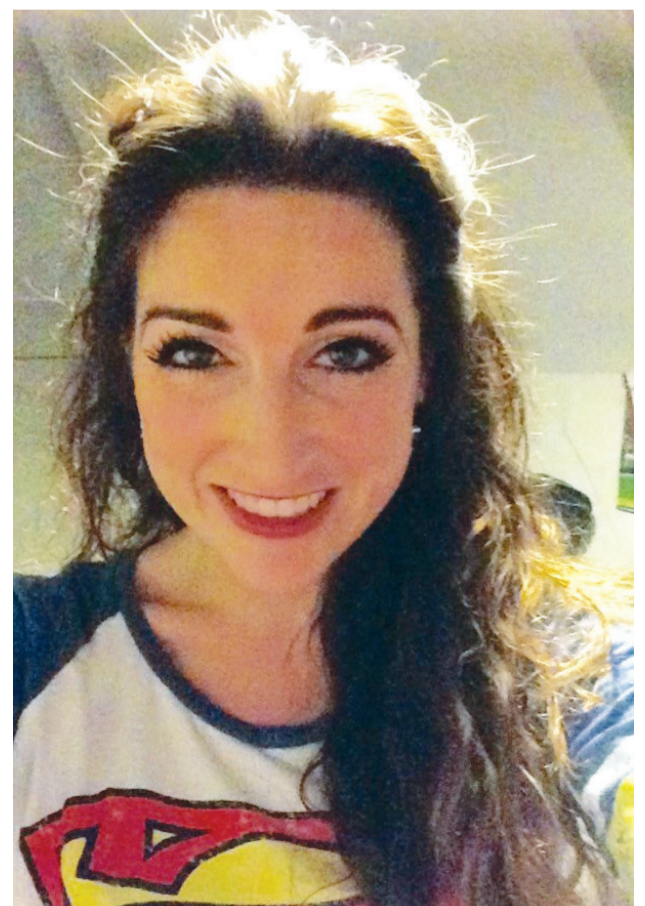


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## More colleens wanted for Tralee

The Taranaki Rose of Tralee contest starts on Easter Monday, with an afternoon at the races in Hawera, at the Hawera Harness Racing Club's race day. Individual interviews will be held at the Auto Lodge in New Plymouth that evening. The winner will be announced at the Taranaki final, on April 29 at the Plymouth Hotel. The evening starts at 6.30pm. There will be a dinner and dance and entertainment including a live band, Rose interviews, Irish dancing and singing. The Taranaki Rose will travel to Wellington for the New Zealand final in June, with the New Zealand winner travelling to Ireland for the International final in August.

Currently there is one entrant, Niamb O'Sullivan, who is a paediatric dietitian in New Plymouth. Born in Cork, Niamb now calls Taranaki home. Organisers want to see more entries to ensure a successful final on April 29.



Niamb O'Sullivan.