



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Vol. 30 No 5, March 25, 2021
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Published every
Thursday Fortnight

Phone and Fax 761-7016
A/H 761-8206

for Advertising and Editorial
ISSN 2324-2337, ISSN 2324-2345

Inside

Taranaki men cycle for charity

Two Taranaki men have returned from cycling the length of the country for charity.

Rowan Huckstep of Te Kiri and Mark Hicks of Hawera rode together as Team Taranaki on the Tour Aotearoa Brevet, an event which starts at Cape Reinga and takes a circuitous route through the country, finishing in Bluff. There are 30 photo control points along the way where those taking part are expected to take photos to prove that they were there.

Cyclists do the journey at their own speed, although they can't take less than 10 days or more than 30 days to complete it. Rowan and Mark took 23 days to complete the 3015km journey, one day less than what they had originally planned. A third of the ride was tar seal, a third metal road, and a third was along bike trails. Each cyclist had to carry with them everything they would need for the journey.

The Brevet was started by the Kennett Brothers in 2016 and is held every two years. Under normal circumstances it was due to be held in 2022, but last year, due to the intervention of lockdown it was started but never completed.

Riders had to make a \$100 donation to a charity of their choice. Rowan's cause was the Opunake Lions Club, of which he is a member. The Give a Little page he started had raised \$2000 as of last Friday.

Rowan says he got the idea after talking with Phil Cram who had done the Brevet in 2018. He heard that Mark was doing it, so the suggestion came up that they do it together.

Like Rowan, Mark, who works as a salesman for the Taranaki Veterinary Centre at Manaia said he was inspired to enter after talking to Phil Cram. So far



Mark Hicks (left) and Rowan Huckstep complete the journey at Bluff.

he has raised \$10,000 for his cause, Alzheimers New Zealand, which he says he chose because of his parents who are both in a rest home because of this condition.

He had trained for seven months, covering 4000km, at the end of which he had to get a brand new bike to take part in the big event.

For Rowan taking part in the Brevet was a completely new experience.

"I had done a lot of biking before but nothing like this," he said. "Before I started, the furthest I'd ever rode was 105km on a training ride. I had done 2400km prior to going and I had never rode back to back days."

"The day we started there were 77 of us at the Cape at 7 o'clock in the morning. The time we left coincided with the tides on Ninety Mile Beach. It was pretty hard riding down on the sand."

From there the weather

was fine most of the way, with only one really wet day on the West Coast of the South Island. They stayed mainly in cabins and camping grounds.

Their journey took them through Auckland, Paeroa, Matamata, Mangakino, through to the geographical centre of the North Island and the Bridge to Nowhere. They took in Whanganui, Hunterville, the Pohangina Valley, Palmerston North, Pahiatua, Wairarapa, the Rimutaka Rail Trail and Wellington. After a ferry trip they cycled from Picton to Nelson and then along the roads and cycle trails of the West Coast to Haast. From there it was over the Haast Pass to Wanaka, and then to Queenstown, Mossburn, Winton and Bluff.

"It was not a straight line," says Rowan.

He lists Walter Peak and the Mt Nicholas Station in

the high country as being the highlights of the trip.

Mark says his highlight was the Pike River Memorial. His biggest disappointment was seeing all the rubbish along the way which had been discarded by passing motorists.

The most they ever rode in a day was 156km. The longest day's riding was 11 hours and five minutes.

En route Rowan picked up three flat tyres and a broken

spoke.

"I got two numb toes, but apart from that I'm as good as gold. It was an awesome adventure and challenge, but I wouldn't do it again," he says.

Mark also says he enjoyed the experience.

"I wouldn't do it again, but I would recommend it to people who wanted to do it. I'm not a mountain biker. I'm a road biker. I prefer to stick to tarmac."



Twenty five years service recognised. Page 5.



New sign for Eltham. p 8.



A lifetime of Christian service. See page 13.



Who will be chosen as Dairy Woman of the Year. See page 23.



James Langton passes on his expertise. See page 26.



Delightful comedy at TET Cue Theatre. Turn to page 29.

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Well done Mark and Rowan on completing the Tour Aotearoa Brevet.



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Why do Christians walk the streets of Opunake on Good Friday bearing and/or following a cross?

Why is a cross so important? And who would

want to do that early on the first day of a holiday weekend?

There are two main reasons I believe. One is that it is an act of gratitude for the

Easter walk in Opunake

For the past 40 years Christian Churches have been coming together on Good Friday to remember Jesus and His sacrifice for all the people in the world - He gave His life so that we can have life after death. We will be walking in the streets of Opunake with

the cross to show that we are united in our love and respect for a wonderful

God who loved us so much that He gave His life for us all - You will find letters from each church with a clear message of love.

St Paul's Co-op Parish



Carrying a cross through the streets of Opunake.

Grace, redemption and the new life he has given us and the other is to be a witness to our town that Jesus' death on that cross was the most important event in history.

God so loved the world that he sent his only son to die on our behalf so we could know God's forgiveness and have a relationship with him.

You are welcome to join us on the walk [you don't need to be a Christian], and to attend the combined church service at St Barnabas afterward.

Have a great Easter

Murray Baylis

The eye of love

What makes some see the resurrection while others do not? What makes some understand the mystery and embrace it, while others are left in indifference or hatred? This is what Ron Rolheiser asks.

A 12th century French theologian gives us an answer. "Love is the eye." When we look at anything through the eye of love, we see correctly, understand and properly appropriate its mystery. The reverse is also true. When we look at anything through the eye that is jaded, cynical, jealous or bitter we will not see and understand, will not appreciate its mystery. When we look at the baby Jesus and see with the eye of love we see God's child becoming one with us. When we hear about Mary and Joseph searching for Jesus, if

we have the eye of love we feel their anxiety. When we remember Jesus grappling with his demons in the desert and in the garden of Gethsemane with the eye of love, we are alive to his pain and aloneness. When we see him unjustly condemned, tortured and crucified and have the eye of love we rejoice in his faithfulness and forgiveness. When we walk with Mary Magdalene, apostle to the apostles, and see with the eye of love we know He is risen.

He wills to be our friend and brother, he wills to share his eternal life with us, Holy Week and Easter Week are about letting him gift us as He wills. A sacred Scripture professor told us if you can get a better offer take it.

Let's become a little freer of our blindness, let's try to see with the "eye of love".

ADELPHOS

Another Easter in a suffering Covid-19 world. Each person on planet earth has been through their own unique but shared journey. As a team of 7.8 billion people we've experienced globalised uncertainty, fear and grief. We've seen many countries that did not seem to be playing as a team. In New Zealand, however, we have been blessed with far fewer illnesses and deaths due to a much greater cooperative team spirit. Nonetheless, every death was tragic and an unbearable grief for loved ones.

I've often heard parents with terminally sick children and loved ones say, "I wish it was me rather than them so

An unfathomable love

I could take their place." I wonder if you could say the same thing about someone you love deeply? Maybe think about who that person would be. He or she would certainly hold a special place in your heart, and no effort to help them would be too great.

It's beyond our natural understanding alone that God could feel so lovingly for countless individuals since the beginning of time. It will go in one ear and out the other. Such unfathomable love can only be understood with a faith-filled heart that is open to God's love. Even then we can only begin to comprehend the immense love of the

Good Friday cross and Easter resurrection. Jesus experienced an eternity of incomprehensible suffering for the sins of "every" person who follows Him as Saviour and Lord. Without faith the depths of this kind of love is unfathomable for our natural understanding alone.

That voluntary Good Friday act of suffering for others was the bridge Jesus created for us: our passage way to God the Father. Who could imagine the amount of spiritual pain He suffered for so many people? So that we can have our sins forgiven in a free and open relationship that is not reliant on ritual cleansings, sacrificial offerings or our own good

works alone. And that when the time comes to pass from this earth, we have the hope of eternal life with God: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In a real sense God desired to care for each one of us as terminally sick children and loved ones dying with sin. His heart was then filled with compassion for "each" of us. I imagine that Jesus once said to His Father, "I wish it was me rather than them so I could take their place." For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. That is an unfathomable love.

Happy Easter 2021 everyone.

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OPUNAKE STREET NAMES: Gisborne Terrace

Gisborne Terrace Is named for William Gisborne (1825 - 98) who came to New Zealand in 1847 and was appointed private secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of New Munster (i.e. all that portion of New Zealand south of a

line running east of the Patea River to the East Coast) and other offices of a like nature.

In 1871 he was elected unopposed to the Egmont Seat in Parliament and was Minister of Public Works in the Fox Ministry,

but resigned when it was defeated a year later. While in England in 1877 he was again returned to Parliament for the Totara (Westland) seat and was Minister of Lands, Mines and Immigration, but shortly after his return to Parliament he succeeded

his brother into possession of several country homes in England and in 1881 went to live there, where he resided until his death. He devoted the remaining years of his life to writing.

On this month in history Michael Joseph Savage dies

On March 27, 1940 the prime minister Michael Joseph Savage died in office.

He had been diagnosed with cancer and had been ill for over a year.

Born in Victoria, Australia, Savage was the first Labour Party prime minister and had held his position since 1935.

He entered Parliament in 1919 as the MP for Auckland West.

His Government had passed many legislative measures to help New Zealand recover from the Depression, with its high rates of unemployment.

He was one of our nation's most loved leaders and his

portrait was displayed in the homes of many people. He was succeeded by Peter Fraser. In his last days, Michael Joseph Savage had to endure a nasty campaign against him by another parliamentarian John A Lee, who was eventually expelled from the Labour Party.

The road less travelled

"Two roads diverged in the wood, and I

- I took the one less travelled by"¹

Covid lockdown of March 2020 saw our 'Team of 5 Million' take the less travelled road. We took the Kindness Road. The to Console; to Understand; to Love Road, for our common good. We took the sacrificial love road, the Easter Road. "and that has made all the difference."¹ Keep on the Jesus Journey, Aotearoa, for it does make all the difference. ¹

(Robert Frost: *The Road Not Taken*)

Rev Ian Sargent (St Barnabas)

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Letters to the Editor

Maori wards

Napoleon Pig (in George Orwell's 'Animal Farm') said it well: "All animals are born equal. But some are more equal than others." (That book should be compulsory reading in all schools).

Those animals that are 'more equal' expect to get 'special privileges' as of right; it's something they're 'entitled' to, something 'special' because of their ancestry, or ethnicity.

Or in Napoleon's case, just

by being born a pig.

They will then wish to use their privileges to wield power that benefits their specific portion of the population; a population that in its entirety consists of many and varied ethnicities (or in Orwell's book breeds/types of animal.)

And that is not democracy.

I remember back in the 1980s when the Springboks came to tour NZ and thousands of outraged citizens demonstrated against the South African policy of apartheid, which

enabled a race-based minority to impose its rules over the majority, where no Blacks were appointed to the team. And the rest of the civilised world abhorred it. It certainly wasn't democracy.

This is what an unelected member of the council would be, exactly what apartheid is/was all about, where people of a certain racial/ethnic background have special rights and privileges that no one else has, and the ability to impose their rules over the majority.

And Maori want Maori wards as of right in Local Government with candidates that are not elected by the general population. That's not democracy as I understand it. It's an arrogance and in this case

is blatantly racist. Napoleon Pig would love it.

It's more like a precursor to anarchy.

If Maori want more say in Local Government do it the democratic way; have the guts to stand up to be elected democratically, not try to weasel their way into power in such a despicable totally undemocratic manner.

I remember when 'Shagger,' a Magog member, did just that and got elected. Democratically.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not anti-Maori. My reaction would be exactly the same if the Kaponga Swiss Club were involved, or Hawera Young Farmers Club...the Roman Catholic Church, the New Plymouth Boys High School, YMCA, Masonic

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

Lodge...no one, be they a club, religion, an ethnic group, or whatever, has the 'right' (?) to even try to undermine our democracy.

This is a Pandora's Box just waiting to be opened.

J.D. Norton,

Opunake

Maori wards

Mayor Phil Nixon has stated that Maoridom has been unrepresented on any

council and disengaged from the electoral process for too long. I fully agree with Mr Craig Baylis who said this is totally wrong.

Now for as long as I can remember Maoridom has always been involved on many councils, in parliament, on different local community boards and trusts. Maori women have been involved in many different women's organisations and in parliament. As for myself

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as a part-Maori, I have been a union delegate, on numerous organisations, involved with the New Plymouth Jaycee chapter for several years, plus on their board, attended many conferences and conventions throughout the North and South Islands, and been a member, and involved with the New Plymouth Labour Party.

It's now believed that the South Taranaki District Council has an Iwi Liaison Committee made up of the four Iwi within the South Taranaki areas, which is a brilliant idea. Why on earth does this Council need a Maori Ward? So just maybe both New Plymouth and Stratford councils should seriously think about this great idea and just leave our region as it is right now.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

Maori wards

This unworthy person is sending this letter in reply to Mary Moore's letter in your March 11 edition. I do so not in derision of her letter but to air my views. I absolutely disagree with special seats for Maori or any other race on any local or New Zealand governments. We are one people regardless of our historical background.

I have a copy of the Treaty of Waitangi and there is no history of Maori signing the Treaty, first of the 40 signatories, or later the 900 going throughout NZ.

The South Taranaki District have Maori on the Council, one being Jack Rangiwhia in our open vote. Others have stood and not made it, one being Fred Kumeroa, so Maori if that is their want could stand in an open election. Let me add, I think the mayor is a nice guy. I add a majority is not always right, as the

vast number of arms raised in salute by Germans in support of Adolf Hitler in World War II we now know was a mistake.

I also think the Maori Party should be put aside. My nephew's wife just acquired a seat in Parliament, but that does not change my mind.

I rewrite we should be one people as times have changed since the Treaty one hundred and eighty years ago, like the Magna Carta Treaty of 1215 at Runnymede, put aside and reviewed.

I do believe in historical justice. As some may know I have asked for Chute Street Normanby to be changed, as he was a murderer of Maori. I did gain the support of the STDC.

I am of an advanced age and spent many years as trustee and chairman of a marae and was greatly involved in Maoridom.

Gordon(Mac)Sole.
Hawera.

Graffiti on the mountain

When I was up Mt Taranaki a couple of days ago, I was very annoyed by what we were greeted with, a large amount of new graffiti on and in the Summit Rock up there. I am unsure when it was put there or whether the Department of Conservation were aware of it or not. I bring this to their attention as I would suspect the Department of Conservation staff have not been there lately.

Sadly I didn't have my camera with me. As the Department of Conservation are the guardians of our mountain, people should know this as many respect this area. It saddens us to be confronted by this in this special place.

We believe that this and other graffiti up there should be removed to allow it to be

in its natural state.

We believe that either the Department of Conservation partnership or cultural staff or the appropriate Iwi people go up and remove it. In the days I was guiding there we would have made an effort to remove it.

It's pretty sad that most summit climbs are by kiwis in present days, and that this was put there.

I will be taking photos next time up there.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth

Pakeha journalists

For those involved in journalism it's only three months into 2021 and already John Banks and Michael Bassett have received lifetime bans in the media.

It's time to get with

the programme. You no longer live in the British Dominion of New Zealand where Maori were a minor interest group or second class citizens. You live in Aotearoa where Maori are a crucial component of our society.

If you want us all to go back to standing for God save the Queen at the movie theatre, an act of loyalty to Britain that would confuse British tourists, those days are over.

Aotearoa is no longer an Anglo-Saxon dominant society where my mother was beaten for accidentally failing to speak a foreign language, "English." Te reo Maori is part of our every day society. It is part of the national anthem.

My warning if you want to write a newspaper article or discuss talkback

continued on page 4.

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

What's happening at the Community Board

The Taranaki Coastal Community Board is committed to making sure the voices of our communities are heard. We have a small amount of discretionary funding to help out with some of the smaller

community events and projects that need financial support, the latest being the Blue Light project offering leadership and life skills to a number of youth throughout our ward. Funding this term has helped with the Opunake fire brigade, Opunake and Manaia Christmas parades, Pihama Hall, Opunake Beach Carnival, Surf lifesaving coaching and Cape Lighthouse maintenance. Community board funded drinking fountains will also soon be installed, one at Opunake Beach and one by Opunake



Andy Whitehead.

Lake. The next deadlines for Local Discretionary funding applications are Monday March 29 and Monday May 10. These forms are available

at your local library plus. Taranaki Coastal Community Board members are also committee to taking your ideas and concerns serious to continue strengthening our vibrant communities. These maybe footpaths that need attention, rubbish or pest issues, Manaia's community facilities, planned town centre upgrades, bringing bigger and better events to our communities, festive light upgrades, playground upgrades and making better and safer access to our beaches and places of

interest. Don't forget to call 0800 111 323 if you are aware of anything that needs council attention.

Important Long-term Planning events are coming up so please attend these to have you input heard. These are at Opunake Library Monday April 12 at 7pm and Manaia Library Tuesday April 13 at 1pm.

Andy Whitehead
Chair
Taranaki Coastal
Community Board.

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Letters continued from page 3.

P a k e h a journalists

radio, avoid discussing your patronising views on Maoridom. It takes some cultural competency to understand our modern nation and your views are no longer appreciated or wanted.

Having afternoon tea at the Northern Club with your chums is a colonial bubble stuck in time. You need to get out and experience Aotearoa and embrace a multicultural society.

Maybe it's not us that need to change. Maybe it's yourself that needs to change. When was the last

time you went on to a marae or had an open-minded conversation with a Maori activist on their views on colonisation?

Attend Waitangi on February 6. Visit the New Zealand War sites, learn our rich history, sample some delicious hangi. Many restaurants sell this cuisine.

Make a genuine attempt to embrace this warm and loving culture. You never know, you may learn to respect and enjoy what you discover and find value in your fellow countrymen.

Joe Trinder
Waikato

Theatre's unseen visitor

After reading about the great history of Opunake's Everybodys Theatre and seeing the photo of the current theatre committee and their life member I was impressed.

According to Mr Dodds who for 41 years has been the theatre's projectionist, which to me is a marvellous achievement, it now seems

it's been rumoured that this theatre has an unseen visitor(a ghost) in which Mr Dodds has somehow and somewhat experienced some type of funny but unusual goings on.

Look, we must all begin to now realise that all of these types of wonderful historical buildings regardless of what they were all used for in the past have a certain type of mystical atmosphere about themselves in which if someone was to dig deeper

into the real history about this building, one would be quite surprised at hat might turn up, yet still it seems some people are still apprehensive of staying alone in this theatre.

Now before all the upgrading was done, well before the 100 year birthday celebrations, and regardless of those wonderful tukutuku panels on the wall, this whole building should have been blessed by one of the Maori elders. By doing this,

it would not only enhance this beautiful theatre, but nobody would have been scared or frightened to be in this theatre alone, yet it can still be done. So if this committee decides to do this, I would give them all full marks. Also I can see that this theatre will carry on for another 100 years and further into the future.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

Opunake Rahoitu Veterinary Trust

To the person who phoned the Opunake & Coastal

News looking for the advert in the paper for applicants

requesting financial assistance, the advert should

appear around June time.

Editor

Road resurfacing on St Aubyn Street

Road resurfacing work is underway on State Highway 44 St Aubyn Street between Egmont Street and Liardt

Street in New Plymouth from Wednesday 24 March to Monday 29 March.

Crews will be onsite between 9.30am and 10pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday and Monday.

Work will not be undertaken on Saturday but detours and traffic management will remain in place.

The lanes on the Centre City side of St Aubyn Street will be closed. The two lanes on the sea side of St Aubyn

Street, will take both north- and south-bound traffic with a 30km/h temporary speed limit in place.

There will be sign-posted detours in place. Motorists are requested to take extra care.

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Rahotu gets its first fire chief



avenue for new recruits that they can see a pathway to being chief fire officer.” Don Roper, former CEO of the United Fire Brigades Association presented Paul with his Gold Star and talked about the history of the Rahotu Brigade. It had been founded in 1954, and in 1957 “acquired from the county” a 1949 Bedford truck. Paul is the fourth member of the brigade to be awarded a Gold Star.

Others to receive awards that night were Ken Helms and Shaun Ehrhorn who were presented with Good Conduct medals by Taranaki-King Country MP Barbara Kuriger. Paul says that with his promotion to chief fire officer it will still be business as usual. “Everybody calls me chief all the time anyway. Now it’s official.”

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Don Roper of the United Fire Brigades Association presents Paul Mundt with his Gold Star for 25 years’ service.

Saturday March 20 was a double celebration for the Rahotu Fire Brigade. Not only were they celebrating the brigade’s long serving senior station officer Paul Mundt getting his Gold Star for 25 years’ service, but also Paul being elevated to chief fire officer as the Rahotu Brigade made the step up from being an auxiliary to a stand-alone brigade.

“I’ve had some good times in the fire service and some bad times. There have been the fatalities. It’s one of the things you block out and carry on,” he says.

The Rahotu Fire Brigade currently has 14 members. Taranaki Fire and Emergency New Zealand assistant commander Steve McSweeney says the legislation setting up Fire and Emergency New Zealand had been silent on the status of auxiliary fire stations like Rahotu.

“For sixty plus years, Rahotu has always been an auxiliary brigade under the banner of Opunake. For the last 15-20 years they have kind of operated on their own,” he said. It was now time to recognise Rahotu as a community in its own right and to make the step up to making Rahotu a stand-alone brigade.

“There’s a formal process to go through. It’s taken a couple of years jumping through the right hoops and in the last six to eight

months it’s all come to fruition,” he says. The previous night there had been a similar celebration for Toko becoming a stand alone brigade, and Okaiawa is due to make the same step next month.

“We thought that with Paul getting his Gold Star that we would celebrate his promotion from senior station officer to chief fire officer,” says Steve.” He’s gone from the red helmet with two blue stripes to the white helmet with two blue stripes. This provides an

Although the Gold Star recognises 25 years’ service, Paul’s time with the Rahotu Brigade is slightly longer than that, having joined in 1994. The brigade’s senior station officer back then was Trevor Vercoe, recalls Paul. “I used to work at the Rahotu Service Station, and Trevor said would you like to join the fire brigade? I started on the 11th of November 1994. I thought I would try it out for a while. Who knew I’d still be here after all that time?”

Five years after this, he “took over Trevor’s job” and became senior station officer. “On my first day the local pub caught on fire,” says Paul. “We had six or seven fire engines there that day.” As well Rahotu, fire engines were called out from Opunake, Okato, Kaponga and New Plymouth.

Paul has been leading the Rahotu Fire Brigade ever since.



Paul Mundt speaking after receiving his Gold Star.

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Find out more about the fire brigade

The Opunake Fire Brigade is looking for new volunteer recruits. If you think this could be you, then please come along to our open night on Monday 29 March at the Fire Station - 24 King Street Opunake. You're welcome anytime between 6:30 - 8:30pm. We will be showing some



fires and much more. We can explain more details on the night, but things you must pass to join the brigade are a medical check and a police check. It would help if you live/work in Opunake or with a 5km radius.

Opunake Fire Brigade is a welcoming, friendly Brigade with a positive attitude to training and learning new skills.

If you have any questions before the open night you can call me on 0274 446 148. Otherwise we will see you there. Stay Safe

Craig Dingle
CFO Opunake Fire Brigade

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Volunteer encourages others to join local brigade

Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade is opening its doors to people interested in volunteering as firefighters on Monday evening 29 March.

Suzie Pentelow, who is a kindergarten teacher as well as a volunteer firefighter will be on hand to talk about being a Fire and Emergency volunteer. She originally joined the brigade six years ago in a support role because she didn't think she was strong enough to be a firefighter.

"When I started I didn't know what being a firefighter involved. But, after watching the firefighters and trying it myself I realised I could do it.

The idea of needing to be a big strong man to volunteer



Volunteer firefighter and kindergarten teacher Suzie Pentelow encourages Opunake locals to volunteer.

with us is not true. We all do the heavy jobs such as lifting the pumps, hydraulics, and stretchers as a team," Suzie Pentelow says. For Suzie, getting her truck licence was a big milestone and she still gets a kick out of seeing people's reactions when they see her in the driver's seat. "It's great to be changing

perceptions about who can get involved. I'm the first female driver the brigade has had. Some people, particularly the farming community are surprised to see me driving the truck." When working as a kindergarten teacher Suzie always makes sure she has her uniform nearby. "The kids enjoy seeing me in

my uniform. It's also good for them to see firefighters are real people and not scary."

I remember one incident where the siren went off and I already had my uniform on. All the kids screamed and told me I had to get out the door. I was the fastest dressed firefighter that day." "My class always want to know about the incidents I attend. It is also a great way to teach children about fire safety," Suzie Pentelow says.

Suzie and the team at the brigade are keen to hear from anyone keen on volunteering and are looking forward to meeting locals.

"Don't let any preconceived idea about being a big strong person hold you back from joining. There are lots of different ways that you can help."

If you're interested in volunteering, come to the Opunake Fire Station Open Night: 6.30-8pm, Monday 29 March.

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Issues Issues Issues

Being a Regional Councillor presents one with some challenging decisions and issues. First and important to many is the 10 year Plan Consultation and Rates setting for 2021. We have been forced to propose a 9.9% increase even with the Yarrow's surcharge reduction. The cause of this is no big new initiative on our part but largely dramatic new demands for fresh water testing and analysis and new biosecurity programmes. We have no choice – this is a dictate from Wellington and involves appointing a number of new scientists and other staff. It is problematic to say it will improve anything in the environment.

We also stand at the doorway of the commencement of the work of the new Climate Change Commission. An 800 page document heralds their plans with radical changes for Taranaki and indeed all aspects of our lives. One outcome will be closing the oil and gas industry including the Methanol Plant. We are currently submitting on this but whichever way you look at it radical adjustment is coming.

The Government is also repealing the old Resource Management Act and replacing it with a number of new Acts. This too is big time and will take a great deal of work and study. We hope it will be better than the old Act but who knows. It is expected to take until 2024 or longer and then several years of cases to see the application. The Government again appears to be introducing new radical directions for action.

The Relations with Maori are due for big change too. The Government is promoting the concept of



Taranaki Regional Councillor Neil Walker confronting the issues.

Matauranga Maori where not only science is to be considered in all fresh water decisions but a number of traditional Maori World View ideas. This is not incompatible but quite complex as there is no pan-Maori view of anything but rather more localised iwi and hapu views. This fits in with Maori wards which we are also consulting on. In view of the Matauranga Maori concepts it would be useful to have Maori views expressed at Council through a councillor. However my problem is that is not a genuine Maori ward of electors but a small ward made up of Maori on the Maori roll most of whom are urban dwellers in New Plymouth (about 63% of the approximately 7500 electors).

The system proposed to

me will not be particularly democratic or satisfactory for Maori electors. Fundamentally poor design of the system has spoiled something that should be easily open to all Maori. Thanks Wellington. It seems likely that if the New Ward is promulgated and if I am elected next time I will have more Maori constituents in South Taranaki than the Maori ward councillor. I could still support the concept but am waiting for the consultation. If this wasn't enough we are facing dramatic reorganisation of the Three Waters function (water, sewer and storm). The Government is planning a large pan-Regional organisation to take these matters away from your Local Council. This will be a big shake up and

certainly will undermine smaller councils who have this as a major part of their services. The centralisation may go further and we can expect to see this rolled out later this year.

There are other big shifts coming in other areas. We have agreed to recommend joining with other Councils of Taranaki to support a Covid relief fund to try to deal with the disruptions and problems associated with weakness in the energy, tourism and education sector. Again there are mixed opinions. We need to be part of the process and to support and show goodwill for our province but potentially we don't want to waste money on going nowhere – feel good projects. I, in representing you, need to see that everything does not just benefit the North but supports South Taranaki.

On this note too I am keen to see that we support important environment projects such as Rotokare and also cultural endeavours in the South.

Low interest rates, the heavy dependency we have on Port Taranaki and our whole investment strategy is also being reviewed. Are we doing the best we can? What is the risk?

These and other pressing issues makes the current time controversial, scary and needing careful thought. I want all our people to be involved, not be overwhelmed or feeling lost in a torrent of change. I will be working as hard as I can to see this doesn't happen.

Councillor Neil Walker
Taranaki Regional Council
South Taranaki Constituency

On this month in history

Captain Cook sights the west coast of the South Island.

On March 25, 1772 Captain Cook, in the Resolution (his second voyage), first sighted the west coast of the South Island.

Eight weeks earlier Resolution and the

Adventure (under Tobias Furneaux) became the first ships to have crossed the Antarctic Circle.

The two ships became separated and Furneaux explored the coast of

Tasmania before rejoining Cook at Ships Cove in the Marlborough Sounds in May.

Furneaux Lodge, named after the captain, was involved in a famous

criminal case when Olivia Hope and Ben Smart disappeared, presumed murdered. The couple were last seen at this lodge. Their bodies were never found

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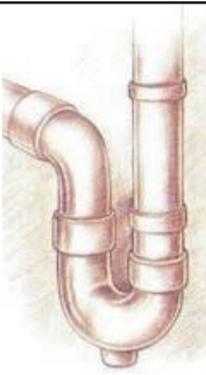
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Taking action to tackle the housing crisis

This week, we announced the next steps in our plan to tackle the housing crisis and make it easier for Kiwis to buy their first home.

New Zealand's housing crisis, has been decades in the making, and there is no silver bullet to fix it. It's an issue that will take time to turn around, and will require everyone working together on solutions.

As part of this, our Government has announced a new package of changes that will increase housing supply, relieve pressure on the market, and tilt the balance back towards first home buyers.

The first part of our package will support more first home buyers. We're lifting the income caps on the First Home Loan and First Home Grant programmes, and lifting the price cap on houses people can purchase through these schemes in targeted regions.

With a First Home Loan, buyers only need a 5% deposit, rather than the 20%



GLENN BENNETT
 MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

deposit required by most lenders. First Home Grants provide up to \$10,000 to help people pull together their deposit. We're helping more people access this support, and get into their first home.

Another way we're tipping the balance towards first home buyers is by extending the bright-line test from five to 10 years. The bright-line test, introduced by National, is designed to make flipping properties less attractive.

Under current bright-line settings, if you buy a house and sell it within five years, you'll need to pay income tax on any profits you

make from the sale. We're changing these settings so speculators will pay this tax if they sell off houses within 10 years. It's important to note that the bright-line test does not apply to the main family home or inherited property.

Alongside the bright-line extension, we're closing a tax loophole that allows speculators to write off interest costs against income they make from their properties. Together, these steps should ease pressure on the market, and give first home buyers more options.

Another important part of our plan is increasing housing supply. To support this, we've announced a new Housing Acceleration Fund, which will speed up the pace and scale of house building.

This fund is something local government and developers have been calling for, and will jumpstart large scale developments by funding the vital infrastructure like pipes and transport needed for new housing.

We're also helping to boost

supply by incentivising investment in new developments, rather than existing houses. People who choose to invest in a newly built property will be exempt from changes to the bright-line test and interest deductibility. This will encourage more people to invest in new builds, and over time, will help to drive development.

Finally, we're making sure we have the skilled workforce we need to build more houses. We're extending our Apprenticeship Boost payment, which has already enabled businesses to take on 21,000 apprentices, to grow our construction sector.

This is just a quick overview of our next steps to ensure more Kiwis can afford to buy their own home. There's no simple answer for fixing the housing crisis, but together, the measures we've announced will make a real difference.

Glen Bennett
 MP for New Plymouth

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Ducking for cover



Barbara Kuriger MP for Taranaki-King Country.

Country people are traditionalists.

We celebrate various events each year — many built around anniversaries and the changing seasons — some dating back decades.

So I'm sure hunters and farmers across our rural communities will be unhappy with the backlog of firearms licence applications disclosed on by my colleague and Police spokesman Simeon Brown on March 10. Some 10,000 are waiting to be processed — 3000 of those renewals.

With duck shooting season approaching on May 1, Simeon said Police should be adding more resources to help clear the backlog "so the public can receive the level of service they expect". "They're understandably itching to get back out on the pond, but they may miss out

again this year because of an administrative backlog. This is not because they have put in applications late, many applied before Christmas but are still waiting. With such a pile-up of applications it's clear the Police are struggling with the workload."

Simeon had a suggestion for Police Minister Poto Williams — use powers under the Arms Act, to provide temporary extensions for the 3000 renewals.

It's a simple fix. COVID-19 put paid to the 2020 season.

The pile-up of applications in 2021 may kill off this

season's event for many as well.

Keeping the lights on The last deep-sea oil and gas exploration permit outside the Taranaki Basin was surrendered by New Zealand Oil and Gas.

But while environmentalists see it as a win, many of you need to know we're now on the losing side.

When the Government decided to ban offshore exploration in April 2018, we were told the effects would not come into play for 30 years.

But they're already being felt.

continued on page 9.

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Ducking for cover

continued from page 8

Banning exploration doesn't mean NZ will suddenly no longer use gas as an energy source. It's still part of the makeup of our electricity generation — water and home heating, gas cooktop hobs at home and at your favourite restaurants and eateries. Then there's your barbecue reliant on a 9kg bottle of gas. As a country, we must be looking at enduring energy solutions. The production of low-emission natural gas to achieve the move to a low-

emissions economy, is something the rest of the world is striving to achieve. Why would we go in the opposite direction and look at importing LNG from Australia? Officials warned at the time the ban was announced it would cost billions in royalties, wipe out thousands of jobs and increase global emissions by using other energy sources. All of this is now coming true. Renewable electricity generation has fallen, while coal imports are 41% higher than they were last year, with 1.1 million tonnes arriving in New Zealand in 2020.

(MBIE data). That's higher than the 2017/2018 totals combined and the most coal shipped to NZ since 2006. Coal use is now four times what it was since Labour has come into office with Huntly's power station burning more coal than it ever has since 2013. A third unit at the plant has been reignited to meet expected demand. This is far from the just transition we were promised. Driver licensing A focus for me in recent weeks has been the struggle to obtain a simple driver's licence. While it was National

which brought about testing changes in 2012, to add in things like traffic lights, roundabouts and multi-lane driving (i.e. motorways), there needs to be a relook at the difficulty we face in rural regions. A licence is essential where we live to get to work, school, professional/health services and grocery shopping in our local towns or beyond. But we face major hurdles thanks to the staggered licensing system (which can take years) and traveling to an approved 'driver licensing agent' each time. Then there's fees all the way

along including any re-sits. Across the country we currently have people driving around without a licence or permanently driving on a restricted licence to avoid the cost of a full one. We need common sense to prevail here — to simplify the system and return testing to our rural communities. Rural happenings I've just spent the weekend at the 2021 Rural Games in Palmerston North.

This great event showcases to the public the special sports which are part of the fabric of our rural communities. I was the first chair of the

Rural Games Trust and am currently a judge of the event's sports awards so my congratulations to all of 2021's winners.

In the next two weeks I will be engaging with the Dairy Environment Leaders Group at Parliament, attending the National Sustainability Showcase of Agriculture and Horticulture in Wellington and Waikato Dairy Awards in Hamilton — all important events for our rural communities.

*Barbara Kuriger
MP Taranaki-King Country*

Collapsed culvert underneath railway line

Water network reality highlighted by collapsing culvert

Engineers have found a collapsing stormwater culvert underneath the railway line near New Plymouth's East End.

The railway isn't in immediate danger but the pipe needs repairing to ensure stormwater doesn't back up during heavy rainfall.

"It's a partial collapse so



LEFT: A collapsed culvert pipe near the railway line at New Plymouth's East End.

stormwater's still getting through, although the pipe itself is now more oblong than circular," says NPDC Manager Three Waters Mark Hall.

"It's an example of the challenges we face to maintain 1700 kilometres of pipes — all things wear out eventually. We're ramping up the programme of inspection of our stormwater pipes and we're aiming to

do even more if we get the funding."

In the draft 10-Year Plan for 2021-2031, NPDC is proposing to invest \$248 million over the next decades on the three waters of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater.

If the budget is approved, projects such as this pipe repair would likely go to the top of the priority list, Mr Hall says.

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Breaking down barriers and empowering youth

Sergeant Kayanna Holley recalls a young girl who had gone through one of Blue Light's programmes, and had hated the police.

"She was rude to me on our first meeting," Sergeant Holley who is chairperson of Blue Light South Taranaki told the Taranaki Coastal Community Board at their March 15 meeting. "At graduation, she was hugging me. Although we're standing there in uniform, they don't see you in uniform anymore."

Blue Light South Taranaki was applying for \$3700 from the board's discretionary

fund. This would go towards six Opunake High School or Coastal Taranaki youth to attend Blue Light Life Skills camps and two to attend Blue Light Leadership camps, as well as delivering eight sessions of waka ama to a group of 10 young people.

Blue light is a registered charity that works with police to deliver programmes and activities targeting at risk youth. There are 68 branches throughout the country.

"It's about empowering young people to be the best they can be," said Sergeant Holley. Blue Light programmes teach skills that

build their character and are with them for life, she said.

Speaking in support of Sergeant Holley, Senior Constable Kylie Brophy of the Opunake police said courses such as these had value in helping break down barriers between youth and the police.

"It's about letting them know that we are not the bad person, that we are approachable," he said. "I shed tears like they do. I bleed like they do."

He said this involved reaching all the cultures represented in Coastal Taranaki, whether European, Maori, Asian or Pasifika.

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon said Blue Light are doing a lot of good, particularly with their programme of helping young people get their drivers licences.

"It gives our younger people so much opportunity of getting into work in our rural communities," he said.

There was some discussion as to how much was available in the discretionary fund for upcoming fund applications. The board voted to grant \$2500 to go towards the camp fees for those attending the Life Skills and Leadership camps.

Kaponga WI enjoys cuddles with cat

At the March meeting of the Kaponga WI members enjoyed hearing from our speaker ex Kaponga resident Barbara Hurcombe who is the President of the Hawera St Vincent de Paul organisation. Owing their own shop and with 38 volunteers they do an amazing amount of work resulting in many donations in the community e.g. emergency donations of food, furniture or appliances, grants for student study, or supplying an under blanket alarm for a child who has seizures to enable the carers to get a more peaceful sleep themselves. They also donated toy cats and dogs to a rest home which are so very real looking, and miaow/bark, move their limbs etc, and have very real looking fur. The residents enjoy nursing and patting them for comfort as did our members on the day. With a presence in 153 countries with 800000 volunteers St. Vincent de Paul work worldwide is



President Jo Ellis (left) with the cat and speaker Barbara Hurcombe from St Vincent de Paul.

tremendous. Barbara was thanked and given a gift in appreciation of her time and also a donation for the organisation.

Our newly installed President Jo Ellis welcomed members and the roll call "how did you travel to primary school" was well received. One member was one of 11 children with the neighbours having 16 children, so they filled the

bus on their own.

Several members are to attend the AGM in Kapuni on March 15 and the luncheon at Kapuni on April 19 to celebrate 100 years of WI and also 85 years of the South Taranaki Federation. The Federation are planning to purchase a seat as a Centennial project with donations from the individuals WIs

Kaponga have several

items ready to go to the Patea Museum (Aotea Utanganui) for the display acknowledging the Centennial and WI in South Taranaki.

Delegates to Conference were discussed and organised.

Each member is assigned a secret friend for the year and the friends for the last year were revealed. Organiser Diane West was thanked for her annual organisation of this. Nancy Stokes was also thanked for the wonderful job she does organising and printing our programme each year.

The raffle was won by Carolyn Nicholas.

As usual a sumptuous lunch was enjoyed with a catch up with each other.

Competition results; Savoury Muffins. 1. Dene Lines. 2. Jo Ellis. 3. Nancy Stokes, Diane West and Fiona Collins. Letter Opener. 1. Jo Ellis. 2. Diane West. 3. Sharyn Hurley and Dene Lines. Three Pansies tied together. 1. Jo Ellis. 2. Diane West. 3. Fiona Collins and Gillian Frandsen.

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Mangatoki recognises Judy Barr's long service

Our February meeting was held at The Mangatoki Hall on February 4, when 14 members and one grandchild attended. The meeting was opened by our president Robyn Roberts after the apologies were received. Secretary Helen Whyte read the minutes of the previous meeting and the correspondence was read from National Federation, South Taranaki Federation and three "thank you" letters from members. The treasurer Cathy Whyte read the bank statement and reported that a gift card has been given to the auditor. It was reported that borer bombs had been put in the Mangatoki Church



Judy Barr receives a long service award from Mangatoki WI president Robyn Roberts.

at The Pioneer Village. There will be a meeting with John Campbell to discuss the organ in the church. The church at the village had been cleaned. There were no sick visits made during the past month. The Roll Ball produced a good number of exercise books and pencils for the local schools. The raffle was won by Robyn Roberts.

Our AGM for 2021 followed this meeting. President: Robyn Roberts. Secretary: Helen Whyte. Treasurer: Cathy White. Vice President: Jenny Brown. Committee: Olwyn Duthie, Karen Joblin and Denise Carter. Overseas Link: Cathy White. Competition Steward: Bev Marx. Reporter: Lucy Moger. Competition Steward: Bev Marx. Hall Committee: Robyn Roberts and Helen Whyte.

Yearly competition results: 1. Helen Whyte and Robyn Roberts. 2. Denise Carter. 3. Cathy White.

Our secretary Helen Whyte read the minutes of the 89th year of our W.I. and then she read the Annual Report. This was followed by the Treasurer's Report read by Cathy White and then the President's report was read by Robyn Roberts.

Judy Barr received a long service certificate from President Robyn Roberts.

On March 3, 14 members met at the Hawera Cinemas for the 4pm screening of the film Love, Weddings and other Disasters, which we all found most amusing and entertaining. From here we drove down to Rough Habits for an evening meal and while our orders were being prepared we held a short meeting. We were reminded

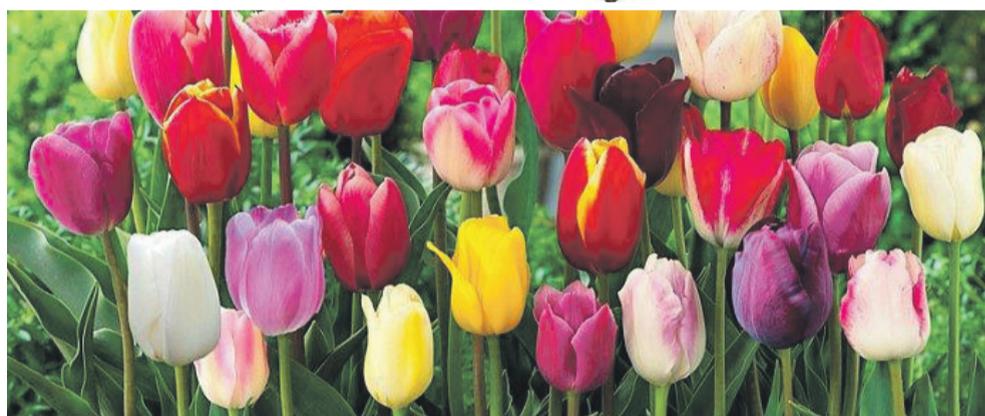
of upcoming meetings in April and a discussion about a First Aid Course in May and further film afternoons or evenings in the future. The exercise books and pencils had been gratefully received by the local schools. There would be a donation to Relay For Life.

The Mangatoki Church

had been cleaned and some members met at the Pioneer Village for the meeting with John Campbell in February, regarding the church. Copies of the NZ Home and Country were sent to our Link in Portland, Dorset, England.

The raffle was won by Lucy Moger.

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2. Most bulbs prefer a period of cold (especially in warmer climates), so it's a good idea to place them

in a paper bag in the fridge for about 4-6 weeks before planting.

3. Bulbs can be planted in pots, tubs or in the ground. Palmers recommends Tui Bulb Mix for pots and tubs, and Tui Bulb Food for bulbs in the ground.

4. Not too sure which way is up? If it's unclear which way the bulb needs to be planted then plant the bulb on its side and the stem will manage to find its own way up. Clever!

5. By planting your bulbs in groups, two weeks apart, for a 6-8 week period over autumn, you'll be rewarded

with up to 3 months of blooms; new blooms will emerge as old ones die off.

6. You can keep your bulbs in the ground after flowering but our (mostly) wet soils here in Taranaki make it a good idea to lift your bulbs for replanting next autumn. Make sure the foliage has died down completely before lifting, lay in a tray to dry for 24 hours, then bag and store in a cool, dry place.

7. If you leave your bulbs in the ground, mark their position after the foliage has died back with a plastic marker or ice block stick.

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New Programme a Boost for South Taranaki Job Seekers

South Taranaki District Council (STDC) has been successful in receiving funding to deliver a programme to get young people into sustainable employment.

least 25 young people into sustainable employment (paid work of at least 30 hours a week) by July 2021. If the pilot is successful, STDC plans to extend the service for at least another 12 months.

The opportunity came via the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ), a nationwide network of New Zealand's Mayors that aims to enable people under 25 to achieve long-term economic independence. MTFJ has developed a Community Recovery Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). A response to Covid-19, the programme is designed to deliver sustainable employment to young workers across Aotearoa/New Zealand and those who have been displaced due to the pandemic. Successful in several small rural areas, the model is now being piloted in larger provincial centres.

Local knowledge and networks will play a big part in creating employment opportunities says MTFJ Chair, Max Baxter. "Mayors and councils know their rangatahi, their local businesses, their industries, and where the gaps are, and with the support and resources of the Ministry of Social Development, have risen to meet the Covid employment crisis."

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon is looking forward to working with local employers. "This is exciting because we will be able to assist local businesses with recruitment, training, guidance and in some cases subsidies to help them take on workers. There will be positive outcomes for



(Left to right): South Taranaki District Council Business Development Manager Scott Willson, South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon, Taranaki Chamber of Commerce Employment Project Co-ordinator Brad Kisby, Taranaki Chamber of Commerce Arun Chaudhari and South Taranaki District Council CE Waid Crockett.

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employers and job seekers alike," he says.

To deliver the programme, STDC has partnered with the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce and their successful Chamber Hub initiative. Run with MSD, Chamber Hub has provided employment to 60 people in North Taranaki in the last six months by connecting job seekers and business through employment and training.

The funding will enable the establishment of Chamber

Hub South, says Taranaki King Country Whanganui Regional Commissioner Gloria Campbell.

"We have had great success in our joint initiative with the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce which has been successful in placing people in jobs in North Taranaki. Now, a similar resource is in South Taranaki enabling people to be matched with jobs. We have a large pool of people willing to work and initiatives such as this

can maximise opportunities for the region's economic wellbeing."

With an office in Hawera and services covering all South Taranaki, Chamber Hub South will initially employ two staff to identify, match, train and place job seekers with employers. Relationship management and ongoing support after placements will also be a focus.

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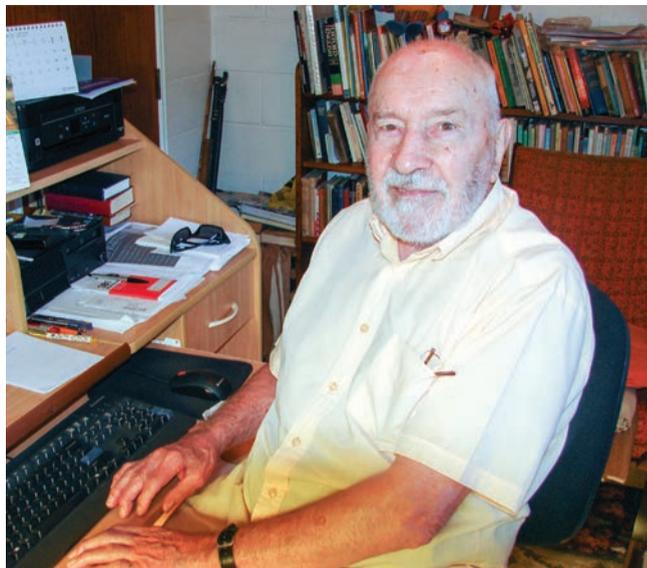
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The Very Reverend Michael Bent bids us farewell

After 65 years in the priesthood the Very Reverend Michael Bent has retired. As he approaches his ninetieth birthday (July 7), Michael looks back on a priestly career which has taken him to many places including Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.



The Very Reverend Michael Bent.

A special service was held on Sunday February 14 at St James Church in Oakura to mark the end of his eight years in his final parish – that of Okato/Oakura. He admits this has been one of his favourite parishes where he discovered, “A splendid band of Christian people, warm and welcoming, engaged and committed, accepting and kind.” All in all, “a wonderful eight years.” Chairperson of the Parish Council Rev Gary Mattock explained, “Michael has been a rock to the parish, his love for God and love for us has been an encouragement and his words and actions deepened our understanding of God and his ways among us. We will miss his and Rosemary’s ministry among us and thank God that they were able to spend this time with us.”

Michael was touched by the words of a poem which summed up his ministry. The poem was composed and read by congregation member Joanna Brown.

Joanna is very involved with the Sunday School and the youngsters of the congregation. He was also presented with a plaque which paid tribute to his many attributes, but it was the word ‘friend’ that Michael said meant the most to him.

Michael was born in Leicester in 1931 to parents Abigail and Charles. He had a brother John who has sadly passed away.

At school Michael especially enjoyed history and divinity. After passing his Matriculation he was employed in a solicitor’s office in a clerical capacity. At 18, as part of compulsory National Service, he spent 18 months in the RAF, where he was clerk to an

intelligence officer. Kelham Theological College, in Nottinghamshire followed and after studying for four years Michael was ordained an Anglican Deacon in 1955, aged 23. He was ordained to St Mary’s Church in Wellingborough here he spent a “very happy five years.”

He was approached to go to Fiji. Many of his parishioners were horrified: “Oh no, you can’t go there, think of the risk to your health.” However, Michael relished the challenge and the next five years (from 1960) were spent in Fiji where the Christian focus was evangelism where the congregation was mostly people of Indian descent, although Chinese,

Melanesian and indigenous Fijians also were numbered. His main place of ministry was the Anglican Cathedral in Suva.

After visiting New Zealand he accepted a posting to Viti Levu in 1964.

From 1966 for about ten years Michael was involved in Deputation Tours for the Board of Missions where he visited various parishes. He was General Secretary of the Board at this time and later Educational Public Officer. It was around this time that he met Rosemary in Wellington; they married in 1971.

St Mary’s Cathedral in New Plymouth was Michael’s next calling where he lived in the 17 room vicarage, in Vivian Street. He was Archdeacon of Taranaki at this time. The couple became involved in many community groups such as the Missionary Guild, Young Wives, Mothers Union, Youth Group and Friends at Court. “We had an excellent team and we had a very good congregation.”

However, 1985 saw a return to Fiji with Michael as Dean of the Suva Cathedral. It was the time of the military coups and a dangerous place to be. “I was almost stoned once,” Michael comments. In 1989 he returned to New Zealand to become a vicar at Te Awamutu. “This was a good middle class, pleasant place.”

Maybe the most challenging place Michael and Rosemary went to was Papua New Guinea where Michael was a Priest Trainer at a theological college in Popondetta. Rosemary had a role providing a ministry to women. On one occasion a loaded gun was pointed through their window by intruders, who were also armed with machetes. The couple sounded the siren and the intruders left. “If I’d opened the door they’d have come in with machetes, cut us up and maybe killed us, as well as looting the place.” Since returning to New Zealand Michael has held a number of positions, despite officially retiring in 1986, such as in Inglewood (very recently), and, of course, Okato/Oakura.

We wish Michael and

Rosemary all the best in their retirement, in New Plymouth, although we’ve heard a hint that this ‘retirement’ will not be total.

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What should the big picture look like for Taranaki transport

Community views are sought on the future of land transport connections within and to and from Taranaki. Up for discussion are the region’s long-term transport aims, the immediate priorities for the roading network, the best ways to meet a raft of new challenges, and the development of bike trails.

These are among major issues covered in the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan for Taranaki 2021, on

which public consultation has opened. Submissions close on 13 April.

The Draft Plan was prepared by the Regional Transport Committee, which is administered by the TRC and includes representatives of all four Councils in Taranaki, as well as Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

“The Plan sets out how the region wants its transport networks to develop in the coming decades, with a particular focus on the next

three years,” says Committee Chair Matthew McDonald, who is a Taranaki Regional Councillor.

“It sets out a framework for our transport planning into the future, and it also sets out which projects we want the Government to fund. It’s important to get that right and make a compelling case. “We want to hear from transport users, sector groups, lobbyists-campaigners – anyone who has an interest in transport issues. We need to be sure

we’ve considered things from all angles.”

The Plan will be finalised after a hearing in early June, then sent to Wellington for decisions on funding as part of a national transport programme.

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The Happy Trammer

In the last issue of the Opunake & Coastal News we featured Claire Richardson and her epic trek the length of New Zealand on the Te Araroa Trail to raise money for Taranaki Hospice. She began in November from Cape Reinga.

We hope to continue to report on Claire's progress as she approaches her destination, Bluff and help with her fundraising.

Here she gives her own account of the latest trials and tribulations of her huge adventure.

If people would like to lend their support to Claire they can donate towards Taranaki hospice on: <https://givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/claaires-te-araroa-journey>

March 18 2021

Two Thumb Track is complete and the milestones keep coming! I have crossed the halfway point of the South Island, climbed over highest point of The Araroa, fundraised \$12,000 and also made it onto the front page of the Opunake and Coastal News!

Overview of this section:

- South of Rangitata River to Crooked Spur Hut (9km)
- Crooked Spur Hut to Royal Hut (16km)
- Royal Hut to camp spot by Roundhill Ski Area via Stag Saddle (23km)
- Roundhill Ski Area to Tekapo (28km)

For this section my friend Rachel Bol joined in for four days of solid slog. What a section to join in. Possibly one of the best sections so far! The adventure started with a gnarly stroll up Bush Stream with many river crossings. Then the hill climbing started. We climbed for many hours, over two days, to cross multiple saddles before the main show.

On our third day of walking we made it to Stag Saddle, the highest point of Te Araroa and also one of the most amazing locations of the whole trail. The views of the Southern Alps on a bluebird day were unbelievable.

I cannot believe it has taken me this long to discover this incredible walk. I highly



Claire on the trail.



Royal Hut that Prince Charles and Princess Anne visited.

recommend going on a stroll from Tekapo if you ever are in the area. For the section we stayed in some pretty epic locations. Royal Hut is the hut which where Prince Charles and Princess Anne are said to have visited. On the final night we camped at altitude as the hut was full. Rachel had taken a gamble not to bring a tent so this meant we had to fit two of us in a single person tent. Unfortunately the night was freezing and we woke to ice on the inside and outside of the tent. With a final road walk into Tekapo, Rachel's Te Araroa experience was complete. It's super awesome having people join on to find out about the trail magic. Along this section our family (Trail Family) expanded to eleven people. I'm really loving being surrounded by so many awesome people!

March 20 2021
Yesterday we challenged

ourselves to complete the 55km from Tekapo to Twizel in one day. And after 15 hours we stumbled into Twizel happy to be aiming straight for a shower and then pizza. We started out at 4am underneath one of the world's most beautiful night

skies. I managed to see 7 shooting stars, so all my wishes are sorted for a while. We walked along the Tekapo Canal, past the salmon farms and all the people fishing around it. Then we continued along the whole length of Lake Pukaki before finishing with a 10km walk through a never ending field to the small town of Twizel.

It was a very long day but the time passed quickly as there was so much to see and I had some great company. The chat did become very poor by the end of the day and dinner was a lot more silent than usual. Overall it was an awesome challenge and I am a massive supporter of the teams completing the 50km/100km Oxfam Trailwalker in New Plymouth today!

To be continued.



River crossing.

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Here are the key facts about the Pfizer vaccine:

It's safe

It has been approved by our own Medsafe experts. It's also already been used successfully all around the world by millions of people, and by thousands here in New Zealand too.

It's effective

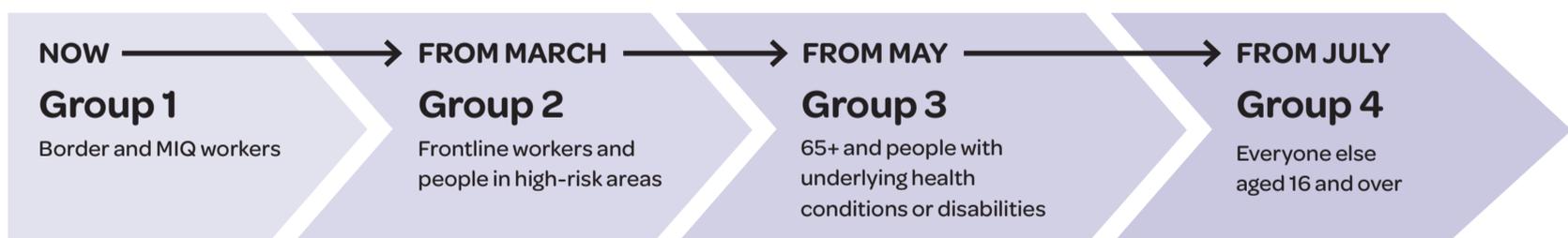
The Pfizer vaccine is 95% effective when you receive both doses.

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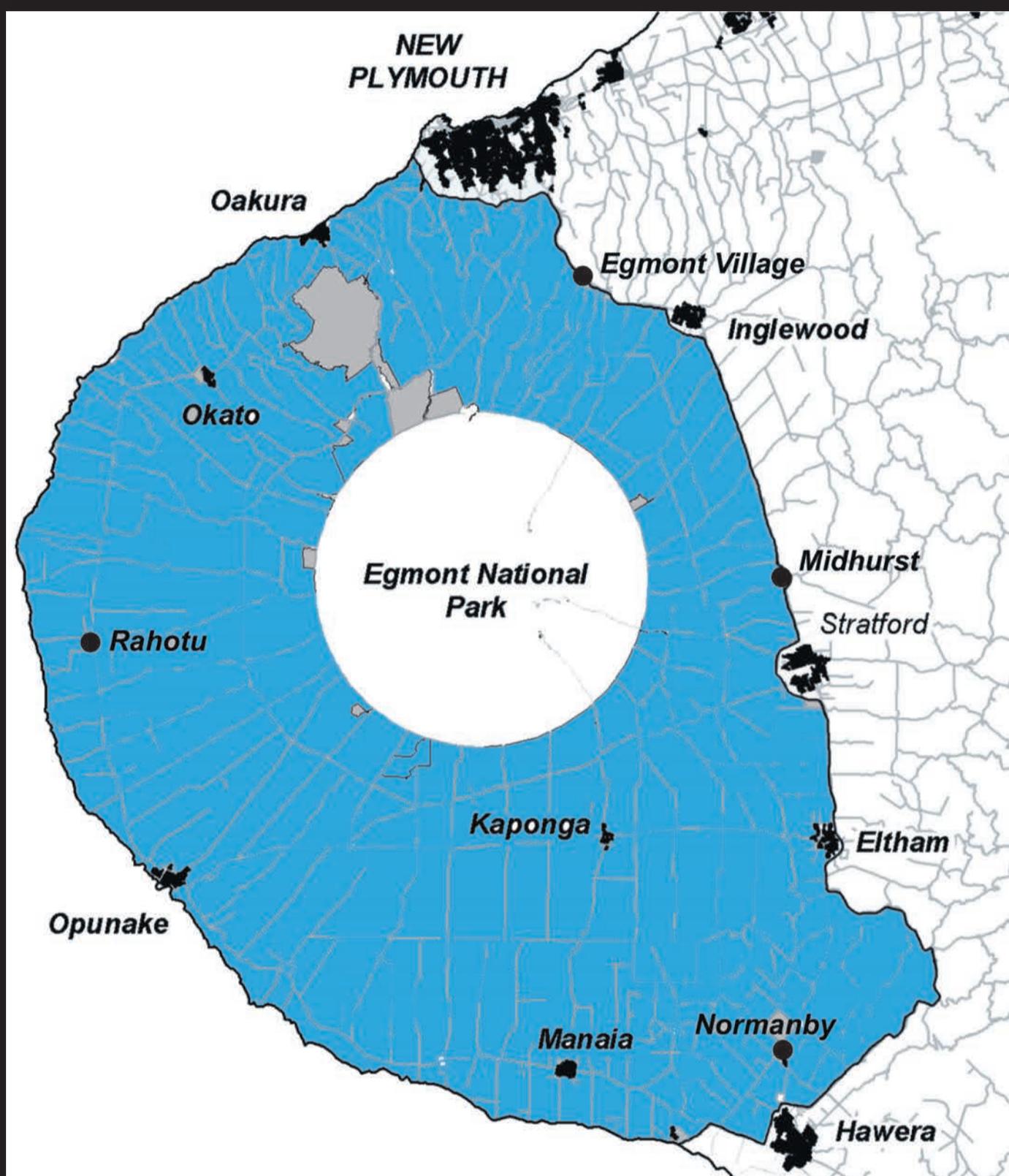
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Kicking the dust off the old plan

Memories of the floods of 2015 were still fresh in the minds of people attending a public meeting at the Sandfords Event Centre.

About 40 people were at the meeting held on March 10 to discuss community emergency management planning.

On August 6 2015 Opunake was drenched with 242mm rain in 24 hours. At one point the town came close to being completely cut off.

"It was pretty amazing how it happened, and it was pretty amazing how the community coped," said South Taranaki District Council environmental risk management officer Glenn Hansen who chaired the meeting. "There's a very independent community here. If they say something will happen it will happen."

In the years since there had been changes on the national scene, with the setting up of one overall authority, the National Emergency Management Authority in charge of making decisions, rather than leaving everything in the hands of



South Taranaki District Council environmental risk management officer Glenn Hansen outlines emergency management issues at a public meeting in Opunake.

different organisations. The definition of Emergency had been changed, and the older term of civil defence was no longer in use.

As well as flooding Glenn talked about some of the other likely emergencies the district could face. These included an eruption.

"We are overdue. If that mountain goes we are definitely threatened,"

he said. Others included earthquakes, pandemics, animal diseases or the effects of volcanic activity from other parts of the North Island.

Glenn said that any emergency management strategy had to come from the local community.

"If it's not community driven, it's not going to get the buy in. It's all very well

to draw up a plan, but if you don't get the buy-in from the community, it's not going to come to fruition."

It was important for people to talk to each other, he said. "There's no law that says you can't check up on your neighbour and see how they are. If someone knows that a local river is blocked up by dead trees, they can remove them before it happens."

There had already been plans under way for an emergency management structure for Opunake when the floods hit in 2015.

Te Kiri farmer Ian Armstrong who was South Taranaki District mayor at the time was involved in the planning before and after the floods.

"In my opinion we've got to get a fresh group of people, take the old plan and kick the dust off it," he said. Plans developed at the time had included having two people designated for each of the country roads in the area to keep in touch with everyone and pass on information.

Since then many of the people involved with the original group had moved on. Oaonui farmer and South Taranaki District councillor

Bryan Roach said these included some of the people given the jobs of keeping an eye on their local roads.

"A lot of them have moved, so a lot of roads are down to one, or to none. They have not been replaced."

Ian Armstrong said the need is still there.

"This is quite a widespread district. What happens in Oaonui can be different to what happens in Oeo, so we need to help ourselves. During Covid, a number of people did slip through the cracks for a while. There were a number of elderly people in the district not being supported."

Glenn Hansen said a meeting will be held at a future date to try to get a community emergency management going.

All in a good cause

The Hyway 45 Cruisers are a car club based in Opunake with members from all over Taranaki. We are non-profit club and have decided to donate funds earned from our club raffles to local organisations in Taranaki. In December we donated \$1000 to the Opunake Fire Brigade and recently donated a cheque for \$1000 to the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter.

Jannean Vercoe



Club president Sarah Clements presents cheques to Ed Garvey of the Helicopter Rescue Trust (left) and Opunake Fire Brigade chief fire officer Craig Dingle(right).

Soldiers Park pathway extension begins

Work has started on extending the pathway in Soldiers Park, Eltham.

South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon, says the pathway extension will create an 800-metre loop track in the Park, and is one of the projects the Council has been working on to improve recreational opportunities across the District.

Work is expected to take two weeks, weather permitting. Some of the new sections will be fine lime chip with other areas of the existing pathways remaining mown grass.

The new pathway will complement the work being done by local volunteers, Eltham Restore, who are working to revegetate the area with native riparian



planting along the Mangawharawhara Stream while also providing better access for weed control.

Visitors to the Park are asked to avoid the development area while the work is underway.

Left: At the blessing ceremony prior to the start of work.



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April 10	Clifton (Away)	Clifton (Away)	Patea at Rahotu	Clifton (Away)		Inglewood at Rahotu
April 17	Stratford/Eltham (Away)	Stratford/Eltham (Away)	Bell Block (Away)	Stratford/Eltham (Away)		Clifton
April 24	NPOB at Rahotu	NPOB at Rahotu	Clifton at Rahotu	NPOB at Rahotu		Southern
May 1	Spotswood United (Away)	Spotswood United (Away)	Okaiawa at Rahotu	Spotswood United (Away)		Inglewood (Away)
May 8	Southern at Rahotu	Southern at Rahotu	Kaitake at Rahotu	Southern at Rahotu		Clifton
May 15	Tukapa at Rahotu	Tukapa at Rahotu	Toko (Away)	Tukapa at Rahotu		Southern (Away)
May 22	Inglewood (Away)	Inglewood (Away)	Normanby (Away)	Inglewood (Away)		Inglewood at Rahotu
May 29	Clifton at Rahotu	Clifton at Rahotu	Spotswood at Rahotu	Clifton at Rahotu		Clifton
June 5	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu	Tukapa at Rahotu	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu		-
June 12	NPOB (Away)	NPOB (Away)	Inglewood at Rahotu	NPOB (Away)		-
June 19	Spotswood at Rahotu	Spotswood at Rahotu	Southern (Away)	Spotswood at Rahotu		-
June 26	Southern (Away)	Southern (Away)	Stratford/Eltham at Rahotu	Southern (Away)		-
July 3	Tukapa (Away)	Tukapa (Away)	Kaponga (Away)	Tukapa (Away)		-

Semi-final/Final dates and venues are not yet available



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Effluent storage: is a Bladder Tank the right choice?

The unique benefits of a bladder tank for effluent storage make them the ideal solution for some specific farming situations. However, there are some common situations where a bladder tank is an option but may not be the best option when considering investment costs, system efficiency and futureproofing of the farm.



MICHAEL PRESTIDGE

Situations when a Bladder Tank Is best

One of the main features of a bladder tank is that it provides a closed effluent storage solution. The benefits of closed storage is that there's no risk of oxidation, external contamination, evaporation, or people falling in. They are also transportable and

earthquake resistant. This makes bladder tanks the ideal solution for:

- Swampy and high-water table sites where it's not possible to dig an effluent pond.
- Temporary sites, such as leased land, or where a farm is being restructured, and you do not want to

install infrastructure.

- Extremely high rainfall areas, where a pond would be prone to overflow. These are areas that experience rainfall of 3 metres or more, as evaporation must always be considered.

- Sites close to residential properties where safety, odour and council compliance are an issue.

Other common considerations

Bladder tanks are a common consideration for dairy farmers who need storage for deferred irrigation from their sump, or when the main storage pond is not big enough. If you are considering buying a bladder tank for these reasons, you may want to weigh it up against the cost and benefits of a HDPE lined pond.

HDPE lined ponds are the most popular choice of effluent storage in New Zealand, and there is a good reason for it. When looking at the wastewater industry across New Zealand, over 60% of containment is in HDPE lined ponds. This means just 40% is spread across bladder tanks, above ground tanks, rubber lined



A Bladder Tank is ideal for some farming situations but not others.

ponds, unlined ponds and any other form of wastewater storage.

At a cost of \$20-50K for a bladder tank it is often more cost efficient to install a HDPE lined pond or upgrade your existing effluent storage. While a bladder tank may still be the right choice for your farm, here's why we'd recommend considering a HDPE lined pond where possible:

- Cost effectiveness – HDPE lined ponds are the most cost effective storage solution in terms of installation, management

and maintenance.

- Energy efficient and council compliant – wherever possible, effluent should drain to your main storage through gravity. Not only does this save on energy requirements in terms of pumping, but there's peace of mind knowing if there's a power outage your effluent is still running to the right place.

- Futureproofing – A HDPE lined pond will last a lot longer than other effluent storage options and is easy to integrate with other effluent management equipment.

- Solids management and nutrient use – Managing solids is much easier with a pond. Using a shore-mounted electric slurry stirrer or PTO stirrer the effluent can be thoroughly mixed, meaning nutrients are evenly distributed. Although a submersible stirrer can be used for a bladder tank, this will not be able to achieve the same efficiency or effectiveness.

Michael Prestidge
Nevada Effluent
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Fine for the abuse of 250 calves a slap on the wrist

This week Anthony Brolly was sentenced in the Taupō District Court on seven animal welfare charges. He was fined \$12,000 and ordered to pay costs of \$5,292 after he failed to feed, adequately treat and prevent parasites in 245 calves, and ill-treated five calves.

SAFE CEO Debra Ashton said the sentence doesn't align with the gravity of the offence.

"Time and time again, the perpetrators of harm against animals get off lightly," said Ashton.

"This is the latest example of how our animal welfare system does not adequately care for the welfare of vulnerable animals."

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) stated that 'all cases of animal abuse are unacceptable,' however the penalties for abuse don't go far enough, said Ashton. For comparison, last month a dairy farmer and his company were fined \$103,500 for effluent discharge.

"MPI brought the charges against Anthony Brolly. MPI is responsible for enforcing animal welfare law on farms, but its primary function is the promotion of New Zealand agriculture and exports.

"MPI has a conflict of interest. They're also under resourced. We need better systems in place that will put animal welfare first - starting with a Commissioner for Animals."

"Right now, animals are suffering on farms across the country. They need an independent voice free from bias or industry interests."

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Mixed reactions to timing of regulations

DairyNZ and Federated Farmers have welcomed the introduction of winter grazing regulations being deferred for a year.

“In announcing a temporary delay until 1 May 2022 of intensive winter grazing (IWG) rules taking effect, Environment Minister David Parker has recognised workability issues need to be sorted, and that extra time is vital to ensure we get this right,” Federated Farmers water spokesperson Chris Allen says.

“This is not kicking for touch. The Minister has accepted a commitment from regional councils and the farming sector to use this time to develop, test and

deploy an IWG module and practices that will ultimately be a part of a certified freshwater farm plan.”

“It’s all about ensuring the final rules and provisions are practical and workable for farmers, and achieve the environmental outcomes everybody wants to see.”

The move has also been welcomed by DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel.

“The Government’s decision to deliver change via an intensive winter grazing module as part of certified farm plans, rather than rules, is good news for farmers,” he said.

“Farmers now have time to continue implementing good management practices that

will drive positive progress. These will be supported by the winter grazing module and monitoring.

In December, the Southland Advisory Group recommended the Government make several changes to rules under the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater. These included proposed amendments to pugging and resowing dates.

“We want to acknowledge the Government’s approach with the Southland Advisory Group, which has been inclusive and collaborative. We are pleased the recommendations have been heard by the Government on this very important issue.

There is still more detail to work through, but we are confident we will make progress,” said Mr van der Poel.

Animal advocacy group SAFE says they are concerned with the welfare of farm animals while these steps are being worked out.

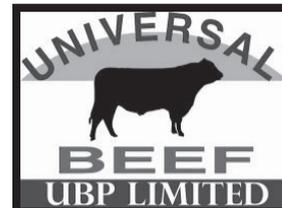
“What steps will the Government take to ensure the welfare of these animals in the interim?” said SAFE CEO Debra Ashton. “Will we still be seeing more horrific images of cows standing and giving birth in mud, just as we did last year?”

“When cows are kept in wet and muddy conditions,

welfare issues that may result include poor hoof health and lameness, an inability to properly rest and ruminate, and increased risk of mastitis. Calves born in muddy conditions are also at risk, as their small bodies make them vulnerable to

suffering in the cold and wet conditions.

“Winter grazing has been linked to terrible examples of suffering for animals and our land. Cows and their calves need the Government to act for them now, not in 2022.”



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TRC wants to hear your vision for freshwater in Taranaki



Freshwater continues to be a big issue for Taranaki.

The Taranaki Regional Council is inviting residents and tangata whenua to have their say about the future of Taranaki’s freshwater.

An online survey has launched and members of the public are encouraged to share what they love most about their local lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands and aspirations for their future.

Community workshops and consultation with tangata whenua will also be held around the region on 21 and 22 April for those who

would like to provide their feedback in person.

Results will form the development of a community vision for freshwater management, and will feed into the Council’s Regional Policy Statement (RPS), which is currently under review.

TRC Chair David MacLeod says Taranaki’s waterways are important in so many ways, with social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts for our community.

“We want to build an ambitious and achievable long-term community vision.”

He says this vision will help to guide policies for managing our freshwater plan and may inform long-term goal setting that reflects community expectations.

“We really encourage our community to take part as the more perspectives we get, the better.”

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Environmental leaders inspire and challenge

Dairy farmers at the Dairy Environment Leaders Forum in Wellington have heard first-hand what will be required of all New Zealanders in order to meet our climate change obligations.

At the forum, farmers heard from keynote speaker Climate Change Commission chair Dr Rodd Carr, Climate Change Minister James Shaw and speakers from other sectors.

Dr Carr told the group of around 40 Dairy Environment Leaders at the two day forum that all New Zealanders have

a responsibility to begin reducing emissions if we are to rise to the climate challenge.

“Human beings have a carbon footprint, no matter what we do,” said Dr Carr. “So it’s about containing it, and how we contain it. The climate waits for no-one. As a nation, we can choose what we do, but we can’t choose not to reduce emissions.

“So it’s about our share of the responsibility. The science is now so clear that we have to act because greenhouse gases are causing the climate to change. The needle on the dial is moving

toward doing what we can, when we can.

“There is technical feasibility, economic effects and social acceptance we need to address. I think the journey is under way, we just have to configure how we do it. Long-term, we will need a technological breakthrough.”

Climate Change Minister James Shaw echoed that view, saying there are diverse tools farmers can use in different farm conditions across New Zealand and there is time to achieve the changes.

“We can get to where we

need to, over the next 30 years, with the options we have now,” said Mr Shaw. “Fortunately, we are not starting from scratch, there’s been a lot of good work done in the last five years, including through the He Waka Eke Noa partnership.”

Dairy Environment Leaders chair Melissa Slattery said farmers are committed to playing their part to solve environmental challenges, and have a lot of great work underway already. But she said regulations need to be practical behind the farm gate and have pragmatic timeframes.

“Dairy Environment Leaders Forum is an opportunity for environmentally-minded farmers to get together and discuss the opportunities we see, the challenges we face, and the support that we will need to succeed.”

DairyNZ strategy and investment leader Dr David Burger said the forum is a valuable opportunity for farmers to hear first-hand the factors being considered for New Zealand’s future, and to ensure decision-makers understand the challenges and practicalities on farm. “It’s one way our Dairy

Environment Leaders can meet and hear from decision-makers, discuss the sector’s future and solutions farmers are rolling out for climate change and water quality,” said Dr Burger.

“Our farmers lead the world in the production of sustainable and low emission milk, and we want to ensure we protect that position.”

The Dairy Environment Leaders (DEL) group was formed by DairyNZ in 2013 to empower leadership and help farmers support other farmers making change to reduce environmental footprint.

Sludge removal backed by government cash

Work is underway to remove decades-old sludge from a storage lagoon at the New Plymouth Wastewater Treatment Plant, with help of \$3.5 million of Government funding.

It is the largest NPDC project to get investment from the Government’s \$523m nation-wide three waters stimulus and reform package, announced last year.

The same amphibious Truxor machines used to remove silt from Pukekura Park’s waterways are sucking about 7,000 cubic

metres of sludge dating back to 1990 out of the lagoon.

The sludge will sit in large tubes while the water drains out for the next six to 12 months, and the remaining sludge will then be taken to a landfill.

“Once this sludge lagoon is empty, it’ll open up the land for future expansion of the treatment plant – something we’ll need as the district’s population continues to grow,” says NPDC Group Manager Planning and Infrastructure David Langford.

“We’re currently getting

public feedback for our plans to invest \$248m to fix the plumbing on our ageing three water networks over the next 10 years.

“But there are always more projects that need seeing to, so getting Government funding means we can take this off the ‘to do’ list and get it done earlier.

“The Truxor worked really well last year in getting the build-up of silt out of many of Pukekura Park’s lakes and I expect it’ll work just as well at the treatment plant.”

In total NPDC is getting \$10 million from the

Government’s Covid-19 Fund for water projects in the district, with \$3.5m going toward emptying the sludge lagoon.

Another \$1.5m will enable NPDC to upgrade the West Quay sewer pump station in Waitara so that it won’t flood when the river runs high.

“By stopping any river water coming into the pump station during very high rainfall, we’ll greatly increase the ability of the pump station to keep running at those times,” says Mr Langford.



An amphibious Truxor vehicle gets to work in the NPDC Waste Water Treatment Plant sludge lagoon.

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Fonterra Dairy Woman of the Year finalists named



Belinda Price.

A sharemilker, a Dairy Business of the Year recipient, and a contract milker and farm consultant have been named as this year's finalists for the Fonterra Dairy Woman of the Year award.

Belinda Price, a sharemilker based in Whanganui, joins Ashburton dairy farmer Rebecca Miller and Chevon Horsford, a contract milker,



Chevon Horsford.

farm consultant and Māori farm advisor in Whangarei, in the running for the award managed by Dairy Women's Network.

Already a celebration of leadership inside and outside the farm gate, this year's award shows a strong focus on people and highlights the work of the three finalists in leading and mentoring others through their farming



Rebecca Miller.

journeys. Dairy Women's Network Trustee and award judge Sophie Stanley said the three finalists were recognised by the judging panel as representing a wide range of diversity in leadership within the industry, and for their commitment to supporting people as well as dairying as a whole.

"Belinda showed strong

focus and determination to not only improve her own farming business through continuous learning, but to nurture and mentor others in the industry and contribute back to a wide range of industry organisations," she said.

"Chevon's passion, purpose and vision for encouraging and supporting Māori farmers and other

wahine toa in the industry is inspiring, and Rebecca's positivity, enthusiasm and holistic approach to farming and family life shine through her nomination, which has enabled her to give back to the industry in a number of varied roles."

The finalists were selected by a judging panel comprised of Stanley, 2019 Fonterra Dairy Woman of the Year Trish Rankin and representatives from Fonterra, Global Women and Ballance Agri-Nutrients. Stanley said the award and the judging process shine a light on the work these women do for the industry behind the scenes,

to encourage the next generation of dairy women to follow in their footsteps.

"What excites me the most is being in the presence of incredibly hardworking, passionate and inspiring women who every day wake up to make the dairy industry a better place for their families, peers, the environment and New Zealand as a whole."

The recipient will be announced at a gala dinner in Taupo on the 8th of April. Miles Hurrell, Chief Executive of Fonterra, will be presenting the award.

New name and strategy for PEPANZ

The Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand (PEPANZ) has officially changed its name to 'Energy Resources Aotearoa' to reflect a new and broader strategic approach.

"This name reflects our move beyond solely representing upstream oil and natural gas providers to being the voice of a successful and sustainable energy resources sector," says Energy Resources Aotearoa chief executive John Carnegie.

On this month in history
Marc Marion du Fresne visits NZ

On March 25, 1772 a French expedition, led by Marc Marion du Fresne visited NZ. This was the first European expedition since Captain Cook departed in 1770. His ships were the Marquis de Castries and the Mascarin. The crew sighted the west coast of the North Island.

Near Cape Brett a larger number of Maori people visited the two ships in early May. On May 4 the ships entered the Bay of Islands and three camps were established. On May 10 they anchored south of Moturoa and stayed there until July.

"Our strategic focus is the best possible outcome for New Zealand by leading a conversation about balance in the energy mix - affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

"Our vision is a successful and sustainable energy resources sector that makes New Zealand a better

place, through and beyond the transition to lower emissions.

"In doing this we're looking at the future of the energy resources sector as a whole, including locally-produced natural gas and oil, as well as other fuels and users."

The move follows a year-

long process of consulting with members and stakeholders in the energy sector.

"We support the transition to lower emissions and want to play our part. Our aim is to partner with the Government, industry, and innovators to make this transition work."

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Yarrows Taranaki Bulls coaching group confirmed

Taranaki Rugby has announced the coaching team which will be joining Yarrows Taranaki Bulls Head Coach Neil Barnes for the 2021 NPC season.

Former Scotland Sevens representative Johnny Weston and former All Black Jarrad Hoeata will be Assistant Coaches.

Weston is Taranaki born and bred, having grown up on farms at Whangamomona and Toko before becoming a boarder at New Plymouth Boys' High School.

A former Physical Education teacher who is now chicken farming,

Weston has been coaching in the Taranaki community since 2002. Weston has been the Head Coach of the CMK Taranaki Men's Sevens team and prior to that was involved with the NPBHS 1st XV and the Spotswood United Premier team. Weston was looking forward to helping grow the Taranaki Rugby legacy and working with the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls management team.

"The previous coaching group have done an excellent job developing many players. I am hoping to continue to grow these players as well as others both on and off the

rugby field. I look forward to the challenge of juggling farming and preparing for the 2021 campaign before I go full time when the competition gets underway."

Hoeata joined the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls as their Assistant Coach in 2020 and has played 82 matches for the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls. A vastly experienced player who has represented the All Blacks, Maori All Blacks, and All Blacks Sevens teams and playing professionally in the United Kingdom and France. Jarrad is also a New Zealand Under-20 selector and a forwards coach for the

Chiefs Under-20 team.

"I'm lucky enough to have played in a number of high-performance environments both in New Zealand and overseas, and I'm looking forward to passing on that knowledge to our group. I'm looking forward to working with Barnsey, who has been a great mentor for me over the years."

Yarrows Taranaki Bulls Head Coach Neil Barnes said he was happy to have finalised his coaches.

"I'm pleased to have Jarrad and Johnny join the coaching group to lead the Amber and Blacks in 2021. There is an

abundance of experience among these men, and I trust this will provide us with a solid platform."

"It is great to have Johnny in the fold this season; his technical knowledge of the game is very strong. Johnny already has strong relationships with our contracted players, and I know he is going to make a positive impact in our environment."

Taranaki Rugby Chief Executive Officer Laurence Corlett said it was fantastic to lock in a strong coaching group for the upcoming season.

"We are thrilled to have Johnny and Jarrad assisting Neil at the helm. We're really looking forward to welcoming Johnny and his family to our environment."

Corlett confirmed that former Yarrows Taranaki Bulls Assistant Coaches Tim Stuck (North) and Ra Mako (South) have been appointed as 'Selectors' and will support the coaching group in canvassing CMK club rugby performances. New Plymouth Physiotherapy will be the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls physiotherapy provider in 2021.

Free netball for Year 1 and 2 students

Netball Taranaki is leading the way with accessible sport for first year participants and has committed to 'no fees' for the FutureFERNs Year 1 and 2 programme for the year.

There are several benefits to participating in organised sport and buddying young netballers around the region now have the chance to make new friends, be active, healthy, and part of a community for the whole family at no cost.

Netball Taranaki General Manager Jaqua Pori-

Makea-Simpson said that after considering how to eliminate some of the barriers for participation, the solutions were apparent and achievable.

"One of the major obstacles to playing is cost, we want netball to be sustainable, affordable and accessible so by making the first two years of netball free is a small way to ease the financial burden and improve participation," she said.

"We are very excited to support Year 1 and 2 students around the region

with this initiative and also welcome new families to the netball community."

In addition to free participation, Pori-Makea-Simpson said netball uniforms will not be enforced for the FutureFERNs programmes to reduce costs and allow alternative options to the traditional netball uniform.

Along with Netball Taranaki taking on the financial commitment for Year 1 and 2 students it recently invested in permanently marking 22

modified courts around the mountain for the FutureFERNs Year 3 and 4 programme. Providing dedicated spaces for this programme improves the

facilities for schools to take advantage of and adds to the experience for young players.

The registration period for ANZ FutureFERNs Year

1-6 teams has been extended until 3 April to enable schools and families to benefit from this opportunity.



Above: Netball Taranaki facilitators with FutureFERNZ.

Sandfords Manaia Golf Club results

March 1. Monday night Ambrose. 1. Winks Road. 2. Tui & Red. 3.YTB.

March 8. Ambrose. 1. Hakana Matata. 2. Winks Road. 3. Senior Symes. 4. Half Decent.

March 11. South Taranaki Primary School Tournament. Boys. Gross. Oliva Symes. Nett. Oliver

Smithson. Girls. Hannah Symes.

March 13. Saturday Men. 1. Craig Jones. 2. Greg Elliott. 3. Caleb Symes. 4. Grant Gopperth. 5. Blake Symes. 6. Kevin Murrell.

March 21. Juniors. Pee Wees. 1. Cooper Symes. 2. Anise Borrie. 3. Boston Symes. Tuis. 1. Jaxon

Symes Simpson. 2. Eila Elliott. Eagles. 1. Oliva Symes. 2. Carter Symes. 3. Kobi Symes Simpson. 4. Liam Graig.

March 20. Saturday Tournament. 1. Ralfe Symes. 2. Jim Ngere. 3. Qunitin Symes. 4. Michelle Cathie. 5. Trevor Larsen. 6. Phil Elliott.








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Opunake Bowling Club news

The Men's Junior Singles and the Ladies Junior Singles were played on March 13-14.

In the Junior Men's, a round robin event was played with the three eligible men taking part. Levi Davis came out the eventual winner.

Five keenly contested rounds were played by the five junior women. The result was up in the air until the final round, when Julie Hemahema claimed the title. Some wonderful bowls were played by all the girls. Congratulations to Julie and Levi, the new junior champions.

On February 28, a very successful Under 8 Year Mixed Triples Tournament was held with 12 teams from all over Taranaki playing. There was wonderful weather, friendly competition, and an abundance of food on the table. Singalong

background music added to the ambience. A mixed team from Opunake/Rahotu won on the day.

1st. Levi Davis, Rita Davey and Nathan Goodin. 2nd. Tom Crehan, Ryan Vincent and Judy Fox. 3rd. Anne Woods, Camron Horo and Karen Wallace. 4th. Kewene Ratahi, Ange de Bique and Ma Arapo. 5th. Bridget Fletcher, Marie Mummery and Geoffrey Herbert.

On February 28, the final of the Women's Championship Triples was played, with the winners being Pauline Davy, Eileen Rothwell and Val Langton, who beat Nell L'Ami, Heather Radford and Kay Fleming.

The men played a round robin event with four teams for their championship pairs. There were some very close games, but the eventual winners were Kewene Ratahi and Daryl MacKenzie who won the three games.



Above left: Men's Junior Singles winner Levi Davis. Above right: Women's Junior Singles winner Julie Hemahema.

Masters Games attract competitors from near and far



TET Trustee Andrew Wood congratulates the \$1000 'early bird entry' prize winner Gwenda Takarangi from Waitara who entered the Indoor Bowls. Photo Paul Elkerton.

There were more than 1080 entries in the 2021 TET Taranaki Masters Games (TMG) which were held from March 11 -14, with competitors over the 22 sports on offer.

With approximately 21% of competitors coming from outside of the Taranaki region, it was great that visitors were able to enjoy the beautiful region which we are lucky enough to experience every day.

The furthest players came from Motueka to compete at In-line Hockey. We also had competitors from Auckland, Hastings, Tauranga, Wellington and plenty of places in-between.

Swimming has the youngest minimum age criteria at 20, so Brooke Millar was the youngest competitor. Swimming also saw the oldest competitor, 89 year-old Michael Tunnicliffe from Fielding who entered nine races.

The winner of the early bird \$1000 draw was Gwenda Takarangi from Waitara who entered the Indoor Bowls. Not bad for just entering before February 16.

All sports were required to have a contingency plan in place depending on which COVID-19 level we were at. Of course, as we know, we were at COVID level 1 which meant the only

change was a change in date for Football from March 6 to March 13.

Netball hosted 159 players, Football 150 players, and Running/Walking 94 people. The Volleyball court was also humming with approximately 80 masters' competitors and 42 High School competitors. Volleyball hold the junior tournament in conjunction with the Masters and this allows the High School players to experience playing against some more experienced Volleyball players in the lead up to their national championships.

We are often asked how we manage to provide such

awesome event bags. This is due to the generous support of the TET for this event. This is also how we manage to keep our registration fees so low; without the TET the TMG simply would not be able to operate in the format that it currently does.

Finally, thanks to everyone who participated, particularly to those who travelled to attend, to the sport organisers and clubs who hosted and to those who popped into HQ with their lovely feedback about how much they enjoyed their

event. Follow our facebook for photos of the events / taranakimastersgames and results will be uploaded to the TMG website as they become available: www.tmg.org.nz

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From Muay Thai to Pro Boxing

A one-time New Zealand Muay Thai representative is set to put on the boxing gloves for her first professional boxing fight on April 10. Natasha Norden's fight against Mia Motu in the 57kg division in Auckland will be one of several broadcast live on Sky Sport 1 that night.

Natasha took up boxing when she started going to the Barbwire Boxing and Fitness Gym two and a half months ago, after having shifted to Opunake in December. Before taking up boxing, she had 18 years involvement in the martial art of Muay Thai, in which she had represented New Zealand, as well as having a shot at the national title.

"With Muay Thai the cut-off age is about 40, but

there's no age limit as far as pro boxing is concerned," she said. "My mother passed away 18 months ago, and this has given me something to strive for and to get my life back together again. Doing this has been a good way to improve my mental wellbeing, physical strength and even my self-esteem after the death of my mother."

Natasha says her involvement with Muay Thai had been "a good way to let aggression out without doing anything silly. It's good to put it into something positive like a sport."

She had represented New Zealand at the World Games in Seoul in 2007, losing out to the eventual silver medallist.

She had also had a crack at



Natasha Norden (centre) with James (Batman) Langton and Trish MacKenzie.

a national title, but her coach threw in the towel during the second round. Natasha later found out that she was

pregnant at that time.

Her coach James (Batman) Langton says she is pleased with Natasha's progress.

"She has got this background in martial arts, all she has to do is fine tune it," he says. "Natasha

has shown a lot of courage and heart to take this fight on, and trained quite well. Early on in her training, she probably over trained, so we've focussed more on rest and diet, and put more of a training plan in place, so that when trains she's putting more energy to focus on ongoing intensity. I'm very proud and privileged to have Natasha as my first fighter under the Barbwire Boxing banner."

Trish MacKenzie has been sparring with Natasha. "Boxing doesn't have a lot of females around here," says Trish. "There's nothing like boxing training. What you get here you don't get in any other sport."

Trish's first fight had been at the Coastal Rumble in Opunake seven years ago. She has taken a three year break from boxing, but is looking forward to her first professional fight at a boxing event planned for Opunake in June or July.

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Multi-Purpose Hub comes with multi benefits

Regional sports trust Sport Taranaki has planned a multi-purpose hub, including indoor stadium, hockey turf and grass pitches, at the New Plymouth raceway and they're asking ratepayers to chip in \$40 million – about a third of the cost – as part of NPDC's 10-year plan.

"A multi-purpose hub for our kids would certainly meet a demand, not just for team sports like hockey, soccer, basketball and volleyball, but also for activities like kapa haka, martial arts and rock-climbing. Nobody wants to worry about our kids becoming couch potatoes, but do the people of our district have the appetite to pay for this?" says NPDC Group Manager Community and Customer Services Teresa Turner.

The proposal for a phased approach also comes with a

yearly running cost of \$11 million and the option to start in year 6 of the 10-year plan (2026-27) or year 4 (2024-25).

Unlike Yarrow Stadium, which is owned by Taranaki Regional Council and is the region's home for professional rugby, a multi-purpose hub at the raceway would be for community participation.

Soccer and netball each had more regular players than rugby in 2019 and basketball, hockey and touch were fast catching up with rugby, according to Sport Taranaki. Meanwhile volleyball and gymnastics are small but their numbers are accelerating.

The trust argues a purpose-built hub would attract national tournaments, allowing locals to play against the best in these



New hockey turfs would be included at a proposed multi-sport hub in New Plymouth.

sports, and bringing visitors who'd keep the tills ringing at local shops and businesses.

"Our sports groups have been pushing hard for this for many years, but it's not a slam-dunk when we have other priorities such

as upgrading our rundown water network, and our people need to have their say," Ms Turner says.

Paying it Forward for our kids with a multi-purpose hub is one of the big calls in NPDC's draft 10-Year Plan.

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Clash of the country teams



Pihama Cricket team -J Gopperth, G Batchelor, D Young, J Sinclair, R Walker, C Hammersley, K Fleming (Captain), A Lane, S Julian, R Putt, R McKenna, K Sinclair, M Clark, S Quinnell, R Young, M Davis

Pihama faced off against Auroa for the Premier 2 final played at Pukekura Park on Saturday March 20. For some they had been here before, for others it was their first time. The pitch was in good nick, the weather was turning out to be a pearler, supporters were slowly rolling in, and the boys, quietly nervous. The umpires came out to call the toss., Auroa winning the toss and choosing to bowl first on a green seaming wicket. The game starts

with a hiss and a roar with a few boundaries here and there. The banter starts and the boys' friendships come second to the pride of their club and competition of winning a championship. Auroa claimed their first wicket, and Pihama bring out another batsman to go to battle. With the score slowly climbing, Auroa had dug in deep and managed to get a couple crucial wickets against Pihama. After a quick drinks break at the 20th over, the teams reset.

Pihama were running out of batters as Auroa continued to pick them off one by one. Pihama concluded their innings for 130 after running out of batters. It's hot. The sun is out in full force. Not a breath of wind anywhere. The ground is dry and the cricket ball and grass pitch were playing a game of their own. Pihama sent their bowlers out. They have some work to do. Auroa block, leave, block, hit and leave again. Sledging flying from the bleachers as a couple of

supporters try and rally up some excitement. Pihama start claiming wickets. Auroa battle on as they try and shut this game out. The wickets come one after another and as the crowd watches in anticipation as the last batters try and hang in there, the umpire fires his finger up in the air for the last time in this 2021 final. Pihama win, bowling Auroa out for 84. Excitement becomes the sound in the park. Past students and teachers, ex-team mates, newbies and semi retirees. Club against club, nothing beats the clash of the country teams. Thanks to Auroa, always a fun battle, thanks to the

other Premier 2 teams, to the umpires, the supporters, the sponsors. To our families thank you and to the Pihama Cricket Club. Jackson Sinclair, Man of

the match bowling 2/27 and contributing 25 off the bat. Pihama 2020-2021 Champions. Pihama Cricket Club.



The Captains shake hands as the game concludes.

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Life drawing group



Artists at work.

Every Tuesday night a group of people meet in Opunake to take part in that oldest of artist traditions, drawing from life.

Each chip in \$10 which helps pay for the model and also covers coffee, tea and biscuits which they share in the break.

The group was started by Marianne Muggeridge and her partner Roger Morris and has been running for several years.

Each weekly session runs from 7pm till 9 pm.

Marianne who has the distinction of having won the Adam Portraiture Award twice is currently in the throes of completing a commissioned portrait of a well known person in Wellington.

Roger tends to focus on art with a message.

No one critiques the artists works though people do confer about their efforts. Artists also can put their work on a closed website if they want to show their work to fellow artists.

It's a great way to improve your hand and as they say

practise makes perfect. The art group meet at the

Emporium in Tasman Street, Opunake.

Beginners and working artists are welcome to join.

Bring paper and pencil.

On this month in history Team NZ retains the America's Cup

On March 2, 2000 Team New Zealand, headed by Peter Blake defended the America's Cup – winning 5-0 over the Italian challenger Luna Rossa. The first four races were skipped by Russell Coutts, but Dean Barker was captain in the final race.

The next challenge saw Russell Coutts (and many of the NZ Team) change sides and join the Swiss team Alinghi, who successfully challenged NZ.

NZ have just retained the Cup recently, having won it earlier. So far successive government have donated over \$100,000 to the campaign (to win or retain the Cup). Just a few days they have been awarded another \$5,000,000 by the current Government.

Expenses are high; it was reported that leader Grant Dalton is paid at least \$1,000,000 per annum. Back when Dean Barker was skipper several years ago, he was reportedly paid about \$4000,000. Now, with bonuses of retaining the Cup, presumably the main players are paid even more.

Creative Taranaki calling for submissions to NPDC Long Term Plan

Creative Taranaki is encouraging the community to show their support for Taranaki's local arts, creativity and cultural sector by making written and verbal submissions to the New Plymouth District Council Long Term Plan.

Creative Taranaki is a brand new community organization which began its journey at the Taranaki 2050 Roadmap workshops in 2019. While a larger group of people were involved in the initiation of the development, commitments whittled down the "lead group" to a few local artists and professionals working within the sector who were committed to

ensuring the initiative did not lose momentum.

Currently, there are 10 regions nationwide that have a funded regional arts hub or agency. Taranaki is not one of them. This has long been a source of frustration for the Taranaki Arts Community who have attempted to start a hub or agency in the past with limited resources.

In late 2020, NPDC provided seed funding for the lead group to gather national and local research on the best structure for an organization and to create a sustainable funding plan to ensure the long term viability of the organization. Supported by the arts community, a series

of hui were held around Te Moutonga to gather consensus on what the purpose and services of the organization needed to be. "Creative Taranaki" was widely agreed on as the name for the organization and plans for funding to resource and implement the structure of the organization began.

The Creative Taranaki team know from galleries, artists and other cultural groups in the community that Taranaki is becoming top of the list for visitors. Funding from NPDC will activate strategies to connect, upskill and empower local artists so they can succeed locally and beyond the Taranaki

region, ultimately allowing grassroots artists to help grow the local economy. Creative Taranaki encourages the wider community to help

make Arts and Culture an important part of visitor experiences, alongside Taranaki's incredible outdoor and hospitality sectors.

*Elvisa Van Der Leden
Lead Group Member
Creative Taranaki*

Fundraiser for Marfell Community School



Catch & Co have been doing a fundraiser at Bach on Breakwater Cafe to support Marfell Community School with funds for their special care unit and have pledged to do fundraiser all through 2021 to get as much support as possible.

They are now planning to do a \$5 Fish & chips at Catch & Co. all day from 12pm-8pm on April 1 to raise as much funds as they can to support the school in completing their special needs unit.

They need \$10,000 to be able to acquire the equipment from overseas which cannot be funded by the government, and given the situation regarding Covid 19 want to be able to give as much support as possible.

All the funds raised will go towards the community school. Catch & Co now serve wine and beer for dine-in customers.

Open from Wednesday to Sunday
12 noon 'til late

catch & co.

41 Ocean View Parade, Breakwater Bay, New Plymouth
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All of the cast give a believable and skilful account of their parts and are well-chosen. However, Sharren Read as the cleaning lady is priceless and I was also enchanted by the performance of Katherine Wolfe as the vicar with her blend of shy unsureness and assumed confidence.

side of the stage, should be very proud of themselves. You can obtain tickets on Cue's website; www.cuetheatre.co.nz or phone Fun Ho Museum on 756 7030. If you haven't seen this comedy I strongly suggest you make sure that you do. It's a most entertaining night out.

Everyone who have participated in making this comedy so enjoyable, on both

Roland McKellar



Kim (April Krijger) and Keith (Bryan Vickery).

Front, from left: Kim (April Krijger), Alice (Sharren Read), Jade (Vicki-Ann Ritchie), Sara (Katherine Wolfe). Back, from left: Keith (Bryan Vickery), Lucy (Kerryn Smith), Brenda (Victoria Mills), Tom (Stephen Leeks).

Love on the Beach impresses

The TET Cue Theatre always produces quality shows and *Love on the Beach* is no exception. Written by Raymond Hopkins, the quirky comedy runs until Saturday March 27 and is a load of fun. The play is directed by Stephen Leeks, who also plays Tom; his wife has died and he is in a hurry to complete his bucket list.

The play opens to the musical strains of *Down on the Beach (by the Drifters)* to reveal a carefully constructed set, rich with nautical items. Set builder Peter Haines has to be commended, along with his hard-working team.

Tom has moved away to the seaside, maybe to put distance between himself and the scene of his bereavement, but his daughters Lucy (Kerryn Smith) and Jade (Vicki-Ann Ritchie) are far from happy about their father's shift of many kilometres. They scheme to entice him back, but maybe they haven't chosen the optimal bait on their 'hook'! Brenda (Victoria Mills) is the wealthy overbearing family friend who has her predatory eye on Tom, but is it mutual? Tom's best friend Keith (Bryan Vickery) is always on hand to back Tom in whatever he wants to do, but he has

his own issues of a marital nature. Always around is the cleaning lady Alice (Sharren Read), who has a huge list of ailments, which she delights in describing in great detail. Top of Tom's bucket list is escort lady Kim (April Krijger), who seemingly has two speeds – high velocity sexy and quietly caring. She certainly gets noticed, but not only by Tom. Paying Tom visits is the local vicar Sara (Katherine Wolfe), who is popular with her congregation, but probably lonesome.

As there are still three performances left of the season, I don't want to give

too much away, but the comedic twists and turns keep one guessing right up to the end of the play.




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Seafood Chowder
Traditional delicious Seafood chowder with the Flavouring of celery, drizzled with lemon juice, sprinkled with black pepper on top, served with a garlic naan cooked in a clay oven (Tandoor) 20



Teriyaki Chicken Burger
Lettuce over the bun, teriyaki sauce, Chicken patty, Swiss cheese, bacon, a slice of onion and tomato, served with crispy fries & Ketchup 15



Tandoori Chicken Salad
A fresh & healthy combination of greens, lettuce, Radicchio, cucumber, cabbage, coriander leaves & carrot served with smoky succulent chicken fillets cooked in tandoor, dressed with homemade fresh mint chutney with a side of crunchy Papadums 19



Grilled chicken cheese sandwich
White bread grilled with homemade dressing mixed with smoky succulent diced chicken, cheese, onion, capsicum salt and pepper, served with a side of fries and salad 15

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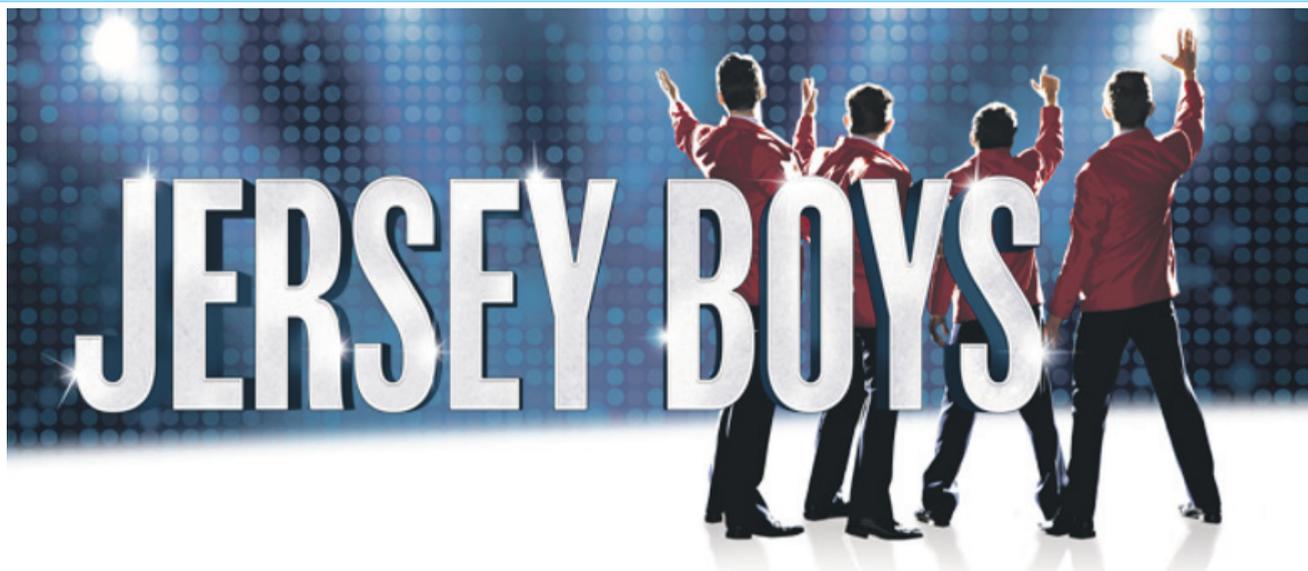
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Weir Bros are running an overnight trip for this amazing experience give them a call.

Jersey Boys Tour 22nd May Wellington
 The internationally acclaimed musical, seen by more than 26 million people worldwide, tells the story of how four blue collar boys from the wrong side of the tracks became one of the biggest American pop sensations of all time.

Featuring hit after legendary hit including Beggin', Can't take my eyes off you, Oh what a night, Sherry, Walk like a man, Bye bye baby, Big girls don't cry and many more, Jersey Boys is a story full of heart, humour and 'sheer musical razzamatazz'.

Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Tommy DeVito and Nick Massi joined forces to become The Four Seasons, writing their own hits and developing their unique sound to sell over 175 million records before they were 30.

They were just four guys from Jersey, until they sang their very first note. They had a sound nobody had ever heard... and the radio just couldn't get enough of. But while their harmonies were perfect on stage, off stage it was a very different story.

Go behind the music and inside the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons in the Tony Award-winning true-life musical phenomenon, Jersey Boys. From the streets of New Jersey to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, this is the musical that's just too good to be true.

Jersey Boys is produced in New Zealand by the same company that delivered the sold-out season of Les Miserables in 2019 and the 2020 box office smash hit, Mary Poppins.

WEIR BROS

1 **Jersey Boys -**
 Saturday 22nd May 2021 \$495pp
 Join us for an overnight trip to see the internationally acclaimed musical Jersey boys.

2 **Lion King -**
 June 2021
 Register your interest NOW!!!!

3 **Mid Winter Getaway -**
 10th - 14th August 2021 \$1050pp. Rather than stay home this winter why not travel with us to the Chateau.

4 **Chatham Islands-**
 29th September - 6th October 2021 \$4900pp
 Ever changing, spectacular and breath-taking scenery from rugged landscapes with its volcanic peaks, rolling farm land and original forest remnants, to lakes, sandy beaches and rocky shorelines will make this holiday like no other.

5 **World of Wearable Art -**
 Saturday 2nd October 2021: \$525.00pp
 Join us once again for an overnight excursion to see one of the spectacular shows of 2021

6 **Deep South -**
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The Emporium Gallery and Gifts is simply superb

Emporium Gallery & Gifts sells quality art created by well-known artists, but also has a wide range of craft on offer, as well as a studio at the rear of the shop where studio painter Rhonda Crawford can be seen creatively at work some of the time, especially in the weekend.

The Emporium at 86 Tasman Street, Opunake, which is both spacious and impeccably set out, is owned by Michaela Niederberger and is open Wednesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm. On Sunday it is open 10am to 3pm.

The art on display is created by such talented artists as Marianne Muggeridge, Roger Morris (Remo), Dale Copeland, Paul Hutchinson, Shawn Crawford, Kirsty



Michaela Niederberger owner of The Emporium.

Meynell, Rebecca Beyer, Fern Parmentier, Joshua Wilson, as well as Rhonda Crawford. As well as paintings, there are sculptures, carvings, prints, rubber woodblock prints, etchings, Kiwiana art, and even a stone carving.

Some of the craft on sale includes jewellery, scented

soaps and candles, felt bags, coat hangers, clothing, books and crocheted items. "We want to have something for everyone," comments Michaela.

The Emporium is also the venue for LifeDrawing classes each Tuesday night from 7pm to 9pm. Such excellent

artists as Roger Morris, Marianne Muggeridge, Paul Hutchinson, Liz Sinclair, Clair Jensen and Rhonda Crawford will be on hand to give direction where needed.

The Emporium Gallery & Gifts is a positive asset to Opunake and worth a visit.

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Birds take over Puke Ariki in new exhibition on Māori mythology

Ngā Hau Ngākau Whakarongo!
Ki te tangi a te manu e karanga nei
“Tui, tui, tuituia!”

Tuia i runga, tuia i raro, tuia i roto

Tuia i waho, tuia i te here tangata

Puke Ariki's latest touring exhibition Ngā Hau Ngākau (Breath of Mine) is an immersive exhibition of luminous paintings, intricately carved taonga puoro and beautiful music.

The exhibition layout takes the form of the whare whakairo (carved meeting house) and focusses on the role of manu (birds) as messengers in Māori mythology. It acknowledges birds as atua tangata whenua (the original ancestors of our islands) and by honouring the ancient whakapapa (genealogy) of ngā manu, the exhibition offers a

different perspective when considering contemporary human experience in Aotearoa.

The show is a collaboration between carver Brian Flintoff, musician Bob Bickerton and artist Robin Slow. It includes 36 paintings, 2 kete (baskets) and 1 whāriki (woven mat) by Slow; 34 carvings by Flintoff; and a soundscape and video by Bickerton, with vocals and taonga puoro (Māori musical instruments) by musicians Ariana Tikao, Holly Weir-Tikao and Solomon Rahui.

The exhibition is on show in Puke Ariki's Temporary Gallery until 25 July 2021 and public programmes will be advertised on the Puke Ariki website over the next few months.

Puke Ariki Museum is open daily 10am – 5pm, free entry.



Above: Parihaka, painting.



Above: Pūmoana – Rangimārie, carving.
Below: Scenes from the Ngā Hau Ngākau exhibition on now at Puke Ariki.



Ngā Hau Ngākau 27 February - 25 July 2021

An immersive exhibition of luminous paintings, intricately carved taonga pūoro and beautiful music.

Puke Ariki Museum, New Plymouth

Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu
New Plymouth District Council

An exhibition by Robin Slow, Brian Flintoff and Bob Bickerton.
Supported by Wakatū Incorporation

Opunake Players: What's on in 2021

It was Shakespeare who wrote, "To be or not to be? That is a question of Covid"... or something like that. Opunake Players was 'to be' affected by Covid in 2020, by creating a record for our longest rehearsal period. "Murder and Mayhem" was cast in February and performed in November. But the continuing threat of Covid isn't stopping us from providing theatrical entertainment for you in 2021, with some slight changes. We have arranged our seating as if in Level 2 so the Lakeside Playhouse will

seat 54 and not the usual 61. That way, if we go to Level 2 the show will go on. Cup of tea, bickies and a chin wag will only happen if still in Level 1.

So what have we got for you? First up, two one act plays and some songs under the heading "Spellbound". The singing group "Heatwave" proved so popular last year we asked them back. They will present a bracket of songs under the guidance of Bert Treffers. "Fate's Thread" is a one act comedy drama directed by Michelle Julian.

This ghostly tale follows a recently deceased woman who won't accept her fate. "The Witches of Prestwick" is the second one act. Three women who have been cast as the witches in "Macbeth" meet to practise their lines but take things a bit too far. Paul Andersen-Gardiner directs this comedy.

Dates for "Spellbound" are April 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 and May 1 at 7.30pm, with a matinee on the 24th at 1pm. Tickets will be available at Sinclair Electrical from April 1 and are \$25 each.

Our mid-year show is

"A Great Face for Radio" to be directed by Lynelle Kuriger. It follows "the goings on, the high jinks and hilarity backstage" of a radio station in the 1960s. It has similarities to the TV show "Radio Times" that aired in the 1980s but with many points of difference. A sort of visual radio show. Auditions are being held at the Lakeside Playhouse Layard Street on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th May from 7.30pm. (See notice in this issue.) Performance will be in July. Something for everyone here, so if you can

act dance or sing, we want you.

We do have something in the pipeline for our end of year production, but rather than get your hopes up, we won't announce anything until details are finalised. Watch this space.

We always welcome new members, so if you wish to be involved on or off stage contact Lynelle Kuriger 027 3378899

Dates for your diary, or the memo app on your phone.

March 29 and 30 7pm at Lakeside Playhouse Layard

Street. Auditions "A Great Face For Radio"

April 1. Tickets to "Spellbound" go on sale at Sinclair Electrical. \$25

April 22, 23, 24 29, 30 May 1. at 7.30pm, matinee 24 at 1pm. "Spellbound" Lakeside Playhouse Layard Street.

Anytime, contact the Opunake Players on Facebook or Lynelle Kuriger 027 3378899.

Lynelle Kuriger.

Longtime Okato artist exhibits at Percy Thomson Gallery

Alby Carter's extensive and fascinating life in art is revealed in an exhibition at Percy Thomson Gallery in Stratford on Friday 26 March with a special celebration of the artist at 6.30pm.

The retrospective exhibition, curated by gallery director Rhonda Bunyan, contains more than 90 works spanning 50 years' practice by the prolific artist from Okato.

"The oldest painting we have of Alby's is a seascape of Palliser Bay, painted in 1968," says Bunyan. "We

have a fair representation of different periods of Alby's painting life; mixed media, sand and oil paintings, works stretched across and woven on driftwood found on local beaches, the 'exploring space' series, and, of course, the incredibly loose free-flowing bold and gritty impressionistic landscapes, where colour and the broad sweeping brush strokes define the essence of our environment."

Alby Carter was born in Wellington in 1949 and moved to Taranaki in 1982.

He has been in Okato since 2000.

Alby draws inspiration from his surroundings. He used to head out with his sketch books, paints and canvas. Now, he wanders around with his camera and hunkers down in the cosy familiarity of his converted garage/studio where he can be found painting most days.

"My paintings are about my feelings", says Carter, "I tune into those emotions when I am painting and translate them to canvas. I want people who view my art and

hopefully experience my feelings conveyed through my work."

Bunyan finds Carter's dedication to his craft, and his creative independence, inspirational.

"Alby lives to paint. It is sustenance for his spirit. He has reached iconic status

in Taranaki and I think it's a shame that his work hasn't been picked up by the big city galleries and that he hasn't received more national recognition. In my opinion, he is right up there with the likes of Wollaston and others. But, on the other hand, Alby loves the freedom

to paint what he wants and wouldn't appreciate pressure to do anything differently. I admire that."

Apart from the occasional odd jobs, Carter has been a professional artist for 50 years.



Alby Carter in his Okato studio.

ALBY CARTER RETROSPECTIVE 1968 - 2021



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We Need You!



Fitness and fundraising with the Pihama Country Women's Institute.

Pihama Annual Walk for Cancer

The Pihama Walk for Cancer was started by Val Wallace in 1995 when her grandson had cancer. At that time she wanted to raise some money for the Cancer Society. Val contacted Jen Trolove and talked about how they could achieve this. Jen came up with the idea of a walk being a good fundraising activity. This year the walk will start from Jen and Peters home at 309 Patiki Road on the 21st April. Registration is from 9.30am and the walk starts at 10.00am. The cost of \$10.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children includes a country lunch. Please take note of the advertisement in this paper with the details. This is a great school holiday activity.



The Annual walk for Cancer had a great turnout in 2019. Many people also enjoyed the country lunch in the Trolove's garden.

Opunake Library Plus book review

The Girl Behind the Gates by Brenda Davies.

This is the kind of novel that makes me do further research into the subject being written about. It's also the kind of novel that engages the emotions. Parts of this story made me shake my head in disbelief at the knowledge of what went on back in the time when Nora Jennings was aged 17 in 1939. Parts made me want to cry and other parts made me downright angry.

Nora gets pregnant after just one night in the arms of someone she loved and hoped to marry. Once her parents find out she's going to have a baby her father becomes violent and her mother doesn't save her. Nora has tried, in her panic, to get rid of the baby and once a doctor and the church become involved, Nora is labelled a 'moral defective' and sanctioned under an actual official act called The Mental Deficiency Act. She's incarcerated, told her baby is dead and left there for 40 years enduring horrific cruelty.

This act was not made up for the book. The Mental Deficiency Act 1913 was an act of Parliament of the United Kingdom which made provisions for the institutional treatment of people deemed to be "feeble-minded" and "moral defectives." It was darkly fascinating to Google this and read what it truly entailed and the fact that it wasn't repealed until 1959.

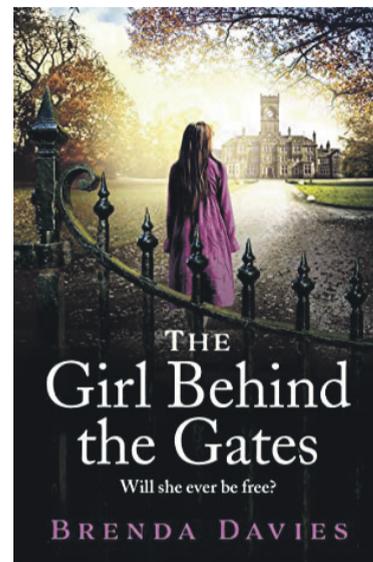
Fast forward to 1981 and psychiatrist Janet Humphreys comes across Nora, heavily institutionalised and still living in the hospital and sets about working with Nora to help her leave the hospital and finally have a life to live

outside of the gates. It opens Janet's eyes to her own life at the same time and she works on herself while working with Nora. Their journey together brings some sunshine and warmth into the storyline. The end of the book is very moving and does leave a smile on your face. This is a five-star read. You can reserve this book at any South Taranaki

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

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

Maria Brewerton
Kaiārahi Whare Pukapuka
- Ōpunake/Manaiā Branch
Librarian - Ōpunake/Manaiā



Left: This week's book review is of *The Girl Behind the Gates* by Brenda Davies.

PIHAMA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ANNUAL WALK FOR CANCER

Wednesday 21st April 2021.

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

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

The walk will be approximately 8 kms.

PRICE Adults \$10-00 Children \$2-00

All proceeds to the Taranaki Cancer Society COUNTRY LUNCH PROVIDED

CONTACT: Robyn Le Prou 027 445 1242

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Offensive language and sexual references
Fri 26th Mar 7pm

COUSINS **Extra Screenings**
Drama, NZ Film |1hr 23min | PG
Wed 31st Mar 1pm and 7pm

THE LITTLE THINGS
Crime, Thriller |2hr 8mins|M
Sun 28th Mar 7pm

MICK FLEETWOOD AND FRIENDS
Music |2hr 30mins |PG
Sat 3rd Apr 7pm | Fri 9th Apr 7pm

DAISY QUOKKA: World's Scariest Animal
Animated, Kids & Family |1hr 28mins|PG
Sat 27th Mar 1pm

THE PINKIES ARE BACK
Documentary |1hr 35mins|E
Sat 27th Mar 7pm|Fri 2nd Apr 7pm

RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON
Adventure, Animated |1hr 35mins |PG
Fri 2nd Apr 1pm |Mon 5th Apr 7pm
Sat 24th Apr 1pm

THE FATHER **BOUTIQUE**
Drama |1hr 37mins|M: Language
Sun 4th Apr 7pm | Sat 10th Apr 7pm

Mick Fleetwood and Friends - Saturday 3rd April - Bar is open \$5 drinks all night
You can book a cheese plate online

COASTALCARE

Haumarū ki Tai - Health and Community Centre



DID YOU KNOW?

CoastalCare offers for hire, quiet, private, well-appointed room's for meetings, training opportunities and social gatherings.

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Every 2nd Thursday

Mihi's Place

Every 4th Thursday of the month

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For a full list of services and happenings here at CoastalCare find us on Facebook or visit us at www.coastalcare.co.nz
CONTACT ARETHA LEMON Facility Manager on 06 761 8488

Clan Cameron never does things by halves

A gathering of the clan is always a good time for exchange of information, a discussion of the past year and prospects ahead. It is also an important time to sup a dram or two and share good cheer. It's a ceilidh (pronounced Kaylee) – a social event with story telling... and sometimes singing and traditional dancing as well. This year, whether you have Scottish blood or not, you will be welcomed at the Clan Cameron event.

Clan Cameron never does things by halves and a year of Covid19 restrictions means that we should celebrate together when we can.

The annual dinner will be held at the Hawera Club on April 10 and will feature an evening of celebrating New Zealand farming – past, present and future. The primary sector kept on trucking through the year and supporting the economy, so it is fitting that the dinner acknowledges what was done.

Organisers are delighted to have secured Mike Coils as the guest speaker. Mike is curator of the Eltham Museum and architect of many displays at events. He has had a lifelong fascination with agricultural machinery and has a lifetime of stories and experience to share. Eltham is the original home of dairying in New Zealand and Mike was front man for the vintage machinery programme on Country TV each week. He also knows a surprising amount about what women used in the 'olden days.'

MC for the event is Jacqueline Rowarth, the



The Clan Cameron celebration will be at the Hawera Club on April 10.

urban myth buster who tries to explain the real science behind some of the strange rumours circulating. Jacqueline has also been asked to speak after the dinner. She has taught at universities in New Zealand and Australia for 40 years and some stories of students, leadership and New Zealand's future opportunities are bound to come out. Jacqueline is also always keen to try and answer any questions you might have, so come prepared.

Is New Zealand agriculture

really that good by global standards? Spoiler alert – yes. So come along and feel proud about what team New Zealand has achieved.

Doors open at the Hawera Club in High Street at 5.30pm with a cash bar. Guests will be asked to be seated at approximately 6.30pm for dinner (\$40), and the ceilidh will commence.

Please contact Neville Wallace 0274163563 for further details. Tickets (\$40) are available from Neville and from Hardings Funerals 17 Regent Street.



What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

Life Drawing Group: Weekly at the Emporium, 86 Tasman St, Opunake 7pm to 9pm. \$10 to pay for the model. Models always wanted; male, female, any age. If anyone is interested please call Marianne Mugeridge on 06 274 5713.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

Opunake Bowling Club Twilight Bowls: 5.30pm at the Club.

WEEKENDS

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

MARCH 30

Opunake Sporting Shooters AGM: 7.30pm. At the Clubrooms, Kaweora Rd, Opunake.

JUNE 4 TO 6

Coastal Rugby 25 Year Celebrations: Rahotu Domain.

Local news, local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events. Delivered free around the mountain every fortnight.



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Advertise your event in the Opunake & Coastal News
Call our sales team on 06 761 7016

CHURCH NOTICES

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

Okato/Oakura Co-operating Parish
Oakura - St James - 10am, 2nd & 4th Sundays each month
Oakura - St James - 9am Bible Reading, Prayer and Reflection every Tuesday
Okato - St Pauls - 10am, 1st & 3rd Sundays each month
Okato - St Pauls - 10.30am Fellowship time 3rd Thursday of each month
Okato - St Pauls - 6.30pm Silent Prayer and Reflection 3rd Thursday of each month

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays

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

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

Okato Community Church
Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

Meeting to promote groups in Okaiawa

The Taranaki Coastal Community Board is hosting a community groups meeting at Okaiawa Hall on Thursday 8 April, at 5.30pm.

South Taranaki District Council community development advisor Fran Levings says the meeting is an opportunity for groups to

share what they are working on so people can find out what is happening in their community and how they can support what's going

on.

"The Board has hosted similar meetings in Opunake which have been well received and they are keen to take these out to communities in other parts of their ward."

Fran says attendees will also get a chance to hear about the Council's Long Term Plan for the District.

"As part of the evening they'll be a presentation outlining the key projects, activities, and services the Council intends to carry out in our community over the next ten years, along with how it will be funded.

"If your group would like to come along and share your plans or activities, just give me a call on 278 0555 (toll free 0800 111 323) or email me at fran.levings@stdc.govt.nz."

CLAN CAMERON IAR

calling all those interested in an evening of farming technology, and how pioneers farmed in early New Zealand, please join Clan Cameron in an evening of interest.

Tickets: \$40.00 (includes dinner)
Venue: Hawera Club High Street Hawera
Date: 10th April
Time: 5.30pm

Speakers are
Pr. Jacqueline Rowarth (Professor of agricultural science at Lincoln University)
Mike Coils (Curator of Eltham Museums)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PIHAMA INDOOR BOWLS

Opening night
Monday March 29, 2021,
7.30pm
Pihama Hall
Everyone welcome



Next Meeting is on
Tuesday April 6, 2021
at 5.30pm
Hughsons & Associates
Boardroom at the
Opunake Business Centre,
23 Napier St, Opunake
(opposite the Coastal Care
Medical Centre)

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Applications close at Midday, Monday 12th April 2021

Please email your CV with a covering letter, along with the contact details of 2 referees to:
principal@stjo.school.nz

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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PARIHAKA X BLOCK TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 10th April, 2021
10am-1pm
PUNGAREHU Golf Club

Agenda

1. Mihi
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of minutes from previous AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Adoption of Annual Financial Report
6. Occupation Order
7. Election of New Trustees 2 positions
8. General Business
9. Confirmation of new Trustees
10. Karakia

No Trustee nominations will be taken on the day. Nomination forms can be obtained from Te Puni Kokiri Office
Roena 027 845 6199 ruakr@tpk.govt.nz
Nominations must be received by **12 mid-day Friday 9th April 2021** at the above location.



Community Groups Meeting – Ōkaiawa

Come along and hear what's happening in your community! An opportunity for community groups to share what they are working on in the Taranaki Coastal District and hear about the Council's Long Term Plan.

Community Groups Meeting
Ōkaiawa Hall, Ōkaiawa
Thursday 8 April 2021
5.30 – 7 pm

If your group wants to present, email Fran Levings, Taranaki Coastal Community Development Advisor at fran.levings@stdc.govt.nz to be added to the agenda.



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