



## Inside



**Hairdressers busy.**  
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**Scientists discover a plastic eating caterpillar**  
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**New district governor for Lions page 13**



**Beware unflued heaters. See our Heating Feature centre pages.**

# Level 2 begins as lockdown ends

On the first day of Alert Level 2, people were emerging from seven weeks lockdown with adults and children alike keen to experience the sun and surf and all that Coastal Taranaki has to offer.

In Oakura township most businesses were open. The hairdressers and barbers were busy and booked out for some days.

Victor Higgins, manager of Lemonwood Eatery which opened at Level 2 said they'd had a few bookings for the weekend and were seeing their loyal customers. Owner Barbara Olsen had been busy over the Lockdown making birthday cakes and chutneys. Victor meanwhile had set up the website and kept in touch with people. The wage subsidy had been a big help and no one had lost their job.

After seven weeks people were clearly hanging out for their favourite takeaways.

Ali Hayward of Opunake Fish, Chips and More said people were clamouring for fresh fish while the takeaways were picking up. "People are being cautious," she felt, and keeping their distance. On the second day of level 2 it was "getting busier." After seven weeks people were hanging out for their favourite takeaways

Jarrah Edge and Beth Hunt, owners of Sugar Juice had used the Lockdown as an opportunity to refurbish their popular café. They had not been busy on the first day of Level 2 but people were slowly gravitating back, say-



**Opunake poised to open.**

ing "we really missed you." There were strict guidelines to follow such as signing in, customers having to be

served by a waitress and there was a maximum of 10 to a table. They also had to spray everything including

tables, chairs and door handles. They also had a glass for used pens and clean pens. Birendra Rawat from the

iconic Headlands Bar and Restaurant in Opunake said they had been "pretty busy" since level 2 doing deliveries and were pleased to be back.

On the first day of Level 2 customers were dropping by the Dreamtime Surf Shop to satisfy their caffeine cravings.

"The coffee's been busy, but not that busy in retail," said owner Craig Dingle. "We have sold a few repair kits and things like that."

Reopening in Level 2 had meant new things to work through, like clearer traceability and more paperwork. There was also the effect of the lack of international tourists to consider.

His customers had been "mainly locals."

"It's just early days. We have to take every day as it comes."



**Enjoying a family reunion at Sugar Juice in Opunake was Bruce Flay who hadn't seen his son and daughter-in-law and grandchildren for eight weeks. He was there with his wife.**

"It's great to come and have a catch up with the family," said Bruce commenting that his grandson Marcel was "a bit taller" and commented wryly that "we had put on weight." They had all kept in touch by speaker phone. The family group from left were Bruce, Marcel Flay, Chauncey, Tabatha Forbes, Darcy Flay and Clare Flay.

# Sixteen covid-19 cases in Taranaki

There were 16 cases of Coronavirus in Taranaki. Most of those were in Stratford and New Plymouth and they've recovered said the manager of Coastalcare in Opunake Aretha Lemon. There had been no cases in Opunake or "not that I'm aware of," she added.

One of four testing stations in Taranaki, Coastalcare had been operating over the Lockdown and it had worked really well, she said. "The public have been very good at following instructions. We needed people to do that - they adapted really quickly." They are still testing with people being screened

and tested in their cars. "Anyone with cold or flu symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, they'll test."

The medical centre had also been busy with phone consultations, video consultations with flu injections and vaccines given to people in their car, which some people were pleased about, said Aretha.

Most of the Coastalcare services are returning this week. Clients are requested however to phone first and book an appointment, not just turn up. People should refer to the advert in the Opunake & Coastal News. In Opunake Coastal

Pharmacy owner Tae Wan Kim said over the Lockdown

"it had been good to see"

*Continued page 3*

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# Letters to the Editor

## Remove geotextile bags asap

One can vividly remember on February 28 last year when Chris Fuller expressed his deepest concerns over those geotextile bags spewing out plastic particles underwater off Opunake Beach.

Eleven years after this utterly failed project these bags are still sitting underwater, so I do believe its high time both councils seriously discussed how to remove these bags before any more damage is done, which is no doubt putting the marine ecosystem in jeopardy.

Now may I suggest both councils share the cost of hiring an extremely powerful launch which may have a heavy winch on it to remove these bags, get the Opunake

Underwater Club to secure the winch's wire with an extremely strong hook to each bag, then one by one remove them from the seabed, then once onshore or somewhere, make sure there's a place where these bags are destroyed completely as soon as possible.

After that seek some compensation from ASR if they are still operating, but if not, just cut your losses, and also seek ideas from the Department of Conservation. Remember this, our environment, whether it's on land or in our oceans is extremely important to every one of us.

*Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth*

## Opunake Lake

Over the last 17 years, Mr Rex Langton has become Opunake Lake's environ-

mental guardian angel who has taken it upon himself to look after this beautiful lake, which to me is really and truly wonderful to see happening, as I am in no doubt at all lakes similar to this one all have their own similarities with their different types of issues.

It seems Mr Langton has spoken to the Taranaki Coastal Community Board and the South Taranaki District and Taranaki Regional Councils, not only on what he's done, but on his concerns about the lake, as both councils trust in him and his judgment calls, so maybe Mr Langton could be in line for a top New Zealand Environmental award as he

really deserves it.

Seeing that Mr Langton belongs to the Opunake Lions Club, maybe once a year they could organise one huge community project to help clean up this lakeside area, and plant suitable plants which could enhance its surrounding areas.

People like Mr Langton are extremely hard to find, and Opunake township is also extremely lucky to have such a lake close by, so I hope every so often they help Mr Langton out. Remember this, who is going to take over if this man isn't around anymore?

*Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth*

## Publication dates for the year

Please note our new publication dates of the Opunake & Coastal News for the year below. Due to the disruption caused by the lockdown it put us out of sync with our original calendar publication dates.

We will be publishing fortnightly as usual.

*Editor*

## EDITORIAL

# The Lockdown

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern must be commended for the way she has led the nation during this crisis. Going early and hard was the right approach. Also appropriate was the easing of restrictions (to Level 2) after six weeks. With 96% of people who became ill with the Covid 19 virus recovering and a dwindling of reported new cases to almost zero, we have a positive result. It's sad, of course, that a number of people lost their lives.

Well done to everyone who stuck to the guidelines. However, not too many people will have had a perfect record I suspect.

It was good that police did their admirable best to ensure people stuck to the safety guidelines. The road blocks, by community members, in places such as the Far North, although maybe not entirely legal, at least showed a public spiritedness and a concern for

the well-being of their communities. Good on them also.

However, it must be kept in mind that for everyone who was caught by the police, there were probably ten people who escaped detection by the 'thin blue line'. In the spirit of reconciliation I believe there should be a sort of pardon and all prosecutions waived and the offenders (to use a strong word) left with merely a warning on their record. There is no point in leaving the stain of a police prosecution against the names of people who are mostly responsible citizens, but perhaps had a lapse of judgement in unusual and hopefully unlikely to be repeated, circumstances. Anyway, if a Minister of the Crown (and Minister of health, no less) has not been prosecuted for his much publicised lapse, neither should anyone else be.

*Rolland McKellar*

## ADELPHOS

# Choosing Life

Life isn't always beer and skittles. Sometimes we experience disappointment, pain and suffering. Good Friday is remembrance day for the painful suffering and death of Jesus. His death uniquely and freely offers us forgiveness for all our sins. But, this Covid-19 Easter season before Jesus' ascension to heaven also reminds the world that we can celebrate His resurrection hope as we emerge from life's tragic circumstances. His Easter resurrection victory is not only for today; it is His offer, to us, to replace eternal death with eternal life in God's love bubble.

Jesus is always relevant because He experienced the everyday struggles of human life. He took life a day at a time and dealt with His present situation. For us He is a God of the present. He doesn't care about our past failures, faults and sins. He's only interested in forgiving

them right now and wants to live in every beat of our hearts. God doesn't always wave a wand and take away our problems, but wants us to realise we are not alone, take responsible actions and trust in His guiding presence. The resurrected Jesus is saying, "I've got your backs in the middle of life's messes." Jesus promised, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

The physical resurrection of Jesus offers us hope and peace in our lives: I've often seen it at a Christian's deathbed. Without the Easter Sunday resurrection Christianity gets reduced to mythology or moral sayings of just another prophet. The resurrection challenges us to ask modern day questions. How can we deal with crises like the Christchurch massacre, a diagnosis of cancer, the Covid-19 pandemic or the untimely death of a loved one?

But is Jesus' resurrection true? In His post-resurrection body Jesus is recorded appearing ten times to his followers. On one occasion He appeared to a crowd of 500 people. It took 40 days of post-resurrection appearances to convince His cowering disciples that He was truly resurrected from the dead. Reliable scholarship tells us the earliest written New Testament accounts were recorded from as early as 40-70 AD, while many of the eyewitnesses were still alive.

The myth, concocted by atheists, skeptics and over-educated liberal theologians, is that the resurrection accounts are unreliable and the biblical writings were tales made up hundreds of years later. A faith choice for Jesus should be based upon deciding on credible evidence. It then becomes a reasonable and "informed" faith decision, not a blind one.

Well, so what? The average person makes about 30,000 decisions/choices each day. What's your choice about Jesus? Believe Him or not.

*Adelphos*

The New Testament says that Jesus came as our second chance Adam. His sacrifice offers us forgiveness because He was the only sinless person that ever lived. He took upon Himself every one of the world's pandemic viral sins and died on the Good Friday cross—offering us not only forgiveness but eternal life now and on Judgement Day. Better yet, He promised all his followers an eternal physical and spiritual Easter resurrection body.

Life's Good Friday challenges affect everyone ever born. Easter is a matter of choosing resurrection life every day. It means inviting the heart of Jesus to beat within us. Choose the living resurrected Jesus. Choose life. He is the only victory over death.

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# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

## Publication Dates for 2020

| JANUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    | FEBRUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    | MARCH |    |    |    |    |    |    | APRIL |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| MAY |    |    |    |    |    |    | JUNE |    |    |    |    |    |    | JULY |    |    |    |    |    |    | AUGUST |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| SEPTEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    | OCTOBER |    |    |    |    |    |    | NOVEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    | DECEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |
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### DEADLINES:

**EDITORIAL** - 5pm Thursday prior to publication.

**DISPLAY ADVERTS** - 5pm Friday prior to publication.

**CLASSIFIEDS** - 3pm Monday prior to publication.

Adverts and readers' contributions may be phoned, emailed, posted or dropped into the

Opunake & Coastal News: Phone (06) 761-7016 or a/h (06) 761-8206,

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# Our first taste of freedom

Three freedom campers relishing their first opportunity to travel were found enjoying a leisurely lunch on Saturday at Opunake's Arty Tarts café.

"It's beautiful, especially coming to Opunake," said Sandra Morris. "It's a gem of a place," added Irene Krutz.

The three friends from New Plymouth were freedom camping by the lake and had just one complaint: "We love Opunake but why aren't the Op shops open?" said Anne Brough.

Irene added that she and ... "We were going to go to Iran but now we can't so we decided to go to Opunake instead." Their second choice

was obviously an easy one. They mentioned the beach, the walks, the bike trails, the cafes and the Op shops as attractions. Plus the "very friendly people," said Anne.

The Garden Festival and particularly the Yarn Bomb were also mentioned. "It seems like a nice, close knit community. It's hard to get a community together that's so creative," she continued.

"It's obviously very creative." Added Irene and Sandra, they loved the ceramic seat and the sculptures. The three friends who "go back a day or two" also share an interest in walking and tramping and were clearly having a great time.



Seated from left Sandra Morris, Anne Brough and Irene Krutz with Arty Tarts manager Richard. Paton.



Out for a Sunday drive to give their 1931 Model A Ford vintage car a spin were Tiddley and Rose Cox from Egmont Village. The couple were treating themselves to fish and chips and taking them to Opunake Beach to enjoy them before continuing around the mountain to home.

Tiddley who had owned the immaculate vehicle for six years had given it a general tidy up. With 80,000 miles on the clock it still had the original (also immaculate) upholstery. The left hand drive "cruises at 50 miles an hour" said Tiddley.



Madison Kuriger (right) and from left friends Dallas Tapsell and Maddi Townsend who would soon be returning to school. One commented that she felt she learnt more at home during the lockdown than at school.



Kaiah Bloor and Blake Harkness (both 17) were enjoying their last day before returning to Opunake High School. He felt the experience of lockdown had been valuable and had taught him to be self-motivated.



ABOVE: Pita and Veronica Kay from Stratford on their first trip out after the end of the lockdown had been visiting relatives locally and were enjoying a brunch lunch of fish and chips at Opunake Beach. The couple originally from Auckland had retired to Stratford two years ago and said they were still settling into Taranaki and added "We love it." Pita commented that with an average house in Auckland now \$900,000, buying in Stratford had left them money to enjoy their retirement and visit their children in Australia. "The people are so friendly," said Pita, and help each other added Veronica. "Our neighbours are awesome."

## A busy time for hairdressers



Before .....



.....and after.

Maree Seymour one of hairdresser Rhonda Crawford's first clients post lockdown. Maree said she was delighted with her new look.

Rhonda Crawford who owns Turn Heads in Opunake said she had been busy and was working longer hours to cope with the demand.

Karla Tito, owner of Hairazor in Opunake said they too were also "very, very busy" and added "Everyone's been very patient and grateful and we're grateful to see them."

## Sixteen covid-19 cases in Taranaki

Continued from page 1  
people stay at home. "Though everything had been slow," he was glad to see the Covid situation was improving. "I think the Government has done the right thing. It was a difficult decision, but it came out a lot better result." He added, "It's going to take a while to get back to normal." He said he was looking forward to the inter-

national border being open again, but not in the short term, and said the rest of the world is still struggling. Aretha who is also involved with *Everybody's Theatre* said they hoped the theatre would be up and running in June, though any food on sale will be pre-packaged. Seating will be upstairs only and have a maximum of 40 people and the theatre will be cleaned between screenings.

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## COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

The last six weeks have been unusual. In the future, I think, we'll be looking back at this as a historic event. Not being able to go out, get a haircut, celebrate events and having to find new and creative ways of getting things done has been a big part of this time.

Staying at home hasn't bothered me that much but I have definitely missed some things and been extremely grateful for others.

I have enjoyed the slowdown in life. No rushing out the door in the mornings.



**Karen Cave.**

I'm grateful for Council staff who worked hard so we could continue to have

## Unusual times

our meetings online. Other groups I'm a part of have taken to online meetings too. No commute, just an easy stroll down the passage to the office.

Catching up with friends and family. I've missed this. We've had a couple of birthdays plus Mother's Day in this time and we couldn't be together to celebrate, but I'm extremely grateful for the technology that allowed us to have a video get-togethers

I've missed our community

papers. Social media has filled some voids but there is nothing like seeing your own community's current events. I'm so pleased they are back.

I've missed the book group at our library but I am grateful for our Library Plus and all the books that are available online. And for the library staff that have created new online programmes for children and adults, to catch up or to chat about books.

I've missed the weekly recycling and green waste collection and am so pleased

that these have resumed now. I appreciated the Council Contact centre staff that were there to answer a vast array of questions about rubbish, and rates, and a quick chat.

I missed being able to attend the ANZAC day service but it was so heartening seeing all the tributes that were created, the services on the radio, and poppies around the community. We found a way to commemorate this day in new ways.

The world may be a little different for a while yet. We've proven we can adapt to change and difficulties and carry on.

Take care

*Karen Cave  
Eltham Kaponga  
Community Board  
Chairperson*

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## New graduate



**Leah Hohaia, who has just graduated with a Diploma in Veterinary Nursing is seen here with her proud grandmother on graduation day.**

Leah grew up in Opunake and is a former student and prefect of Opunake High School. Her grandparents Donald and Teresa Hohaia were born and bred in Opunake. Sadly, Donald has now passed on.

Leah is now working for Wintec Hamilton.



**Leah Hohaia, newly graduated.**

## Zero rates rise for South Taranaki

A zero rate increase for 2020-2021 is among the measures proposed in the South Taranaki District Council's Annual Plan.

South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon says in light of the COVID-19 pandemic the Council's focus for the next year will be on ways it can support the community through the recovery and undertake activities to stimulate economic growth using, where possible, local businesses and contractors.

"This Annual Plan proposes a range of measures aimed at bringing relief to residents and

businesses, some of which can be actioned immediately while others are more long term and will require additional planning before being implemented," says Mayor Nixon.

"Following the Council's Long Term Plan, rates were projected to increase by around 3.36%. However, given the financial burden COVID-19 will place on many families and businesses we are proposing to have a zero % rate rise. In addition, the Council is proposing a freeze on fees and charges and is offering payment plans and remission of rate penalties for those experiencing financial hardship," he says.

Mayor Nixon says the Council is able to achieve the zero rates rise due to the prudent and effective financial management of the organisation by staff and elected members over many years.

"This council is in a sound financial position and we are able to take an additional one-off (\$722,500)

contribution from our Long Term Investment Fund to realise this proposal. There will be no changes in levels of service, and we will continue to meet our current and future infrastructure needs without compromising future plans or our overall financial position," he says.

Mayor Nixon says these are just the first of several initiatives the Council will consider over the coming year. "We will look to work closely with businesses, Iwi and other partners to develop further measures that will support the ongoing welfare of our district."

As well as the zero rates increase key relief measures include a nil increase to fees and charges, payment plans and rate penalty remissions for those experiencing financial hardship.

The Council will look at how to support longer term economic recovery by seeking Government financial assistance for and undertaking six significant

'shovel ready' projects. These are: Nukumarū Station Road, Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, Waimate West water mains replacement, desludging the Hāwera WWTP Anaerobic Lagoon, Hāwera Business Park infrastructure and Waimate West Reservoir.

The Council will proceed with projects such as the Manaia Community Facility and Swimming Pool upgrade, district pathways programme, and bring some of their capital projects and other development initiatives forward in their 2021- 2031 Long Term Plan (such as the Hāwera Business Park and associated infrastructure work and the Eltham, Manaia, Opunakē, Pātea and Waverley Town Centre upgrades)

Mayor Nixon says while the Council is not formally consulting on the Annual Plan the public can make comment and give feedback on the Plan until 5pm on Thursday 21 May.

# Scientists discover plastic-eating caterpillar

The beeswax-melting digestive system of a pest caterpillar could hold the secret to solving plastic pollution

Each year, humanity churns out some 300 million tons of plastic and ships it around the world before dropping it into landfills. And the problem doesn't stop there. In the half-century since plastic exploded into our lives, tiny bits of it have spread through our oceans, our ecosystems and even our bodies. So far, humanity has struggled to get rid of it.

But there may be new hope for a solution. Scientists say they've found a caterpillar that loves to eat this non-biodegradable waste. The insects won't save us from our plastic pollution, but figuring out how they digest the garbage could help offer up a solution.

"Nature is providing us with a great starting point to model how to effectively biodegrade plastic," says biologist and study author Christophe LeMoine of Brandon University in Manitoba. "But we still have a few more puzzles to solve before using this technology, so it's best to keep reducing plastic waste while this gets figured out."

LeMoine and his Brandon University team have been researching the caterpillar larvae of the greater wax moth. The researchers were particularly interested in how this caterpillar, together with the microorganisms in its gut — its microbiome — could break down and



A caterpillar having a banquet of plastic with a nice juicy hand to nibble on if he wants some protein.

metabolize plastic. That work included separating out the bacteria from the waxworms' gut and growing it on its own in the lab. They found that one particular species of bacteria could indeed survive on nothing but plastic for a year.

But it wasn't just a miracle bacteria behind the diet. Instead, the scientists discovered a "very close working relationship" between the caterpillar and its gut microbes. Both can consume plastic on their own. However, when the two work together, it rapidly accelerates the plastic biodegradation. What's more, the researchers found that caterpillars that

ate plastic actually had dramatically higher amounts of gut microbes.

These caterpillars aren't some mutant evolved for the modern world, either. These so-called waxworms are actually bee pests that invade beehives and live off the honeycomb.

To a human, gobbling up delicious honeycomb may not sound the same as munching on a plastic bag; but for these waxworms, the two are nutritionally equivalent. The researchers say that the structure of honeycomb wax actually consists of very long chains of carbon and hydrogen, molecules called hydrocarbons. These

hydrocarbon chains are the same things that make up the fossil fuel-derived plastics used so ubiquitously by humans.

"The waxworm and its gut bacteria must break down these long chains (in honeycomb)," LeMoine says. "And presumably, because plastics are similar in structure, they can also co-opt this machinery to use polyethylene plastics as a nutrient source." In fact, some of their gut bacteria even seemed to do better eating plastic.

How much plastic can a group of very hungry caterpillars eat? According to the scientists, about 60 waxworms chewed through

a matchbook-sized square of plastic bag in under a week. Clearly, the world would need a lot of caterpillars to solve its plastic problems.

But LeMoine says that's not really the point. "Waxworms are not an immediate solution to plastic pollution," he says.

However, if scientists can unravel what makes these caterpillars and their gut bacteria flourish, they

might be able to design tools to wipe out plastic. "A better understanding of how this synergy works may guide future efforts to design the 'perfect' plastic biodegradation system," he says.

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## OPUNAKE FIRE SERVICE

# Scrub fire gets out of hand

Opunake Brigade is back training on Monday nights now we are at level 2. We are still keeping our social distance and trying to manage the new normal as best we can. Level 4 was nice and quiet with only a few call outs to rubbish fires in people's backyards. Just

to let you know burning rubbish/waste in urban areas is prohibited by the Taranaki Regional Council under Rule 34 of the Regional Air Quality Plan. The council is taking green waste again at the transfer station.

At Level 3 we were called to a meter board on fire but

were turned around before we got there. The owner had got the fire out. Another brigade arrived first and made the scene safe. Our biggest fire for a while was a scrub fire out the back of the Pihama Cricket Club. Some embers from a control burn the day before got up

and going as a strong wind arrived. Unfortunately it got into some dry scrub along the river bank and away it went. Both Opunake's appliances, Manaia, Kaponga, Rahotu, three tankers and Ngamotu's rural tanker, plus a long four hours finally got things under control.

Sadly one medical call out was to a cardiac arrest during Level 3. Unfortunately it was not a good result despite the best attempts from the brigade and St Johns. Our thought go out to the family and friends.

At level 2 we have only had one call to a car fire on South

Road north of Opunake. Two Brigade members wearing breathing apparatus with a high pressure hose reel extinguished the fire but the car was a write-off. Till next time stay safe

*Craig Dingle  
Chief Fire Officer*

# Black petrel survives South American capture ordeal

One of the Hauraki Gulf's iconic black petrels caught by a boat in Ecuador in

2007, has been found alive with its partner at a breeding burrow on Great Barrier



A black petrel thinking about a 12,000km flight to Ecuador.

Island. Seabird scientist Biz Bell was astonished to find the bird alive. "Despite the crew caring for the bird on their boat for four days we had presumed it had died because it had never been seen again back at the colony in the intervening 13 years. We were over the moon." The Auckland Zoo Charitable Trust has recently supported an outreach initiative to encourage Ecuadorian fleets to adopt seabird smart fishing practices to help protect this rare Hauraki Gulf seabird.

The Trust has already funded ground-breaking satellite tracking of young black petrels leaving their nest for the first time.

"The tracking showed these young birds do a heroic 12000 km flight straight to Ecuador, into waters thick with fishing boats" says Penny Whiting, Chair of the Auckland Zoo Charitable Trust. "We wanted to do more to help them survive." The outreach programme has been undertaken by the Southern Seabird Solutions Trust. "Fishers

are more open to hearing messages from their peers so we thought it might work to have a kiwi fisher ask his South American counterparts to join him in looking after black petrels" says the convenor Janice Molloy. "Adam Clow who fishes out of Whitianga has become an absolute devotee of the birds after spending time at the colony with researchers. So we filmed him on his boat talking about his respect for black petrels and the measures he uses to reduce the risk of catching

them". "We have voiced over the film in Spanish and with the support of extension officers we will be able to get this in the hands of South American fishermen. We want to see how this is received and build on this first initiative" says Janice.

The Trust has organised multiple visits of local longline fishers to Great Barrier Island after seeing the interest Adam took in black petrels once he had spent time at their breeding grounds. Recently two staff who work at Lee Fish spent a night on the colony. Tom Searle of Lee Fish says "We support these trips because seeing black petrels raising their young has a big impression on fishers. When they later see the birds around their boats they know there is a chick dependent on them and this makes the fishers extra vigilant with their fishing techniques".

On their maiden flight black petrels head straight for Ecuador. Credit Wildlife Management International Ltd.

Miraculous survival story. Credit Ed Marshall.



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## SAFE asks how money will be spent in the primary sector

Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor has announced that as part of this year's budget the Government is to invest \$5.4 million over four years to improve animal welfare. "It's great to see the Government investing in animal welfare," says SAFE CEO Debra Ashton. "We do

have questions though about how this money is going to be spent, and how it will actually improve animal welfare."


"The Ministry for Primary Industries has about 25 animal-welfare inspectors for 160 million animals. That's one inspector per 6.5 million animals, which is woefully inadequate."

"The best way to address New Zealand's increasing animal-welfare problems is to remove animal welfare from the primary industries portfolio and establish an independent body for animals."

The budget also included a \$45.3 million investment in the horticulture sector, including vocational

training. "Horticulture should be our number one growth sector, so we're pleased to see the Government invest in this area."

"We'd also like to see the Government provide education and training to support farmers to transition to plant-based industries such as horticulture."



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# Four Square owners supporting Manaia community

If we don't have it, we will get it. That is the message Mike King and Dee Young, the new owners of Manaia Four Square have for their customers.

Mike and Dee who both hail from the Bay of Plenty took over at the beginning of February.

"Last year when we saw that Phil was advertising the property was the first time we'd been to Taranaki," says Mike. "We saw Phil and Adrienne in September / October and made a couple of visits. We liked the feel of the town and the surrounding areas. We saw what the area had to offer with the golf course, the sea and the mountain. We liked the look of the shop and we could see the potential for the future development of the store."

Mike and Dee have two daughters. Katy attends Hawera Intermediate School while Mikayla, who is on a golf scholarship in Nebraska is currently helping out at home while problems with COVID-19 in the United States are being sorted out. They say they are keen to be part of the local community and want to hear from their customers about any additions they would like to see to their store. New types of bread, including a gluten-free variety have been added, as well as seafoods, new petfood and products from companies they had dealt with while previously living in the Bay of Plenty. Other new products and services they are looking at include chicken'n chips and bringing in a new



New Manaia Four Square owners Mike King and Dee Young.

produce stand. Mike says he wants to promote the fresh food departments and get deliveries arriving at the store more often so stocks stay fresh and shelves stay full.

Promotions have included one for Mother's Day.

Mike and Dee had been at the store for less than two months when the lockdown came along, posing new challenges. They made deliveries to vulnerable people in the community and at one time bread was given away. Another time they got in a crate of apples which they were giving away free, although anybody who wanted to could make a donation which would go towards paying for groceries for those less able to afford them.

Mike sees he wants keep giving jobs to local people

and has carried on paying the 10 per cent bonus which Foodstuffs had been paying their staff during the lockdown period.

"If people keep shopping with us, we can keep employing people," says Mike.

Before coming to Manaia, Mike and Dee lived in Ohope and had met while working as deputy registrars at the Whakatane District Court. They both studied online with the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand. Dee studied early childhood education and was a teacher for 10 years, while Mike studied Business.

Mike has seen and worked on both sides of local government. He was the Whakatane District Council revenue manager for 13 years and he served two terms on the Ohope Beach

Community Board until it merged with its larger neighbour in Whakatane, something which Mike says he opposed. He stood for the larger body, and in a crowded field narrowly missed out.

"It was quite a proactive board and a lot of stuff was done," says Mike. "We were always looking at ways we could improve the area and make community grants to people needing help."

Mike learned the grocery trade while working at Opotiki New World under owner Jimmy Heal before spending six months closer to home at Ohope Four Square, going through the process to enable him to be able to pick up a Four Square franchise.

Having been active in the community while living in

Ohope he is looking forward to doing the same here.

"I've met some pretty cool people while I've been here. I want to be involved in the community and I want them to feel they can come in here."

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## Good habits encouraged by Taranaki Civil Defence

Taranaki Civil Defence has commended all residents in their efforts to combat COVID-19 in the region.

Taranaki Civil Defence Alternate Controller Sue Kelly says that as we move into Level 2 we need to continue the good habits achieved over the previous seven weeks.

"Taranaki has done an excellent job to contain the virus in the region. Those good habits we have been used to over the last few weeks, need to be continued in Level 2 as it will help protect you, your family at home and at work," Sue says.

"Alert Level 2 will bring many opportunities to move around the country,

increase our bubbles, and go back to work.

The fact that COVID-19 is still present in New Zealand, with a low number of cases per day, we need to

encourage the use of those good habits for individuals, families and businesses – so play it safe."

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# Go local and back Taranaki

Go local and back Taranaki Thursday last week came as a great relief as the arrival of Level 2 Covid-19 restrictions meant many of us were able to reclaim some sense of normality in our lives. As a country, we have sacrificed a great deal under the lockdown and we should be duly proud that our combined efforts have severely restricted the spread of the virus.

We now face two challenges: keeping the lid on Covid-19, and getting the country back to work and people back in jobs.

Over the last few weeks, through my conversations with businesses and employers I'm hearing that people are expecting the next three or four months



**JONATHAN YOUNG MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH**

to be busy. Particularly in construction, as there is a backlog of work to get through and consents issued already, but then they're expecting to hit a lull later in the year.

A thousand people a day have been applying for an unemployment benefit, and their wellbeing is very much

top of mind. Now more than ever we need to be checking in on our friends, family and neighbours and doing what we can to help. Even if it's a quiet cup of tea and a conversation, I think it's important that we pull together to support in whatever ways we can.

As I mentioned last time, Taranaki is well positioned to deal with this situation. We have the primary produce that people need, and the skills and determination to make our way through.

I've been part of a number of planning sessions looking at how to stimulate various sectors of the community from the creative, and media to energy, construction and infrastructure. It is heartening to see our brand of Taranaki practicality and resourcefulness shining through and I am confident we'll pull through and be stronger on the other side of this crisis.

One pragmatic idea launched last week is something we can all get behind. Venture

Taranaki launched the Go Local Go Taranaki campaign to encourage shopping locally. The campaign aims to support our region's businesses, enterprises and their goods and services and really builds on the Team Taranaki philosophy.

By shopping locally we give our small businesses the confidence to keep going, and maybe employ more staff, which in turn will support our economic recovery.

Look out for the Go Local

badge and back Taranaki.

*Jonathan Young  
MP for New Plymouth  
National Party  
Spokesperson: Energy & Resources  
National Party  
Spokesperson: Regional Economic Development (NI)  
National Party  
Spokesperson: Arts, Culture & Heritage  
newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz*

## Safety at the General Election

A range of measures will be put in place to help make it safe for voters and election workers to take part in the 2020 General Election and referendums.

The Electoral Commission is continuing to work towards delivering the election and two referendums on 19 September, which is the date set by the Prime Minister in January. Changes are being made to the way the election will be run to meet the public health requirements for COVID-19.

"Safety measures at voting places will be based on advice from the Ministry of Health," says Alicia Wright, Chief Electoral Officer. "They include queue management and physical distancing, as well as the use of hand sanitiser and protective gear."

Advance voting will start two days earlier than planned on Saturday 5 September to spread voting over a longer period and reduce congestion in voting places. The number of advance voting places will be increased, especially on the weekend before Election

Day. Where possible larger venues will be used to give voters more space.

"Some people will not be able to go to a voting place, but they will still be able to vote," says Alicia Wright.

Voters who are older or have a medical condition that places them at high risk from COVID-19 can choose

to vote at a voting place or register for postal voting and have their voting papers sent to them in the mail.

"Voting services can also be delivered to small clusters of voters who are in isolation during the voting period using takeaway voting, which is when voting papers are delivered and picked

up," says Alicia Wright. Alicia Wright says it is important for people to enrol early and keep their details up to date so that they receive information about the election and referendums in the mail including an EasyVote card which makes voting faster.

**JONATHAN YOUNG**  
MP for New Plymouth

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## Climate Justice take a swipe at EPA decision

Climate Justice Taranaki say they are extremely disappointed that the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has granted OMV Taranaki Limited the green light to drill another ten exploratory wells in the Maui field offshore from Taranaki.

"Disturbingly, there is no requirement on OMV to provide a bond or obtain public liability insurance in the consent.

"The recent Court of Appeal judgement on the Trans-Tasman Resources Limited (TTR) seabed mining application clearly laid out the need to consider the requirement for public liability insurance and bond. The latter would 'address costs of remediation for uninsurable harms... for example due to deliberate

non-compliance with conditions or supervening insolvency'. Surely the EPA should be listening and following the advice," said Catherine Cheung, spokesperson of Climate Justice Taranaki.

"This is unbelievable considering that we are still watching the FPSO Umuroa floating vessel saga unfold. With Tamarind Taranaki Limited in liquidation, BW Offshore is considering leaving the Umuroa at the Tui field offshore, unmanned and potentially uninsured, while the government sorts out how to decommission the site. It's a catastrophe in the making if a wild winter storm hits the aging vessel with its estimated 40,000 barrels of oil onboard. Who is going to pay for the costs for the oil spill emergency

and the damage on fisheries and customary rights, marine ecosystem health and amenity?" asked Ms Cheung.

"We can't bury our heads in the sand and pretend that the bits of good stuff like nature jobs, renewable energies and wellbeing budget, are enough to turn our climate and social crises around. The bad stuff like fossil fuel exploration and mining must also end decisively, just like how Covid-19 lockdown brought to the halt climate wrecking travels and emissions.

We need to redefine our values system and priorities to ensure a just recovery from Covid and enable a truly sustainable, fair and kind society now and into the future," concluded Ms Cheung

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# Circularity for our humanity

To be human is to care for other human beings and to protect the environment in which we live. This is a sentiment which seems to be at odds with the current economic system that encourages the degradation of the environment and our humanity. Recently, our government endorsed the Circular Economy concept, which seems to be finding itself among the highest reaches of global markets – ready to make a positive and genuine change to improve the health of our environment and people. What exactly is the Circular economy? European Environment Agency. The Ellen McArthur Foundation posits that it

looks beyond the current linear economic model of take-make-waste. It aims to redefine growth, focusing on the positive society-wide benefits, while gradually working to decouple our economic dependency on finite resources. This model is underpinned by three principles; design out waste and pollution; keep products and materials circulating in the economy; and regenerate natural systems. Additionally, these are supported by a transition to renewable energy sources. From a climate change perspective, research suggests that if we apply circular economy concepts to four key materials (cement, steel, plastic and

aluminums) we could reduce Green-House-Gas emissions by 40% in 2050. If we add food systems, this reduction could amount to an incredible 49% in that same year, thus bringing our world closer to a net-zero emissions economy. Moreover, the International Labour Organisation predicts that under the circular economy scenario, worldwide employment would grow by 0.1 per cent by 2030 in comparison with a business-as-usual scenario, adding as much as 7 per cent net to GDP. This poses a major benefit to our economy and the health of our environment and its people and highlights why New Zealand must make the

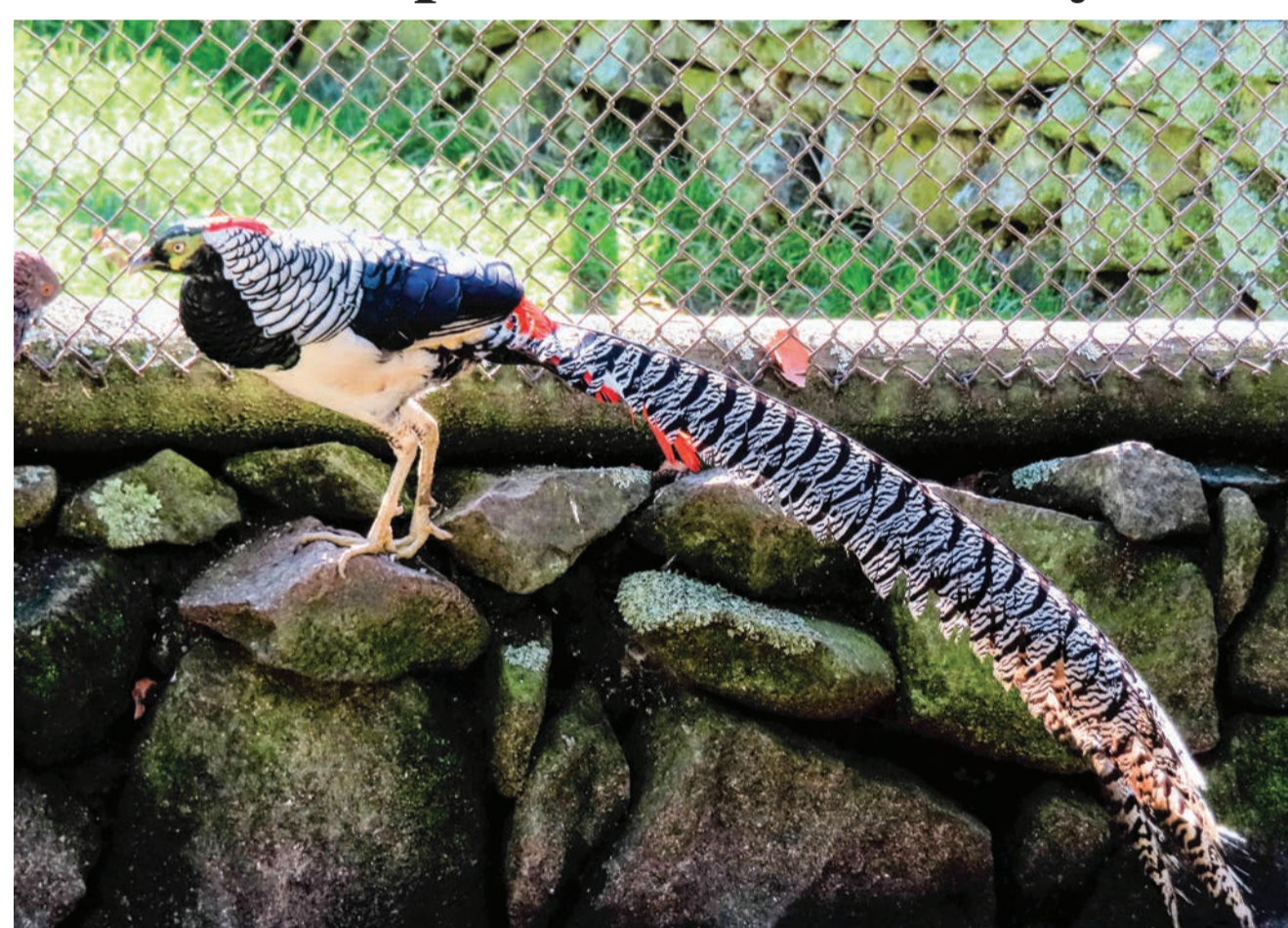
transition. However, this transition is a complex and a long-term process. It requires a complete paradigm shift in our beliefs about indeterminate growth. To do this, we must acknowledge that we have a problem with the current economic model, and then design well informed, and people-centric policies. Only then can a true equitable society come into fruition. This means, we must sever the ties with old models and their attached values, but we must also adopt the new values and change our behaviors and choices Nations around the world are transitioning their economies. Scotland's

Member of Parliament; Richard Lochhead quoted saying "...creating a circular economy is an economic, environmental and moral necessity." It is an ideology, which at its heart resonates and reflects the needs and welfare of the people. This is because the principles which underpin the circular economy can be universally applied, and mold to the attributes of a society. We claim to be a prosperous first-world nation, but we remain in servitude to a system that permits deep and wide inequalities. This is accentuated by the disconnection between economy and environment, which exacerbates harmful cycles that uplift the mean

spirit in humans and excludes our most vulnerable - driven by the negative externalities of capitalism. In closing, the message I wish to convey to your readers is this; the depths of a true circular economy expresses a genuine desire for transformative change one which seeks to include members of our society that continue to linger in the shadows of our conscience. So we must steer our future towards one which is inclusive, values-based, circular and egalitarian, for the betterment of our environment and our humanity.

*Benjamin Terry*

## A colourful pheasant from Stony Oaks.



This Amhurst pheasant is just one of the many interesting birds you can see at Stony Oaks Wildlife Park near Inglewood.

The next issue  
of the

Opunake & Coastal News is on June 4. We look forward to your contributions.



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# Regional mayors and Venture Taranaki ask Taranaki to go local

A new campaign aims to get Taranaki backing its local businesses to support our economy, our recovery and our future.

Go Local, Go Taranaki encourages Taranaki people to get behind local enterprises and products and put their wallet where their home is.

“COVID-19 had had a big impact on our region’s enterprises and economy, and as we start to look towards getting back to business under Alert Level 2, we all need to be helping our enterprises return to operating profitably as quickly as possible,” says Venture Taranaki Chief Executive Justine Gilliland.

The Go Local campaign sees Venture Taranaki partnering with the region’s three district councils, regional council, business groups around the Maunga, and regional media channels to develop a collective approach to championing our region’s makers and merchants.

“Now more than ever, we ask everyone in Taranaki to put their wallet where their home is, and to use their collective purchasing power to make a difference and champion our region.”

“The more we can support our Taranaki-based enterprises and products, the sooner we can begin our road to recovery and reduce the negative impacts of the last

two months, returning not just to a new normal, but to a new better. Rekindling pride and support for our local enterprises and products is an important part of that,” Justine says.

The region’s Mayors are behind the campaign and the difference it could make around the Maunga.

“Our local businesses need our support more than ever,” says South Taranaki District Mayor, Phil Nixon. “We are all in this together and every dollar spent locally supports our friends and neighbours, grows employment, and sustains the communities that sustain us. Please, shop local, but shop safely.”

Stratford District Mayor Neil Volzke says, “I

encourage everyone to spend locally, this will help preserve jobs and speed up our community’s recovery. We need to keep as much money as we can in the Taranaki region, and where possible we need our district’s people to think local first. If you can find it in the Stratford district, buy it in the Stratford district.”

“I’ve been blown away by the incredible spirit our people have shown during lockdown, uniting against Covid-19 and supporting our amazing frontline workers,” says New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom.

“We need to take that spirit and Go Local like never before and help all the hard-working businesses who

create so many home-grown jobs and are the lifeblood of our economy. Melissa and I have always been happy to support Taranaki firms and we’re hoping others will too. We also want to hear what you think of our proposed plan giving preference to Taranaki businesses who contract for NPDC projects, so head to [newplymouthnz.com/BackOnOurFeet](http://newplymouthnz.com/BackOnOurFeet) to give us your feedback,” Neil says.

Customers will be able to share their local purchases while enterprises will have an opportunity to get behind the movement by downloading and displaying the Go Local badge across their website, social media channels and storefronts.

“The badge will act as

a reminder to think and go local enterprise or on a local product with your spend, knowing that every dollar spent with locally sees a significantly greater proportion stay in the region – up to three times as much in some studies,” says Justine.

“Go local includes looking for local (or if not available, then New Zealand-made) products when you’re at the supermarket too – our region produces high-quality, everyday products like butter, bakery goods, cheese, and meat. So you can help out with just your everyday purchases as well.”

## A Chinese Golden pheasant showing its colourful display



LEFT: At the Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park near Inglewood you can see spectacular birds like this one as well as many diverse animals.

## Searching for South Taranaki’s Volunteer champion

The National Volunteers Week is coming up between 22-26 June, and one of the highlights of that week is the chance to thank these amazing, often unsung heroes of our community.

“We’re looking for the superhero of superheroes,” says South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon.

“Because of Covid 19, the Council has had to think a little differently this year. A get together with food and a nice cup of tea isn’t realistic for us in this environment, so the community is being asked to nominate their South Taranaki superheroes. We want to hear about the people who make this district hum – they may be part of a charity, a social organisation, or just volunteer quietly in the neighbourhood, helping out at church or at the school, marae etc,” Mayor Phil says. “Wherever they work, we want to acknowledge their commitment and say thank you.”

The nominations will be forwarded to a panel of five – comprised of one elected member from each community board, as well as the Mayor – and four superheroes will be selected. From these four finalists, the 2020 Volunteer Superhero will be chosen.

“Nominations are open now so start thinking about who your local stars are and please send the forms in before 9am on Tuesday 2 June,” says Mayor Phil. “I know there are hundreds of great people out there who are the lifeblood of our community and we want to hear about them.”

All finalists will receive a cash prize of \$300 each, with the Superhero of Superheroes receiving a further \$500 to donate to a South Taranaki community organisation of their choice.

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# Clinic offers integrated skincare service

The clinic known as Integrative Dermatology, offers an integrated approach to skincare. Located in Oakura on Butlers Lane, behind the Four Square supermarket, the facility was opened by Dr Lisa Connelly, a dermatologist, who specialises in all skin conditions as well as hair and nail disorders.

A fully qualified beauty therapist, Lee Newton, also works with Dr Connelly enabling the clinic to offer a full skin care service.

Dr Lisa Connelly who is from Florida in the United States opened the Dermatology clinic 8 months ago. She is a medical doctor who is fully registered to practise in both New Zealand and the States. In addition, she has completed an extra year of training in pediatric skin conditions. Currently she is one of a handful of paediatric dermatologists in New Zealand and the only one in New Plymouth.

She treats a wide range of skin conditions in patients of all ages from rashes to skin cancer, eczema, psoriasis, acne and moles. After practicing in New Plymouth for 4 years she became acutely aware of how fragmented skin care is in the region. Her response was to offer a different approach. As their name implies at Integrative Dermatology you can expect



Dr Lisa Connelly Dermatologist.

to have all your skin care needs met under one roof. No need to visit one facility for the treatment of your acne, another for a mole examination and yet another for the treatment for skin cancer removal or aesthetics such as botox, peels or fillers.

“Our goal is to provide

our patients with complete skin health care,” says Dr Connelly.

They offer full body skin examinations checking for moles and its sinister counterpart melanoma, a potentially deadly form of skin cancer. “We use a dermatoscope,” which Dr Connelly explains magnifies skin lesions allowing for more precise viewing of features under the skin. Patients with concerns about suspicious moles can have their lesions assessed, diagnosed and surgically removed at the clinic; sometimes this all occurs within the initial visit. No need to wait days to weeks for a diagnosis from a doctor outside of New Plymouth or return for a biopsy and later excision. She adds that Taranaki has the highest rate of skin cancer, specifically melanoma, in New Zealand, usually from sun exposure. “We aim to streamline the process for patients

so they can have their concerns addressed in as few appointments as possible.”

Lee Newton who is a fully qualified aesthetician works with Dr. Connelly to provide an integrative approach to skin care. Her focus is on helping patients choose the best skin care products to complement the medical treatment of their condition. “The advantage of integrative medical management with skincare is that it ensures optimum results,” says Dr Lisa.

Lee notes that “Often what I hear from people is ‘We’ve tried everything but your clinic is our last resort.’ We would like for patients to consider us as their first option for their skin issues.

In cases of skin damage, pigmentation and aging, a skin peel which takes off the old skin allowing new skin growth often produces a good result. With acne conditions, for example, Lee recommends skin care products which deliver best results.

Seeking advice and treatment early can be vitally important in the treatment of acne and can stop the condition progressing to scarring which she says can impact on people’s confidence. Teenagers do not have to suffer unnecessarily with acne - sometimes a good basic skin care regime can be the answer.

In addition to managing the treatment of all skin diseases, Integrative Dermatology also encompasses a broader approach to medicine. “We integrate our approach to skin care with the most up to date methods of treating skin diseases using prescription medication. We combine this with nutritional

medicine and the best skin care practices and products for the condition,” says Dr. Connelly. She adds sometimes that involves use of dietary supplements, facials and/or specific skin care products.

Dr Connelly lived in Oakura for 4 years and chose to open the clinic here because of the strong relationships she’d developed in the village. She and her husband, who is also a doctor and works at Taranaki Base Hospital, have three children.

She particularly enjoys Waka Ama which she does at Ngamotu Beach.

Her husband and kids are aspiring surfers while Lisa says with a smile “I try”.



Lee Newton a fully qualified aesthetician.

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# Keeping Lions relevant in a changing world

Seven years after joining Lions, Louise Knapman will take over as District Governor of District 202D which stretches from Mokau to Foxton.

Louise, who is a member of the Opunake Lakeside Lions Club will serve a one year term beginning on July 1.

“I saw what wonderful things Lions were doing in the community and what fun they had, so I thought I’d like to be part of that,” Louise says of her decision to become a Lion. “Then somebody asked me and I said yes. I was asked to take on more and more roles in Lions. One thing led to another and I found myself on the path to being district governor.”

Earlier this year she, along with incoming district governors from around the world attended a training session in Chicago. This was held shortly before COVID-19 had played havoc with international

travel, so that the only ones who couldn’t make it were those coming from China where travel restrictions were already in place.

Louise says the theme for her year as district governor will be “What If?”

“I believe we have got a prime opportunity with the lockdown to start and look at how we can change our Lions clubs. They are wonderful things, but they have got to move into the future.”

She cites as an example the way Lions clubs have conducted meetings through Zoom during the lockdown where physical interaction has not been possible.

At the District 202D Convention held in Palmerston North in February she had spoken about how the Opunake Lakeside Lions had revamped the way they did things.

“One of the things that got me inspired was our club,” she says. “Lions

International encourages us to become My Club, My Work, so there’s no hard and fast way of doing things. Our club decided to change the way we operated. Our way of operating had been the same since the year dot, which was not the best way anymore.”

Louise will be one of seven district governors in New Zealand, and she says the challenge facing them is one of making sure Lions remain relevant to the community they serve.

“If our community changes we have to change as well.”

Taking over as Louise’s deputies are two Lions who also have local connections. Megan England from the Eltham Club is vice-district governor with Stephen Barr as second vice-district governor. Stephen now farms in the Manawatu, but he grew up in Pihama, the son of Opunake identities Jim and Gabrielle Barr. He was also Head Boy at Opunake High School.



Louise Knapman speaking at this year’s 202D District Convention.

## Check for catches before reaching for matches

Rubbish fires are unhelpful to emergency services during the pandemic response – but such fires are subject to restrictions and requirements in normal times as well, says the Taranaki Regional Council.

“It’s important for everyone at all times to understand and comply with measures required to protect the quality of Taranaki’s air,” says the Council’s Director-Environment Quality, Fred McLay.

The Council’s restrictions

and requirements vary according to location and circumstances:

Backyard rubbish fires are completely banned on all properties under 5000 square metres in any suburb or township that has a regular rubbish collection.

Those on larger urban properties must be considerate of others and avoid adverse effects if they want to burn rubbish.

The ban does not apply to outdoor fires for cooking or heating, such as hāngī,

barbecues or braziers.

Burning of farm rubbish is permitted, but only under strict conditions. If they can’t be met, you must apply for a resource consent. Conditions include restrictions on what can be burned, its source, where and when it can be

burned, and management of environmental effects.

If you need to burn farm vegetation, you can generally do so without resource consent, as long as smoke is minimised to avoid effects on other people, the environment, visibility,

or traffic. Otherwise you may have to take action to reduce the problem or stop the burning altogether, or you may need to apply for resource consent.

Any burning of industrial waste, no matter where it takes place, requires a

resource consent from the Taranaki Regional Council.

“All these requirements and restrictions are separate to and additional to any seasonal fire restrictions or permit requirements imposed by Fire and Emergency NZ,” says Mr McLay.



Check before lighting up.




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### Energy saving and safety in winter

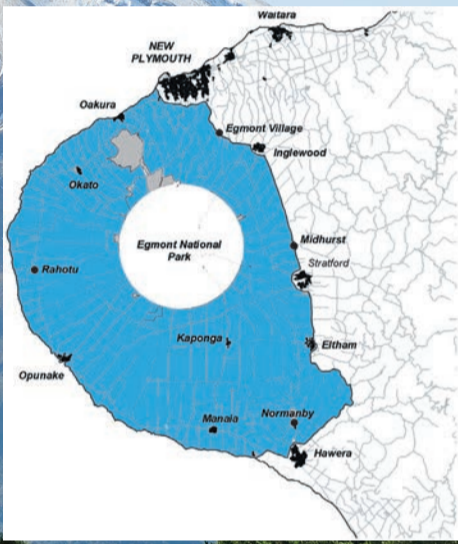
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### Some Hot Tips for Cold Weather

- Remember the Heater-Metre Rule - keep furniture, clothes and curtains at least one metre away from heaters and fire-places.
- Have your electric blankets checked annually by competent service people or a registered electrician.
- Empty fire place ashes into a metal container to get cold before disposing.
- Sweep chimneys and flues at least once a year.
- Candles and oil burners can be dangerous - always keep them well away from flammable objects.
- When cooking with fat or oil keep the pot lid handy.
- Always use a fire-guard or a spark-guard with open fires.
- Ensure all electric appliances are in safe working order - replace frayed cords and broken plugs.
- Don't overload power points - use multi-boxes with circuit breakers instead.
- Turn off your electric blanket before getting into bed.
- Did you remember to turn the gas heater off?
- Before going to bed each night make a last fire safety check for your family.

There are simple ways to avoid wasting energy, according to EECA.

EECA spokesperson Dr Marcos Pelenur says it's important to stay warm as the weather cools but it's also important not to spend more money on energy bills than you need to.

Dr Pelenur says reducing unnecessary use of hot water will save you money and free up more cash for heating over the winter.

"For example use the cold water wash cycle when you wash clothes, unless you have an especially dirty load. Modern washing machines and detergents

clean well using cold water. A hot water wash can use 10 times more electricity than a cold wash."

Cutting down the long showers will also save money, Dr Pelenur says.

"Reducing your shower time just a bit could save up to \$900 a year for a family of four. A 15 minute shower costs about \$1 - a 5 minute shower costs about 33c."

If you own a dishwasher, wait until it's full loaded to run it - and put it on 'eco' wash setting if available, Mr Pelenur says.

"And if you rinse dishes before loading the dishwasher, use cold water," Dr Pelenur

says. If your circumstances or energy use has changed, check you are still on the best power deal to suit your needs

Dry clothes outside or in a clothes dryer that is vented to the outside - avoid indoor airing racks or clothes dryers that vent into your house. The moisture in the clothes will end up in your home, making it damp.

Avoid unflued gas heaters which release toxic fumes and make your house damp. Cheap portable electric heaters are safer and cost less to run.

If you have a heated towel rail, only use it when needed. A heated towel rail left on 24/7 can cost you \$170 per year to run. You can buy

timers for towel rails that come on automatically at certain times of the day.

If you have a second fridge you aren't using, it could cost you \$200 a year to run if it's an old, inefficient model.

If you are working from home, you may not have the luxury of choosing where to site your work space, but if you can, use a small space that's easy to heat on its own. Move your desk to a position that gets good natural light.

Switch to LED light bulbs.

Turn your computer, WiFi and other equipment off at the wall at night, or when not in use.

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Winter is just around the corner!  
It's time to **Heat up** your home!

## Warming up with Sinclair Electrical

The temperatures have finally come down. There's that chill in the air and it's time to start thinking about keeping the house warm.

"You can't go past a heat pump if you are thinking about sorting the heat out," Trish Anderson of Sinclair Electrical says. "It's clean, efficient and the best value for heating. We have them available as a wall unit of a floor console. We have different ones to suit."

An electric blanket can keep the warmth in on long winter nights. They come easy to use with mattress protectors.

Or you could throw on an electric micro fleece throw. "These are cheaper to run



Trish and Debbie show us some wonderful winter products.

than an electric heater. It's like wrapping yourself up in an electric blanket, and can be used as an alternative to turning the heater on," Trish says.

"We have a range of portable heating as well if it gets too cold and your throw is not cutting it."

Finally when the weather gets cold, the inner person craves sustenance.

"If your crockpots are old and decrepit, and you're in need of a new one, we can help you out," Trish says. "There's nothing nicer when you get home from work and it's cold, than to have your crockpot full of soup and ready to go."

## Smoke alarms save lives

"If it wasn't for the smoke alarms, we wouldn't be here," says Merv Clearwater of East Taieri whose house was severely damaged by fire in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

As reported in the Otago Daily Times, Merv and his wife Jill Clearwater, were woken by their smoke alarms and discovered the fire in the adjoining garage which then quickly spread into the roof.

The pair, along with their dog, managed to get out safely, but most of the house was either fire or smoke damaged.

National Manager Community Readiness and Resilience Steve Turek says this is a timely reminder to make sure you have working smoke

alarms - press the button to check.

"To ensure you and your household get an early warning of fire, we recommend you have a smoke alarm in your hallways, bedrooms and living areas."

"As the fire in East Taieri shows, they do save lives.

"It's also vital to have a household escape plan so you can get out quickly and safely in the event of a fire.

"If you haven't already made one, take five minutes to do so at [www.escapemyhouse.co.nz](http://www.escapemyhouse.co.nz)."

Mr Turek says as we come into winter, there is an increased fire risk as people start to light their fireplaces and bring their heaters and electric blankets to keep warm.

"Fire moves incredibly fast

- a house fire can kill within five minutes. As the weather gets colder, don't take any chances.

"Remember the heater metre rule and keep flammable materials at least one metre away from any heat sources. And it's one heater or larger appliance per plug - no more.

"Make sure you check your electric blanket is in good working order before you use it and turn it off before you go to sleep.

If you have a fireplace, take precautions to ensure a fire doesn't spark or spread and make sure your chimneys and flues have been cleaned first. Check with your local provider as tradespeople are allowed to work under Level 3.

"Always use a fireguard

or spark-guard fire and never throw rubbish into the fireplace - particularly batteries and aerosol cans."

"When you're done with the fire, empty the ashes into a metal bin and pour water over them before disposal as they take up to five days to cool down."

"These fire safety tips are even more important to remember this winter with New Zealanders

spending more time at home and staying in their bubbles to stop the spread of COVID-19."

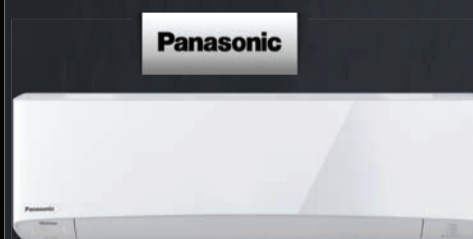


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Winter is just around the corner!  
It's time to **Heat up** your home!

# To be avoided for many reasons: unflued gas heaters

One methods of heating your home is the unflued gas heater (natural gas or LPG). Frankly, these heaters (and portable gas heaters) should be avoided for many reasons, including danger and cost. If you have such heaters put them aside and don't use them again. Let's take a look at them.

of being damp and mouldy. The heaters are a fire risk when compared with virtually all other methods. If a draft blows out the flames the house can fill with toxic gases such as carbon monoxide. This is especially a risk if elderly or young children are in the house, as the consequences can be fatal.

Firstly, they are expensive to run compared with most alternatives, although some open fires are on a par. It is essential to always have a window open when using such a heater, as toxic gases and water vapour are released. This means that 30% of the heat produced will be lost through the window.

One anecdotal case involved an elderly lady. On two different occasions visitors called to find the house full of gas and the lady was unaware of the situation. It was most opportune that visitors called by at these two occasions before too much time had elapsed. Hopefully, these dangerous kinds of heaters will be outlawed soon and their metal component recycled.



These are dangerous heaters in our homes.

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Photo Staci Holmes

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## Cutting your heating bill

## Gibson Plumbers Ltd Opunake



Ben Gibson and James Scott from Gibson Plumbing.

Winter is coming with the threat of draughts that will make your home feel cold. Some simple home maintenance can improve the comfort of your home and reduce your heating bill, according to EECA ENERGYWISE.

Well-installed insulation makes a big difference to your comfort in winter. If your insulation was installed some time ago, get it checked to make sure it's still doing the job. If tradesmen have been in the roof space, they may have moved the insulation – gaps may halve the effectiveness of the insulation.

If you don't have insulation, you may be able to add the cost of insulation to your rates from \$9.00 a week – talk to your council. Low-income rental properties may also be eligible for a grant under the Warm Up New Zealand: Healthy Homes programme.

Check if hinges and catches are loose and tighten them up with a screw driver. Weather stripping, which you can buy cheaply from hardware stores, can be used to seal gaps around many doors or windows – it's an easy job. If you get draughts from around door or window trims, seal behind them with clear or paintable sealant.

Unused fire places are a really easy fix. Block the chimney with a rubbish bag filled with shredded newspapers. Make sure no one tries to light the fire after you block the chimney.

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son Ben and James Scott are still servicing the coast. Incidentally James's dad, the late Keith was one of David's several apprentices.

As winter nears, most peoples' main concerns are methods of staying warm and dry. Roofs

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# Jobs aplenty for COVID unemployed

DairyNZ wants people who have lost jobs due to COVID-19 know there is plenty of work on dairy farms, especially in Waikato, Canterbury, Otago and Southland – and that they might well earn more than in their previous role.

With the national unemployment rate forecast to rise sharply due to COVID-19, DairyNZ is encouraging people to consider work on dairy farms in a new Go Dairy campaign that also includes entry level training to help their transition to farming.

Immediately, there are 1,000 jobs up for grabs on dairy farms, says DairyNZ's chief executive Dr Tim Mackle. "For people who're looking for work and like the idea of caring for animals and the environment, there are lots of jobs – and career progression opportunities."

While the Go Dairy career changers campaign, which is supported by Federated Farmers, aims to create awareness of the job opportunities, there is a big emphasis on ensuring new staff understand what is involved in farm life.

"We want a win-win situation – for new dairy farming employees to be happy and fulfilled in their new lifestyle and jobs, and for farm employers to have great talent working for them," Dr Mackle says.

He adds that dairy also pays one of the highest average wages of all the primary sectors.

"For the most part, we're anticipating interested people will be from the regions where there are big job losses in tourism and hospitality – and where there is dairying close by.

"An example is the dairy heartland of Waikato, which is also home to the Hobbiton and Waitomo Caves attractions, and the neighbouring Rotorua area, where there have been job losses, both direct and in the local support businesses."

Other dairy farming regions where there have been significant job losses include the South Island,



Young farmer Thomas Orłowski tending to the milking on a Waikato dairy farm. He encourages anyone looking for a new career to consider dairying. "It's a wonderful lifestyle – you're out in the fresh air surrounded by wonderful animals and people'.

in particular in Canterbury, Otago and Southland.

Dr Mackle says while new entrants to dairy farming would start off in the more junior roles, they can anticipate a rewarding career pathway.

"Even though they are new to farming, many people already have skills that are readily transferrable and valued on dairy farms," he says.

"This is because dairy farming these days is quite diverse and there are many roles, from doing the farm books, to working with machinery, working with animals, and managing staff, and making full use of technology along the way.

"Skills from previous

work – and a determination to give their best – will see people new to farming quickly progress from a farm assistant position to herd manager and then other management roles, and even ownership later on."

Dr Mackle adds that dairy is ever-present in the daily lives of most Kiwis, providing nutritious and tasty food, and it has also long been the engine room of the New Zealand economy.

Dairy is projected to earn the country \$19.2 billion in export revenues in the financial year ending on June 30. This translates to an estimated total of \$43 billion in economic activity as a result of dairy being strongly intertwined with the

rest of the economy through jobs, direct and indirect, and through the purchase of goods and services, both in the farming and non-farming sectors.

He says Kiwi farmers are also regarded as the best in the world for pasture-based farming, as well as their care for animals and their land.

"Across the sector, they make good bosses too. They are well-supported by DairyNZ, Federated Farmers and others with employment advice and other guidance.

Current statistics show of the 48,000 people employed in the dairy sector, 34,000 are working on dairy farms – the remainder in processing and support operations.

Dr Mackle says opening

the door to new people will also help fill the gap this coming season that farm employers have in the recent years of low unemployment filled with new migrant staff, who are now impacted by border restrictions.

He confirms DairyNZ is among those in the rural sector working with Government to ensure the 4,500 migrant staff already living in New Zealand and working in farm teams can have existing visas extended.

"Even with all the current migrant dairy staff being retained, there is still the shortfall of at least 1,000 employees for the new dairy season that starts in just three weeks," says Dr Mackle.

"Indeed, ensuring farm employers can keep all their experienced staff, including these migrant staff, will assist them in training new recruits coming in from other sectors, and successfully settling them into their new farming lives."



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# Plan now to manage Gypsy Day

Upcoming Gypsy Day presents a risk of Covid-19 transmission in the farming community that needs to be actively managed, says Taranaki Civil Defence.

“Gypsy, or Moving Day, is a date when dairy farm workers, contractors, sharemilkers and herds traditionally move farms,” says Taranaki Civil Defence Controller Craig Campbell-Smart.

“At this stage, we don’t know what the alert level will be on Gypsy Day on 1

June or what level of inter-regional travel there will be. While numbers trend down and alert level reviewed, any new cases could reverse this.

“For these reasons, we are urging Taranaki’s farming community to plan ahead and take practical steps to minimise unnecessary transit and risk of transmission. These could include minimising the number of people you come into contact with and taking note of those you do, minimising any unnecessary travel, and

making sure you’re working together to look after each other.

“Dairy industry leaders including DairyNZ, Federated Farmers, FMG, Fonterra and Ministry of Primary Industries have developed guidelines to minimise the risks and negative impacts. Those anticipating a move on 1 June are advised to keep up to date with those organisations’ websites.

“We also know that Gypsy Day puts a lot of pressure on

our rural businesses, workers, families and communities, and COVID-19 poses heightened challenges and complications.”

Campbell-Smart’s

advice is to keep talking to neighbours, partners and family, and friends and to be open about the challenges we are facing.

“There’s no barrier to

picking up the phone and talking through what’s going on, and some great online tools available to help,” he says.

## Women critical to primary sector change

Since 2010, the Agri-Women’s Development Trust has helped more than 4,000 women lead change in their farms, communities, careers and businesses. And that focus has only accelerated during the COVID-19 challenges for New Zealand and globally.

Chair, Linda Cooper, said the Trust’s work in empowering women to accelerate progress and change in the primary sector and rural communities “has never been more critical than now as we face a new world post the emergence of COVID-19.

“All of our unique development programmes have a face-to-face component and the lockdown called for a review of every course so we could continue to connect with, support and empower women through a challenging time.”

“We knew there would be an increased need for our programmes within the sector and also from new people who will be attracted to enter agribusiness as a result of the enhanced recognition of its importance to New Zealand’s health and prosperity.”

Linda Cooper said all programmes either continued to run, were postponed until a later date or set up for online delivery.

“The response of participants has been amazing, reaffirming the demand for what we do and the impact our programmes have for women on farm and in the value chain. All participants have been supportive and want to continue their development.

“Based on Government advice and health guidelines



Linda Cooper.

we will look to revert to face-to-face delivery when it is considered safe and when our participants feel safe to do this as the connection and networking elements of our programmes are vital. Many of our programmes have online content already and this will continue after Alert Levels are over.

“Like most people-facing organisations our priority, over the past six weeks and as we move into the future, is the personal safety of our staff, course facilitators and participants.

“Throughout the lockdown, we’ve been in fortnightly contact with our partners, participants, facilitators and suppliers to ensure they are aware of our plans.

“We have a group of 25 amazing facilitators situated all around New Zealand and it has been important to gauge how they, and our participants, feel about face to face contact as we move through the Alert Levels.”

Linda Cooper said the Trust had developed and supported the growth of national and regional networks across the primary sector.

“Quite often, our women

live and work in relative isolation and a valued outcome of participation in our programmes has been friendships and networks which extend into normal daily life. This supports high-impact, diverse networks of women across the primary sector and it’s fair to say those networks are probably stronger now than they’ve ever been.”

In closing, Linda Cooper said the profile and role of New Zealand’s primary producers has never been more important.

“Our team is in daily contact with women who work in all facets of this country’s agribusiness sector and we’re constantly struck by the resilience, determination and focus of our food producers to maintain and increase its contribution to New Zealand’s health and economy.”

The Agri-Women’s Development Trust (AWDT) was established in 2010 to empower women to accelerate progress and change in New Zealand’s primary sector and rural communities.



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# Revival of Natural Farming-the looming compulsion

## Good stewardship of the land

The rise of Extinction Rebellion, non-violent protest and activism focusing on deleterious industrial enterprise, has given pause for thought and reflection on how and why we do things the way we do with business that interacts with the environment.

Greta Thunberg's passionate plea to counter arrogance and denialism regarding fossil fuel emissions has been pushed to the fore during 2019, with school students demonstrating their alarm, and frustration with policymakers inaction.

Globally, reaction against ecocidal environmental degradation has now eclipsed anti-war and anti-apartheid demonstrations of the 1960's and 1970's. The students realise the mess the industrialists errors have spawned is a legacy of financial expediency and, commercial consideration produced, and they don't like the fact that the irreparable damage creating accelerating mass extinction of essential life-support systems continues with little more than lip-service (platitudes) from the culprits and their mass media and political sycophants. Irresponsible political decision and policy formulation has failed to rein in 'corporate cowboys' and the outliers of global custodianship of the fossil fuel industry, and also among food producers.

We have witnessed foot-dragging regarding independent research in both fields of safe energy, and food production. Nondisclosure clauses and gag orders constraining whistle-blowers articulating their concerns, in both fields, has delayed remedial steps, and the catch-cry of



**Geoff Downey.**

'uncertainty' has quelled concerns of the poorly informed general public in the rich countries particularly. Neoliberal economic theory has compounded disaster associated with these two areas of crisis. Such time wasting has driven the glaring catastrophe of mass extinction of crucial biodiversity Greta Thunberg and Extinction Rebellion recognise, galvanising resolve to see progress towards alleviation finally occur.

Making up for lost time will see closure of coal-fired power stations accelerate, and alternative zero-emission fuel sources for heating and transport replace petroleum in the near future. Likewise, we can expect to see farmers globally turn away from the catastrophic effects of 'chemical agriculture' and quickly and efficiently return to traditional knowledge of food production largely abandoned since the early part of the twentieth century.

The 'post-modern' food producers concur with the Extinction Rebellion activists, realising that pesticides, herbicides, and other groups of chemicals used in farming are an aberration, a symptom of a fundamental flaw with 'Modern Agriculture', strenuously warned about by Rachel Carson (Silent Spring), and Dr Michael Blake in his work a little later he published in the 1960's also.

Curiously, there exists a common factor with the fossil fuel industry which has spawned climate change, and Modern Agriculture which gave rise to a massive increase in non-communicable disease especially, and that is the deleterious overuse of synthetic nitrogenous fertiliser created with large amounts of petroleum product. Farmers were beguiled by this dangerous product, which, in the initial

stages of usage appeared to have advantageous features. However, before too long the misadventure drove symptoms Dr Blake warned about, essentially soil acidification and mineral depletion. This was dubiously countered by the rise in the use of supplementary feed, and veterinary chemicals (especially antibiotics) for diseases increasingly afflicting the livestock. For soil-borne pests and crop diseases, the pesticide and herbicide industry rose to prominence as an illusory beneficial practice, Rachel Carson vehemently warned about, as pollinating insects (bees especially) became imperilled as (collateral damage).

Farmers had become to be at war with the farmed environment, as consumers paid the price with declining health. The pharmaceutical industry had found the constant rise of resistant

micro-organisms was frustrating, as increasingly ineffectual in both the veterinary field, and with the human health condition, similarly in escalating decline.

Commercial imperatives drove inertia, and suppression added to media subservience which had the effect of restraining progress by farmers themselves and time-honoured methodologies of food production.

Extinction Rebellion appears to have re-focused attention back onto the fundamental flaws of both unsustainable fossil fuel use, and the deleterious impacts of chemical agriculture. This will herald for farmers and consumers alike, the revival of health care by prevention of disorders which ecologically sustainable agriculture (ESA) promised, and which was for too long repressed. A return to prosperity as well as self-esteem for the farmers adopting ESA will quickly turn the tables on the structurally flawed dead-end modern agriculture aberration, a cause for great celebration.

Renewable energy systems appear now to be of prime focus for research and

development, although the irreversible nature of damage to the atmosphere and oceans is sinister, and cause for far less rejoicing as the Antarctic ice-sheets cascade imminently into the ocean. This will see a massive rise in the rate of sea level rise inundating coastal low-lands, creating alarming population relocation issues. The ocean acidification matter is equally alarming, also irreversibly imperilling calciferous ocean life-forms from phytoplankton to lobsters. The curse of fossil fuel industries holds far less cause for celebration, even if Hydrogen Fuel Cell technology and solar power were suddenly adopted.

In both cases of humanity folly the twentieth century spawned, the results of avoiding the warnings of whistle-blowers have been calamitous. Future generations will judge harshly the deniers' of catastrophe fossil fuel industries ill-effects of climate change, mass extinction, and mortal affliction humanity had to bear due to head in the sand' attitudes the media, research and academia spinelessly foisted on us all.

*Geoff Downey*

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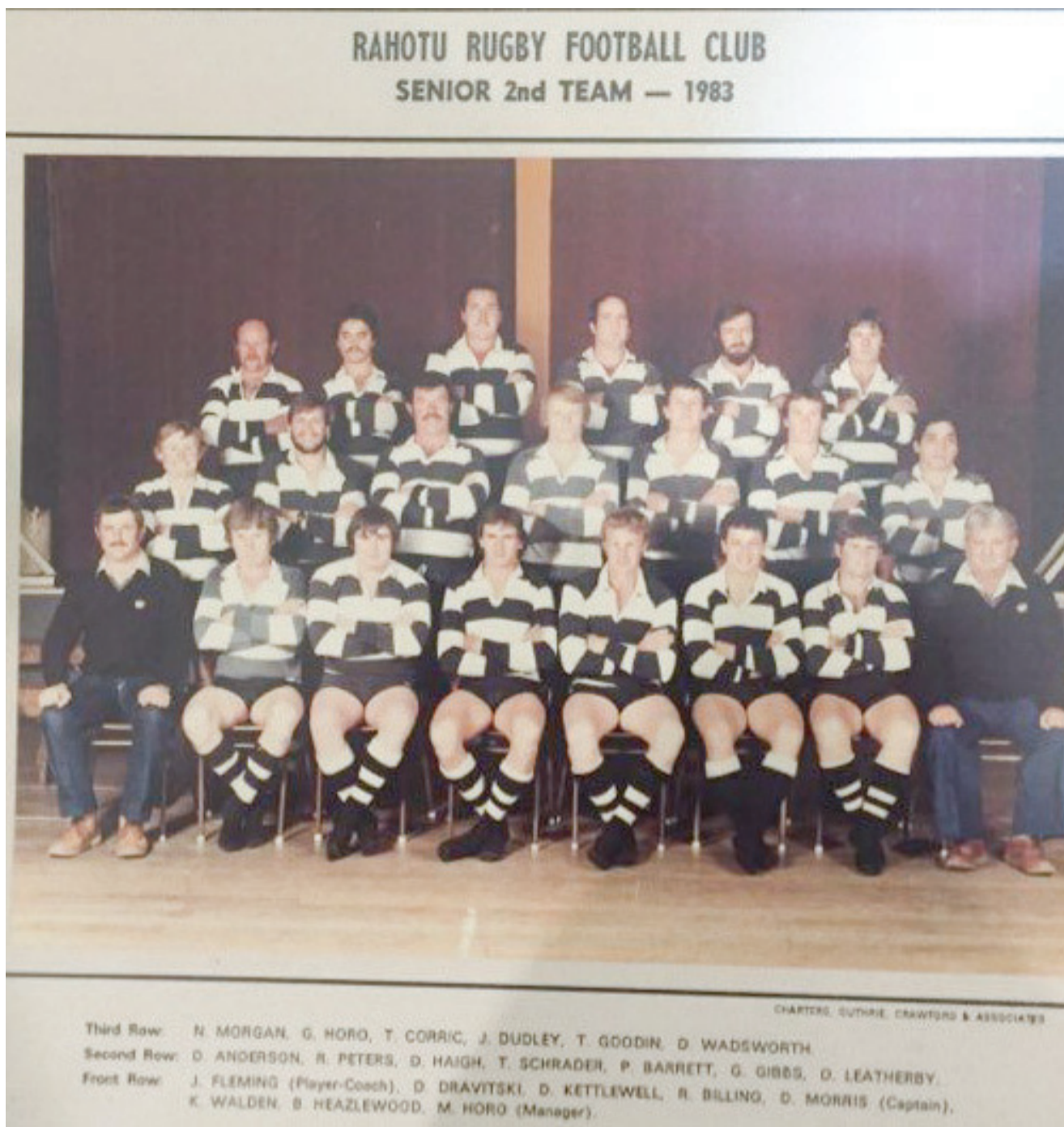
# Working towards getting rugby back on the field

Taranaki Rugby Chief Executive Laurence Corlett has said “appropriate measures, that meet the Ministry of Health guidelines, need to be clarified and consistent across all clubs nationwide. These include the responsibility of clubs and schools, hygiene, contact tracing protocols, crowd management and health and safety plans.

“We really appreciate the patience shown by all of our clubs and stakeholders during this fast changing situation. We are unlikely to have any rugby for at least another two weeks, and we will continue to update clubs and stakeholders as new

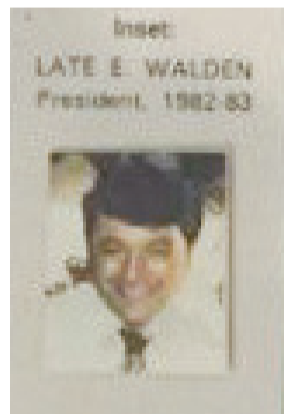
information comes to hand. Given there is still a risk of the virus spreading in our community, we want to make sure we have everything in place to avoid a cluster. New Zealand Rugby and Sport New Zealand are working with the Ministry to ensure the safety of our players, coaches, referees and volunteers is looked after – which is our priority”.

All Taranaki Rugby Chairs are meeting weekly via zoom to be updated on any developments and discuss scenarios for a return to play. The Coastal Rugby committee have also met via zoom and agreed to continue to keep in touch and react as updates are received.



Rahotu Senior Second team 1983.

As this is the Coastal Rugby Club's 25th Jubilee year, which we will celebrate in due course, we are looking through the photos of the Opunake, Rahotu and Okato Rugby Club photos. In the last issue we showcased the



1984 Opunake Senior 1st team, and this edition we have the 1983 Rahotu Senior 2nd Team.

Janet Fleming  
Coastal Rugby Club Chair

## Manaia Golf results

Manaia Golf Club  
Saturday Men. 1. Sam Jones. 2. Caleb Symes. 3. Jamie Johnston. 4. Ethan Jones. 5. Neil Scown.  
Juniors. 1. Joe Gibson. 2. Lucas Symes. 3. Jaden

Siciliano and Kieran Taylor.  
1. Oliva Symes. 2. Carter Symes. 3. Katie King. 1. Payton Siciliano. 2. Luke Norris. 3. Hannah Symes. 1. Jakhoda Smith. 2. Jack Gargan.

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# The state of play on community hockey

Hockey New Zealand say recent government announcements and clarifications from Sport New Zealand have allowed them to undertake further planning around the return to community hockey.

“We understand the desire for getting back on the turf and rest assured we are working hard to ensure this can happen however it needs to occur in a managed way that prioritises the safety of our community,” Hockey New Zealand said in a statement released last week. “We do not want hockey to be the reason we go backwards on alert levels.” “The return to hockey will take a three-phase approach, the three phases are ‘Get Ready to Train’, ‘Prepare to Play’ and ‘Return to Play.’ The Get Ready to Train phase came into effect on May 12.’



Hockey plays the waiting game.

“Associations will only be able to move into the Prepare to Play phase once all health and safety and contact tracing measures have been put in place. “This phase is essential for our community as it will allow our participants to get back into the sport without rushing into a competition. During this phase, the needs of our participants

are a priority ensuring they have a chance to prepare for competition, therefore, reducing the risk of future injury. It also allows our Associations an opportunity to implement all necessary procedures for hockey to happen safely. It is unlikely all hockey will commence at the same time across the country. The current rules

around the mass gathering restrictions of no more than 10 must be adhered to during this phase.” “Competitive hockey is likely to start at different times across the country depending on complexity and preparedness. Additionally, different forms of hockey i.e. Senior and Junior hockey may have staggered starts to

ensure a smooth and quality experience is provided. Having a graduated return to play will be important to minimize the risk of injury i.e. no doubleheader weekends early in the return to play time period.

“We understand that not all hockey facilities

are administered by your Association. If people are able to adhere to the government restrictions around less than 10 people gatherings as well as health and safety and contact tracing measures, then it is up to the owner of these facilities to decide if trainings following the protocols can occur.”

# More time needed for Taranaki rugby

Taranaki Rugby is urging clubs and stakeholders to stay patient until concrete plans are made for the start of rugby.. Taranaki Rugby Chief Executive Laurence Corlett said appropriate measures,

that meet the Ministry of Health guidelines, need to be clarified and consistent across all clubs nationwide. “We really appreciate the patience shown by all of our clubs and stakeholders during this fast-changing

situation. “New Zealand Rugby and Sport New Zealand are working with the Ministry to ensure the safety of our players, coaches, referees and volunteers is looked after – which is our priority,”

In the meantime, players can train at the gym, with restrictions in place, but there are to be no club trainings nationwide until at least May 25 when the Government announces any changes to Level 2 restrictions



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# Taranaki artists showcased in window gallery project

The Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre has teamed up with the Taranaki Arts Trail to bring art home to the public and support local artists during the lockdown.

The NPDC-run Gallery has invited Taranaki artists to turn their own windows into galleries to not only

bring art to their streets but also online, so that audiences can continue to see new exhibitions in their neighbourhoods or online during the Covid-19 emergency. □

The Gallery will launch a new theme via Instagram every Thursday – based on a letter of the alphabet -



A is for Absence by Taranaki artist Milarky

and will share the window galleries as they are created.

So far artists such as Milarky, Ché, Joni Murphy (North Taranaki Arts Society) and Viv Davy, have taken part, sharing both their artworks and how they are

using their creative practices to respond to the current situation.

“It’s an opportunity for both the Govett-Brewster and the Taranaki Arts Trail to bring art home to everyone and for audiences to get to

know the thriving local arts scene here in Taranaki,” says co-directors Aileen Burns and Johan Lundh. “It also ties in nicely with our own ‘Open Window’ series which has been bringing art to the street for more than a

decade.” Artist Milarky hailed the window gallery project. “During an era where access to direct artwork in galleries is not allowed, the Studio Window project encourages the interception of artist current work with real world delivery.”

The Gallery has been finding ways of bringing fresh art and cultural content online, while it has remained temporarily closed, in response to current lockdown measures.

Its weekly online Family Art Toi Ma Te Whanau, which has been bringing online activities that can be done at home, has caught the attention of Creative NZ and its Thankful for Art Campaign, while its ‘Art of’ series, aims to marry different art forms with visual artworks, with the recent Art of Poetry being supported by Pop-Up Poetry Taranaki, to invite audiences to respond to artworks with their own poems.

It also recently launched a Community Film Project, inviting audiences to submit a short film, capturing one day of life in their bubble – it’s free to enter and open to all ages.

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# Okato and Districts Historical Society is coming out of hibernation

Okato and Districts Historical Society are re-opening the History Room situated in the Community Trust building at 47 Cumming Street in Okato on Wednesday June 3.

An idea was floated in the 1980s by folk concerned that local history was being lost, to gather what photos and 'stories' together they had and form an Historical Group. They first met in private homes until the Community Trust offered them the newly added store

room in the Community Trust rooms.

By adding the many Jubilee and school photos, then biographies the store room was soon inadequate, so the larger room was offered by the Community Trust to the Group. By affiliating with the New Zealand Historical Society the local group became the Okato and Districts Historical Society Incorporated, with a brief to gather, collate, record and preserve memorabilia, photos and local histories

from Pungarehu to Oakura.

By osmosis, this stretched to include Kahui, Newall, Tumahu, Patua, Kirihau, Koru, Waireka and Omata, besides the Coastal settlements.

Today the Inc has been dropped from the name, and purchase of modern scanning and collating computers has provided copying of thousands of photos and the protection of originals, as well as the collection of many autobiographies and family histories and events

in the wider community. These are available for study and research by those interested.

Copies can be made at reasonable rates.

New membership is welcomed at \$10.00 per year. Come and join our industrious historians and computer whizzes. And share your family stories.

Open each Wednesday morning from 10 until midday or by appointment.

Meg Cardiff  
ph 7524 566

# Chaddys Charters



Dave (Chaddy) Chadfield

Chaddy is back out on the water taking trips out on his lifeboat during the Covid 19 level 2 lockdown, and cruising around Breakwater Bay, feeding stingrays, taking groups out to visit seals, as well as hiring out bikes to ride the Coastal Walkway and kayaks to paddle the bay. If you go for a cruise with Chaddy you will have a great day as he loves to see you smile. Chaddy received a Local Taranaki Hero award in a recent ceremony for services to Taranaki Tourism. So give them a call and book a trip today.

# Book lovers feasted during lockdown



Daisy and Teddy Walmsley enjoying Puke Ariki's online Crackerjacks Storytime.

The buildings have been closed during the lockdown but NPDC services have never been busier and have been open 24/7.

Puke Ariki has had book lovers covered, lending out more than 12,600 eBooks and eAudiobooks in April, up from 8,800 in March and about 7,000 in February. Catering for younger readers, the library's BorrowBox

service saw 3,400 eBooks downloaded in the first week of April, more than triple the number for the whole of March, while the online Crackerjacks Storytime also kept them entertained.

Meanwhile, the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery has been inspiring youngsters to get creative with streamed Family Art sessions and

projects to bring art to the people. The gallery is also currently asking budding movie-makers to share their short films on a day in their lockdown through Once in a Lifetime - The Bubble Project. All these community films will be shown on the Govett-Brewster YouTube channel.

NPDC spokesperson

Jacqueline Baker says they have been in uncharted waters during the lockdown but NPDC set a course to keep people informed and entertained.

"Puke Ariki and our Gallery have been doing an amazing job virtually with borrowing soaring as we stick to our Covid-19 bubbles while we continue to work hard delivering water, safe roads, rubbish collections while managing hundreds of customer calls and emails each day," says Ms Baker.

Puke Ariki's digital library has been open with thousands of eBooks, eAudiobooks, movies and newspapers available for everyone in Taranaki and Ancestry.com free during the lockdown.

The Govett-Brewster Art Gallery has also brought art to the people through an online collaboration with Taranaki poets for The Art of Poetry project and has launched Window Gallery - Bringing Art Home, working with the Taranaki Arts Trail for artists and designers to turn their own windows into galleries.

## Okato Districts Historical Society

Re-opening to public at  
10 am to 12pm on the  
3rd June 2020.

Community Trust Hall  
47 Cumming St, Okato.

Enquiries to Meg Cardiff  
Ph 06 752 4566



Our Garden, gallery and shop are open Sat & Sun 10am-5pm. Our Market Days will resume soon.

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## LEVEL 2 CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Opunake Pharmacy 06 761 8144 and Opunake Medical Centre are open at all levels** Please do make contact with a service if you need something. Please phone first. Flu shots are available from the Medical Centre now call 06 761 7324
- **Coastal Printers** Open Wednesdays and Fridays or phone/email orders - 027 325 8796 or cavco@xtra.co.nz
- **Plunket:** Marlene 027 218 8214 and also Plunketline is available 24/7 on 0800 933 922
- **New Plymouth Physio** Tuesdays and Thursdays 8.30 - 5.00 pm - call 06 757 8800
- **Te Ara Pae Trust** - Gwenyth counselling starts Thursday 28th May - Ph: 06 278 6399
- **Leonie Landsheer** - Counselling working from home 027 559 0982
- **Taylor Dental** Starting Thursday 21st May - call 06 759 1047
- **Foodbank** Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm. Call first on 06 761 8488
- **Hawera Budget Advice** Phone 0800 333 048
- **Lisa Keen Audiology** Starting Wednesday 20th May - Phone 0800 555 676
- **Taranaki Podiatry** is available via phone for any urgent concerns and troubleshooting - phone 021 753 472
- **Taranaki Osteopath** Starting Tuesday 19th May - Phone 022 353 9081

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**FOURTH RATES INSTALMENT**

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the fourth instalment of rates for 2019/2020 without incurring a penalty will be Wednesday 27 May 2020.

**WD Crockett**  
Chief Executive

We at the Opunake & Coastal News would like to acknowledge the passing of Ron Benge who has diligently delivered the Opunake & Coastal News in Manaia for many years.

We extend our condolences to his extended family.

Ron will be much missed.

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