

# **OPUNAKE & COASTAL**

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### Inside



Back to drawing board for Manaia Facility. See page 9.



**Remembering the** crucifixion. Pages 10-11.



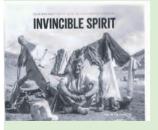
Catching up with **Opunake walker Toby** O'Rorke. See page 17.



Taking a stand on seabed mining. See page 21.



Hawera Rep remembers **ANZAC** heroines. See page 22.



The Kiwi who paved the way for Hillary. See page 25.

## Where to for library building?

The future location of library services in Kaponga are under review and with it the fate of the building on the corner of Egmont and Victoria Streets housing the current library.

existing The library which had previously been earthquake strengthened has since developed leakage problems. The Council has budgeted \$100,000 but South Taranaki District Council group manager community services Rob Haveswood said the repair costs could be much higher.

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (April 10 2025) there was robust discussion at a meeting in Kaponga where South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon and Rob Haveswood fronted up to discuss two options for the future of the Kaponga Library. Option A which Mr Haveswood said was the Council's preferred option would be to shift the library into the supper room of the Kaponga War Memorial Hall. Option B would see keeping the library where it is and fixing it up.



Mark Bellringer. STDC "Local government should be about local people and local people's rights."

Opponents of Option B say the supper room is used to cater for bigger occasions like ANZAC Day and its use could be lost if the library were to move in here. The shift from the existing library would also mean another empty building in town.

Mr Haveswood said to the Four Square and the most used part of it and to provide written feedback Cr Bellringer represents the public toilets. Having the it's definitely the warmest. afterwards," he said. "Some Eltham-Kaponga ward says



A recent public meeting thrashed out whether the Kaponga Library should be repaired or have everything shifted to the War Memorial Hall

hall nearby would mean more room for holiday programmes. He also said the supper room was not often used.

Cr Mark Bellringer who represents Eltham-Kaponga on the South Taranaki District Council said at the meeting he would be voting against Option A and would support Option B.

"There was a real strong message from the group that came that there was no way they wanted the supper room as the new Kaponga Library and I agreed with them,' he told the Opunake and Coastal News. "I don't see the money being wasted if



**Lindsay Maindonald** "A library has always been a very identifying part of the town."

they fix the existing library. the supper room had the When you look at the hall advantage of being close complex, the supper room is

WE SERVICE APPLIANCES

It's a war memorial hall as was pointed out by more than one person at the meeting and should the war memorial hall be used as a library?"

He said it wasn't all a



Shirley Hazlewood. "I would prefer the hall as there's more room."

matter of dollars and cents. "There are 400 people in Kaponga and they should have the same rights as someone in Hawera. Local government should be about local people and local

people's rights." He said the Council supported local libraries and he admires them for that.

Rob Haveswood says the Council wanted to find out what the community thought and other options could be considered.

"Notes were taken from the community meeting and there was also an opportunity

clear themes emerged, and they have been taken into consideration. As such there will now be several new options for the Council to choose from. A report outlining all the options will be presented at the Ordinary Council meeting on 26 May. This is a little later than the original timeline of 5 May as additional work has been required to inform the new

options added based on community feedback."

Eltham - Kaponga



#### Ben Flintoff. "I got the impression they didn't even want to listen to us."

Community Board member Lindsay Maindonald agrees with Cr Bellringer.

"I'm old school and I think towns have libraries and they are separate buildings," he says. "A library has always been a very identifying part of the town."

Cr Steffy McKay who, with

nothing has been decided vet.

"I want to ensure the community is heard and there's a solution that works for everybody," she told the Opunake and Coastal News. "I look forward to reading the submissions."

The Opunake and Coastal News asked local people in Kaponga what they thought. Shirley Hazlewood who was awarded a OSM for her advocacy work for the disabled community said she supported moving to the hall.

"People with disabilities like to move around. They've widened the doors to the hall and it's really good. I would prefer the hall as there's more room. It's not used much and it's a building that's going to waste," she says.

"Sell the library off. If they're going to start spending money now, they're going to be spending money all the time. Money is just going to be going into the community for nothing if they are repairing it all the time.'

Similar sentiments were voiced by one man who did not want to be named.

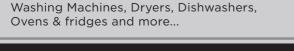
"Going to the town hall makes sense. They spent

*Continued page 4.* 

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While we welcome free speech, the views expressed in the Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect those of the Opunake & Coastal News. Please limit letters to 350 words as we sometimes struggle for space to fit them all in.

of Māori. Māori have an

everlasting contract with

the Crown to maintain their

sovereignty. They did not

make a contract with you,

David Seymour, or any

other person, so you don't

get to cancel it. They are

guaranteed three principles:

partnership, protection, and

participation. So, let's stop

with the arrogant, oblivious

You have rights, privileges

How about we create

and benefits. Rights for

Māori take nothing away

an undivided, modern and

confident nation, side by

side with Māori (partnership

and participation). We all

have values and customs

we cherish and wish to

preserve (protection). When

everybody wins, everybody

Mary Moore

Manaia

calls for assimilation.

from you.

wins.

### **Everlasting** contract

In reply to David Hancock's letter to the editor, April 10, 2025

David Hancock writes to suggest that the government hold two referenda: firstly, whether to become a republic, and secondly, to unite all New Zealanders under one electoral roll, abolishing Māori seats. Mr Hancock believes that these changes will create an undivided, modern and confident nation.

I have a question, Mr Hancock. Do you realize that with a simple peck at the keyboard, you suggest wiping out an entire culture? Traditions, values, practices, language - gone. Not your culture, though.

"The people" do not get to decide anything on behalf

#### ADELPHOS

For centuries migration has been a normal feature of human existence. It's not a new social media phenomenon. However, in the last 100 years the human population has quadrupled from 2 billion to over 8 billion. Earth's resources and habitable spaces are limited. Think of 25 people living in a small two-bedroom house with insufficient finances.

Migrants are increasingly seeking refugee status in first world countries from war, poverty, hunger, political and religious persecution or simply a better way of life. But it can be a difficult, dangerous and sometimes deadly journey (World Migration Report, 2024). The baby Jesus and His family were refugees in

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Egypt, fleeing from Herod's death threats. For many immigrants this

means gaining the legal rights and responsibilities as dual citizens in their new country. On the flip side, there's the heart-wrenching disconnection with loved ones left behind, a new language to learn, different foods, customs, religious practices, values and ways of celebrating. Their new dual citizenship can be a double-edged sword.

Jesus came as a migrant from heaven to earthinviting people to receive a second heavenly citizenship in God's kingdom here on earth (John 3:3). He forewarned followers that the values of God's Kingdom will conflict with

### **Energy crunch** time

The price of energy is critical to New Zealand. Not only do we consumers hate paying more and more but all businesses large and small are suffering as a result. Yes we can blame the last government but it seems to me it goes back to earlier times too. For some reason big corporates like Methanex and Rio Tinto got extremely attractive energy deals back in the day. It also seems to me time those deals were renegotiated or simply broken otherwise we as a country may well be broken.....

To: Hon. Shane Jones Minister for Resources Parliament Buildings Wellington

Subject: The Need for Fairer Access to New Zealand's Natural Gas

### Citizenship

those of the world. And thatsome true believers will be marginalised and even hated as He and His disciples were (John 15:19-20). Today, worldwide, 1 out of 7 Christians or 370,000,000 are experiencing such persecution for their faith. Some are executed (Open Doors International).

Clearly Jesus didn't promise that migrant entering believers the Kingdom of God will have a life of all beer and skittles. He paradoxically promised that true followers will have tribulation and persecution because they will not compromise their faith (John 16:33). Jesus even commanded His followers to take up their crucifixioncross "daily" (Luke 9:23-

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25). On the flip side, He promised that a citizen of God's Kingdom lives under His protection: "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28).

The New Testament is clear that Christians are firstly citizens of God's Kingdom, following gospel values. They are in the world but not of the world (John 17:14-16). Jesus encourages believers to "...seek first the kingdom of God..." (Matthew 6:33) The apostle Paul writes: "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20, NIV).

Our Lord kept it simple about what true citizenship in God's Kingdom means-"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength and love your neighbour as yourself." Kingdom Christianity is simple, but it's never an easy road.

> Manaakitanga, Adelphos



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**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS** 

#### Resources

Dear Minister Jones,

I write as a concerned citizen to raise a fundamental question of fairness regarding the allocation and pricing of New Zealand's natural gas resources.

As you are aware, Canadian multinational Methanex has long benefited from deeply discounted long-term gas contracts in Taranakicontracts that, based on publicly available figures, appear to give them access to natural gas at less than one-third the rate that New Zealand households pay.

While I understand that Methanex is a major buyer and long-term contracts offer certainty to producers, the scale of the discount raises troubling questions. This is not merely a case of

Continued on page 3.



#### Continued from page 2.

industrial bulk-buying-it is a structural imbalance that entrenches corporate hegemony over a public resource, to the detriment of New Zealand consumers.

The fact that these are Zealand resources New extracted from New Zealand territory gives the public every moral-and arguably political-right to expect fair access. At present, the domestic consumer has no effective bargaining power and no seat at the table when deals are struck between producers and overseas corporates. The result is a lopsided system that prioritizes export-oriented profits over domestic affordability.

This disparity might be more understandable if it were a matter of a small price difference. But when Methanex pays less than one-third what domestic consumers do, arrangement begins the to resemble an economic extraction that borders on exploitation. In effect, we are subsidising an overseas operation with our own resources-without any meaningful return to the public.

Minister, I urge you to initiate a transparent review of:

How New Zealand's natural gas supply is priced and prioritised. Whether longterm industrial contracts reflect a fair market or need

regulatory oversight, And whether a domestic reserve policy should be considered to protect household access to our own resources.

New Zealanders are not opposed to industry, nor to foreign investment. But we are entitled to fairness-and to policies that reflect our sovereignty over our natural assets.

I would appreciate your response and your position on this matter. I am considering sharing this concern more widely, including with other Ministers, MPs, and the

ltonor

media.

David Hancock Eltham.

### Two sides to story

Well, if it is not one thing it's another. Moan, moan/komekome. moan, komekome, komekome. Lengthy and costly issues, Treaty of Waitangi redress, Taranaki name-changes, Mt Messenger Bypass-project (Tony and Debbie Pascoe), and deep-sea iron mining, there is always something for some people to shout and protest about it seems. The same people photos in the news.

Like all issues/projects there are always two sides to these. Unfortunately it is easy to open ones mouths and shout and protest their side of their cases, but in many/most issues these people who dislike issues never put up other projects/ solutions to take their places, for example, deep-sea iron mining in South Taranaki, where one project there can create 300 jobs in Taranaki and Whanganui regions which are well needed.

Question is, if the Deep-sea mining project is stopped from going ahead, what are these pat-me-on-my-back/ paki-taku-imuri persons ideas going to suggest to replace the 300 jobs which the mining project would provide, mining on land?

> Ian McAlpine New Plymouth

### Get rid of this government

After reading Mary Moore's letter Cruel Government, not only is she absolutely correct but I am in total agreement with her. It's a great pity that people in Aotearoa didn't really listen to what our Labour Party was telling us all about what this great Mickey Mouse coalition government was going to do. Much has happened and now everyone is beginning to complain about them.

Look we all have the opportunity, not only to get rid of this coalition government for good but bring Labour back in to power. Next year we have our general election, maybe sooner, putting things right back where they were before it was taken away from us all.

Now I do hope that people will be extra careful and listen extremely carefully on what this particular government is saying to us, and if they do become the government again, like now, our country will be going backwards more quickly than it is right now.

So Mary Moore, you have really hit the nail on the head big time and I'm supporting you 100 per cent, and also extremely well done.

> Tom Stephens New Plymouth

### **Seabed mining**



It's hard to form a clear opinion on the proposed seabed mining off the Taranaki coast when the most basic details-like how far offshore the activity would occur-are missing from most media coverage. I've heard 22-36 km mentioned, but why isn't that front and centre in every article we read? Distance matters a great deal, especially when we're being asked to weigh the risks of a "super plume" of sand drifting into sensitive marine environments or fisheries. Yet media reports from such August outlets as TVNZ and Te Ao News and even The Daily News consistently omit such details. It's no wonder New Zealanders have such a low trust in the nation's media.

The Australian company behind the application is seeking a 35-year consent longer than most people's working life-to dredge our seabed for minerals under the new fast-track legislation. South Taranaki District Council has opposed the project, which on the surface might suggest a principled stand. But we also need to ask: Is this decision rooted in environmental concern, or is it simply a response to the fact that very few jobs or economic benefits would land in their district? After all, South Taranaki has no working port.

As for iwi oppositionled vocally by Te Pāti Māori-it's hard to take at face value when many iwi corporations around the country have willingly partnered with developers in other extractive ventures, from aquaculture to tourism to pine plantation. It feels like both sides-corporate and cultural-have learned to speak the language of environmentalism when it suits, while pursuing their own economic agendas in the background.

Meanwhile, the public is left trying to make sense of it all, with incomplete reporting and limited transparency.

Surely a better path would be to grant a 5-year trial licence. That would allow independent monitoring of environmental effects, community proper engagement, and give both science and public trust a chance to catch up with corporate ambition. As it stands, this feels like yet another case of big promises-jobs, investment, progress-being used to sidestep proper scrutiny. We've seen that pattern before.

New Zealanders are generous and pragmatic, but we're not naive. It's time for more honesty—on all sides.

PS. I have included my own "cosy-snap" of the coast but it should be noted that the work being discussed would probably be undertaken almost on the most distant horizon.

> David Hancock Eltham

### Tourist takes a tumble

Look, it never rains but it pours.

Recently 42 year-old French tourist Fredric Combier decided to climb our maunga's Fanthams Peak, and on his descent slipped and tumbled down, ending up upon rocks, when he received two broken ribs, suffering a spinal injury to his lower back region. He had previously climbed mountains and tracks throughout the North and South Islands and was rescued by helicopter and taken to Taranaki Base Hospital. He has been visited by two dutch trampers and our local mountaineer and Eltham-Kaponga Community Board member Lindsay Maindonald who was heading up Fantham's Peak and most probably found Fredric ..

**NEWS AND VIEWS** 

Many climbers have been rescued off our maunga. Already we have had 84 deaths which is far too many.

Our police and DOC (Department of Conservation) have told many people what to do before maunga climbing, but some are not listening. Maybe our I-Site could have someone with mountain climbing experience available in their office twice a week should anyone be wanting to climb our maunga., as this would stop these types of accidents and certain deaths, but still our biggest problem is that some people still think they can climb our maunga without knowing its dangers.

> Tom Stephens New Plymouth.





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### Where to for library building?

#### Continued from page 1.

\$80,000 on reinforcing the library. What are they going to do? Knock it down?"

Ben Flintoff said he doesn't want to see more empty buildings in town and doubts the figures quoted for how much it would cost to fix up the library.

I was talking to a builder who said he could do it for \$50,000," he said. He also wasn't happy with the way the meeting in the War Memorial Hall was conducted.

"I think the approach to the meeting was very bloody negative. I was nine years on the Council here for Eltham-Kaponga and I

wasn't impressed. I got the impression they didn't even want to listen to us."

Garry O'Keeffe is also sceptical about the Council's approach.

"I don't think it adds up," he says. "They seem to be looking at it from a very pessimistic angle that anything and everything must go wrong if they try to repair the leaks. They seem to have lots of disadvantages under Option B but none of them seem to have any facts and figures to back them up.'

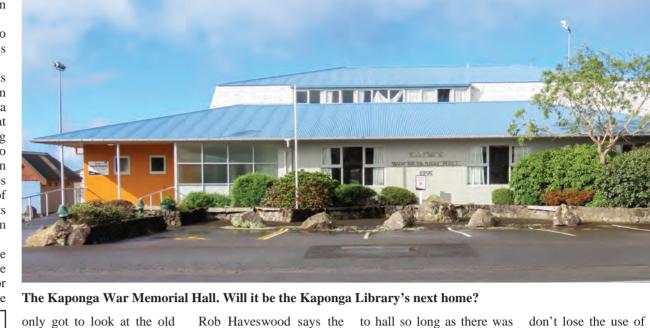
"If they did leave the library they say they are going to maintain it, but for their existing record you've



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only got to look at the old Post Office building."

Peter Sandford also supports fixing up the library. "If you have a leak you fix it," he says. "They've spent that much on it already why hit it on the head for the sake of a roof?"

costs of fixing up the library would involve more than just repairing the roof and would include such things as new windows, joinery, spouting and interior painting.

Shayne Dunkley said he would be open to shifting

### Editorial

Kaponga, home to the Taranaki Swiss Club and Start Taranaki has always been a town which has punched above its weight. It has made and continues to make a big contribution to South Taranaki District and beyond. With the development of the Taranaki Crossing it has potential to be a focal point for tourism in the area.

Located on the corner of Egmont and Victoria Streets is the building which currently serves as the town's library.

A question mark hangs over the future of this building and local people feel strongly about this.

Recent leakage problems have led the South Taranaki District Council to propose that the building either be fixed up or the library be shifted to the Supper Room of the Kaponga War Memorial Hall.

These options were laid out at a recent public meeting attended by about 40 local

people.

The Council is to be

commended on what it's

done to promote libraries in

the district and the mayor

Phil Nixon told the meeting

that as long as he's on the

Council no libraries will

Nothing has been decided

yet and there is talk of other

possible options. However a

number of questions are still

Moving the library would

mean one more empty

building, and it would be

one occupying a strategic

point in town on a road

used by visitors heading

to Taranaki Maunga, as

well as to Kaponga's

iconic Hollard Gardens.

Fourteen kilometres away

in Manaia signs indicating

the way to Dawson Falls,

entice travellers along Surf

Highway in the direction of

Relocating the library to

the Memorial Hall Supper

Room would also mean the

loss of another venue. The

that the supper room does

Kaponga.

close.

to be decided.

a library. "We need a library, but given the hours it's open and

a dedicated area reserved for

the options available putting an extension on to the War Memorial Hall could be a way to do it, so the RSA don't lose the use of it and we still have a library," he says.

"I'm a returned serviceman and having that facility open is important, but in my profession I know a new extension would be the most cost-effective option.'

misses the point. There are events held in the hall and the logical place to adjourn afterwards is of course the supper room.

The ANZAC annual Day commemoration has been mentioned, and of course others can be added, including the occasional large local funeral.

In 2023 this reporter covered Paul and Wynne Bowers-Mason entertaining a full hall at the annual Carols for Christmas.

The supper room, as well as the existing library which serves as a focal point of a town which punches above its weight still have much to offer Kaponga. It would be a shame if either of them were to go. There are those who say a

town with a population of less than 400 can't claim a right to the same level of services as larger centres.

This however downplays the contribution Kaponga continues to make to the South Taranaki District as the gateway to the maunga. Despite its small size it is a town that is well known around the country, whether through the exploits of its sporting heroes like the Crowleys, the Eliasons and others, or through the Swiss connection, farming or any number of other things. Bryan Kirk.

### Taking preventer inhaler in afternoon may be best

A small clinical trial suggests that taking preventer, asthma the beclomethasone, once a day in the mid-afternoon, may be the best timing for effective asthma control.

The study in 25 people

found that the afternoon dosing improved nighttime lung function and better suppressed airway inflammation than dosing regimens at other times of the day.





as the region. Furthermore,

the uncertainty fuelled by

tariff wars and other issues

may have direct, indirect, and ripple effects for

"While the economic

there will be changing

and challenging times for

Taranaki," said Venture Taranaki chief executive

Kelvin Wright. "It's positive

to see that leaders across

the region are focused on

innovation, diversification, and sustainability-adapting

where possible to survive

and even thrive in this

continues,

Taranaki.

transition

economy."

### Challenges remain, but signs of recovery ahead

The economy in Taranaki, like much of New Zealand, continues to feel the effects of a tough economic climate. This was reflected during the latest economic briefing event hosted by Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki, the regional development agency, where recent data was presented alongside insights from local leaders.

However, while most sectors remain under gradual pressure, a improvement is anticipated as the year progresses. This sentiment was echoed by the majority of the 130 attendees who felt that while the economy has been difficult to navigate, they expect it to either stay the same or improve over the next 12 months.

"As a business, sailing a boat in these types of conditions is tough," said Anne Probert, Director of Strategic and Sector Partnerships at Venture Taranaki. "While we can't always control the wind, it's about reading the environment and adjusting the sails-navigating the best course through change. It sounds like our local business community is doing just that."

Recent data from Infometrics shows а provisional decline of 2.3% in average annual GDP for the region.

"The decline in gas production, combined with the unique circumstances that saw Methanex pause production to help support the national grid during the energy shortage late last year, had a particularly strong impact on the region's economic activity", said



Kelvin Wright giving economic briefing.

Probert.

Employment data reveals a moderate decline, with an average of 56,037 people in work during the year to December 2024 - down 0.9% from the previous year. However, the regional unemployment rate stood at 4.0% (annual average), remaining below the national average of 4.7%. This indicates a degree of resilience in the labour market, despite wider

economic pressures. Consumer spending in Taranaki has been more cautious over the past year, with a 1.0% decline compared to a modest 0.2% increase nationwide. However, easing mortgage rates could start to slowly free up disposable income, helping to lift retail and hospitality spending later in the year.

spending Online has remained with strong, Taranaki leading the country growing confidence in the

in e-commerce growth, growing 17.6% compared to a New Zealand average of 5%.

"We're seeing a clear behavioural shift with consumers in the region shopping around more, looking for the best value in tougher conditions," said Probert. "At the same time, this creates opportunities for local businesses to strengthen their digital offerings and reach."

The construction sector has seen a significant slowdown, with the value of nonresidential consents falling by 26.3% over the past year in the region. Nationally, consents were down just 0.9%, showing that Taranaki has been more affected than some other regions. However, house values in Taranaki have increased by 2.8%, a contrast to the 2.0% decline seen across New Zealand, suggesting

housing market. Meanwhile, there are some positive signs in the agricultural sector. Beef prices are on the rise, and if dairy production levels hold, the 2024/25 payout could inject an estimated \$1.8 billion into the regional economy.

However, Probert urges caution, "With the drought impacting currently production levels and costs in the region, coupled with farmers under pressure to recuperate costs from previous years, returns will realistically be challenged. That being said, on a national level, it is hoped that the primary sector can play a key role assisting the economic recovery, with rising export earnings supporting rural economies.'

Globally, economic growth has also been down, and as an open trading country, this also impacts on New Zealand's prosperity, as well



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### Diet and exercise may be best to help kids with excess tummy fat

abdominal area, known as during childhood offers dietary changes to Australian research. The ways authors say central obesity childhood central obesity is a more serious form of and found that combining fruit and vegetable intake,

Kids with excess fat in the obesity and addressing it central obesity, are likely lifelong health benefits. linked with significantly to benefit from combining They conducted an analysis with to pool together previous physical activity, according research looking at various

dietary and physical activity interventions was lower central obesity. They also found some trials of behavioural interventions of addressing such as education to reduce unhealthy snacks, increase and limit screen time, also significantly reduced central obesity.

JAMA Network Open







( hristine NEW OWNERS The \$ Storer



Manaia the centrepiece.

Quinton Robinson describes himself as а "graffiti kid at heart."

"I used to tag everybody's fences but now I'm allowed to tag it," he says.

Last week the Manaia artist who goes by the name Qwin's Way was at the unveiling of his latest creation, a mural at the Manaia Skatepark. It is also his first community mural although he has been doing artwork at Te Paepae o Aotea and Opunake High School.

Quinton had been working on the mural for four months. He said he was overwhelmed by the interest and support he had been getting from local people, whether it be those who dropped by to give a hand or those who had passed on massive. This is a journey words of encouragement.

I will remember for the

to create opportunities not just for myself but for the



#### The Mural unveiled.

"There have been heaps of people coming in, easily a hundred, helping put this together," he said. "To get this much support is

rest of my life. This piece here is not just about a creative artwork but about creating connections in the community. I'm trying

community as well. This has brought people together."

Ouinton spent his early years in Manaia before shifting to Australia with his family as a seven yearold. Eight years ago he returned to New Zealand, and Manaia, and has been here ever since.

"I lived with my family and I wanted to pursue murals and street art work,' he says. "I used to walk around Manaia ad I said we need more street art here."

On Tuesday April 15 his wish came to fruition at the Manaia skatepark. As the sun was going down on a fine Manaia evening, there was a good turnout from young and older as the various parts of the work were unveiled.

Quinton thanked the South Taranaki District Council and Matua Whangai for getting "this off the ground." The biggest cheer came when the centrepiece representing Manaia was unveiled. The largest of the artworks it showed the maunga and had the black and blue colours of Waimate, for many years the town's iconic rugby club.

As each of the pieces were unveiled he spoke of the lessons he had picked up on his own journey.

"If you go through the right things you can still do the things you are passionate about," he said.



**Talented Mural Artist Quinton Robinson.** 



197 Parihaka Road, Rd35, Pungarehu

### The Lysaght Watt Gallery

It's five months after relocating to Hawera's new cultural centre, Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga and, while they don't have quite as large an area to display artworks, there is more foot traffic, says Elizabeth Harrison the curator of Lysaght Watt Gallery.

The impressive new South Taranaki District Council building in Hawera is a modern, multi-functional facility which includes, in addition to the Art Gallery, a library, AA and isite visitor information centre, café and public toilets.

Prior to relocating, the Lysaght Watt Gallery was at 6 Union Street in Hawera.

"We have the wonderful opportunity for a rebirth of the gallery," says Helen seeing their new location as "an evolution of the gallery". The new STDC owned cultural centre building was designed by Daniel Thompson of Warren and Mahoney Architects. "We worked closely with the Council and the architect," said Helen. It's quite organic, it's got wood, it's got concrete, a lot of the construction material relates to South Taranaki. The building has also retained some of the features of the former building which



Lysaght Watt Gallery now in the new South Taranaki District Council building in Hawera

occupied the site such as in the popular coffee shop which is beside the Gallery. "It's got a different feeling," said Helen it's modern and in line with metropolitan galleries which is a comment they get particularly from visitors to Hawera.

It is a little bit smaller than the former gallery says Helen Cook but is more accessible in general and there's more foot traffic.

The new Lysaght Watt facility will also be used to help promote the arts generally.

"We've had a panel discussion with around 35 discussing women and creativity," says Helen adding that one of the women attending was a poet which means they're broadening their scope.

"The space gives up the opportunity to do varied things- it's not just about art on the wall."

They're now on their third exhibition at their new location.

Their first collated by Michaela Stoneman, Arts Co-ordinator with the South Taranaki District Council, displayed works in various media including painting, carving and mixed

media. The second was an exhibition by graphic designer Lucie Blaze from Auckland who has an international profile.

Their third and current exhibition entitled A Diverse Approach is a joint show with mixed media with exhibits by Portia Roper, Kay Anderson and Elizabeth Harrison.

Lysaght Watt Gallery operates a community art gallery in Hawera having been established in 2006 by a group of volunteers dedicated to establishing a public art space in Hawera. Formerly known as STAGE

1, the name was changed to Lysaght Watt Gallery to reflect the support given to the gallery by the Lysaght Watt Trust.

The Gallery is still completely voluntarily staffed owing its success to 35 dedicated volunteers. It's name honours the original benefactors, the Lysaght and Watt families from Taranaki who gave money to found the gallery providing a space for art exhibition and creativity. Two members of the Lysaght Watt family were painters.

exhibitions, each lasting 2 months. With most exhibitions there is an opening generally on a Sunday afternoon. It's also an opportunity to meet and chat with the artist. Open 6 days a week, the Lysaght Watt Gallery is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm and on Saturday from 10am till 2pm.

The next exhibition will be in May. Entitled Puanga Matariki it will be a celebration Matariki. "Our aim is to educate and enlighten people about art," says Elizabeth.

This year there'll be six

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international tourism in marketing, my first thought wasn't about how many ads would play in Times Square. It was about the people on the ground - the café worker

in Opunake, the motel owner in Hāwera, the DOC ranger on Mt Taranaki and our people working hard to keep our coastline beautiful and thriving.

Tourism matters. It brings visitors, income and vibrancy to our communities. But marketing alone doesn't make a sustainable tourism industry. You can't grow tourism without investing the infrastructure, in workers and environment that hold it all together. That's especially true in our regional and coastal towns, where local services are already stretched.

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Tourism is so important to our economy, but it's bigger than tourism. It's about values. About who we choose to back in tough times. Labour believes in supporting the people who make this country work. That means paying fair wages, protecting our environment and investing

in the things that make our communities strong - jobs, health, homes.

As Labour's new spokesperson for Tourism and Hospitality, I'll keep fighting for a sector that honours our people and our places. Here in Taranaki, we know what 100% Pure New Zealand really means and we're working together to ensure both locals and visitors experience our people and our environment at their best.

> Glen Bennett Labour List MP

### **PM comes to New Plymouth**

Congratulations once again to Coastal Care for marking 10 years in Opunake. It was a pleasure to attend the birthday celebrations earlier this month, and to acknowledge the health services and support you have provided the community over the past decade.

Further good news for parts of our coastal community came in the form of rain over the long weekend. I hope farmers received some much-needed millimetres following weeks of drought conditions.

Farmers may also be pleased to hear that the Government has moved improve freshwater to farm plans by making them simpler, cheaper, and focused on actual environmental risk - our small farms won't need to complete them. We will reduce the number of farms required to have a plan and to take a risk-based approach to certification. Officials are working with industry, sector groups, and councils



**DAVID MACLEOD MP** NEW PLYMOUTH

to finalise improvements through updated regulations. New figures released last week confirm that New Zealand farmers are on track to meet the target of a 10 percent reduction in biogenic methane emissions by 2030. Agriculture Minister Todd McClay has said we are committed to meeting New Zealand's climate obligations without closing down farms or sending jobs and production overseas.

Last week I welcomed Rt Hon Christopher Luxon to New Plymouth for a chat with tradies, a morning tea with supporters, a lunch with

members of our business community, and a visit to Clarus to talk energy. It was a jam-packed day, but the Prime Minister's visit was well-received by the hundreds of people who came out to see and hear from him.

PlaceMakers. the At Prime Minister reiterated our support for tradies and highlighted some of the recent initiatives to reduce costs, like changing the rules so you don't need consent for granny flats up to 70m2, and trusting skilled plumbers, drainlayers and builders to sign off on their own work. It's 50% more expensive to build a house here than over the ditch, so we're taking action to save you time, money and hassle. Members of the business

community took the opportunity to ask the Prime Minister about investments and energy at a lunch hosted by the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce, and to end the day, we sat down with the Clarus leadership team business and some of the challenges they're exposed to at this time.

For more on my recent activities or regular updates, facebook.com/ follow davidmacleodmp, and please reach out if you need information or assistance. 06 759 2580 or david. macleodmp@parliament. govt.nz

> David MacLeod MP New Plymouth



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### **Council and Te Korowai to pursue separate development projects in Manaia**

The South Taranaki District Council (STDC) and Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust have decided to pursue separate development projects in Manaia, following extensive collaboration and due diligence.

Councillors made the decision to cease work on a shared Iwi/Council facility at its 14 April meeting and instructed officers to move quickly on developing a plan for building a standalone community facility in the town.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says Council and Te Korowai have been working together since 2022 to investigate the viability of developing a multi-purpose, multi-use Iwi and community facility in Manaia. Work included development of an Initial Business Case followed by a more detailed Stage 2 Business Case, focusing on potential commercial and relationship agreements.

"Since August 2024, we've been exploring various ownership and operating models. However, due diligence revealed that



#### Above: The Manaia Facility Sports Complex.

transferring land ownership of the Memorial Hall site from the Council to Te Korowai was problematic and, along with potential lease-back arrangements, was just not viable for either party."

Mayor Nixon says that while the outcome was not what Council or Te Korowai

hoped for, it was worth pursuing.

"The concept provided the potential for us to combine our resources to achieve a great outcome for the whole community. While this collaborative approach has proven not to be viable in this instance, we remain committed to enhancing

107711

the community assets in Manaia. This decision provides clarity and allows both parties to focus on their respective projects while maintaining a strong relationship and the desire to explore future collaboration opportunities."

Te Korowai Pouwhakarae, Emma Gardiner says that Te Korowai is optimistic regarding future collaborations.

"Because of the way we structured both the outcomes framework and the business case, both can be divided by their parts and utilised - so neither party is starting the





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Above: The Manaia Facility Town Hall.



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due-diligence from scratch. We also know that much of the outcome's framework is applicable to future Town Planning. So, although we are progressing separate projects, we know that both parties will have a positive impact on the future of Manaia," she says.

Mayor Nixon says Council understands the frustration the community has with the length of time it has taken to get to this point and has instructed officers to come up with a plan for a standalone facility as a priority.

"We just need to get on and make something tangible happen as quickly as possible."

### Easter messages The Christian adventure is done together. We journey as a The world has gone mad,

The Christian adventure is done together. We journey as a family on this narrow and winding path. A lonely walk at the edges is no place to be. Jesus saw the need to walk alongside us. We need the company. He healed people. Some, the gospels recount, he even resuscitated from death. He was obedient to his Father even to the dark depths of a crucifixion. We are told people of that time, could barely speak the word "crucifixion," so horrific a death was it. Easter Sunday morning turned that travail and everything else upside down. Jesus had risen from the dead - an historical figure, with numerous eye-witness testimonies to having seen him on or after the third day. With his Resurrection has come also the possibility of our sharing in it in multiple ways. The Jesus event makes all things new through the power of the Holy Spirit. It starts with each one of us believing that this resurrection happened. And journeying with others who can see. Can we all say this prayer for Easter with our whole heart?

Jesus, I will do anything you want me to do, and I say yes, even before I know what it is. Amen.

Happy Easter everyone.

Fr. Simon Our Lady Star of the Sea

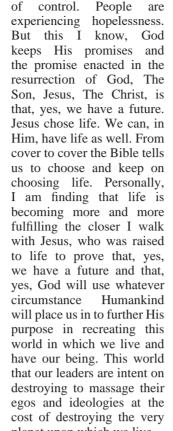




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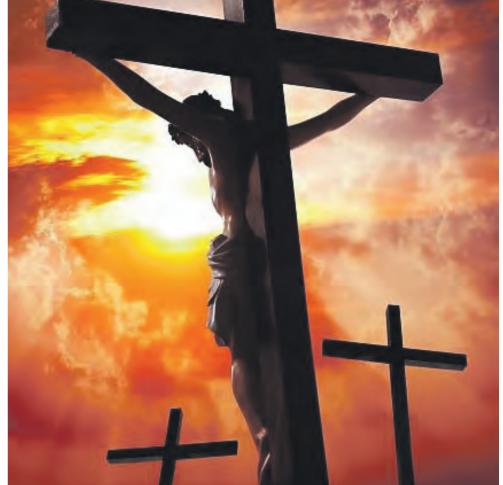
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planet upon which we live. I am convinced that my proclamation that God, The Son, has been raised from the dead is true and from this I know that God has fulfilled



His promise and that I and all who believe have a future and that this future continues past our present life. Death has lost its sting for death has been overcome. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is pivotal, for if Christ was not raised my faith is futile.

But, in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruit of those who have died. Jesus, The Christ, is risen

indeed. Rev'd Ian Sargent

St Barnabas, Opunake

### Stratford churches carry Jesus' cross

On Friday morning April 18, over 200 people represented and visited four Stratford churches. We were led by someone carrying the cross from each church. Stratford Presbyterian Church members enthusiastically participated in the procession, but, each year one of the five churches volunteered to not be visited. Around the world, Christians have similar symbolic processions to commemorate and honour the crucifixion and death of Jesus. The reason is that

Jesus came from heaven to earth to teach us how to live and willingly gave His life offering to forgive our sins.

Four churches were visited. Each one had a role. First was the Salvation Army Church, where I was amazed to count over 200 people. We watched a reenactment video of Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Then everyone was offered communion to remember that Jesus offered His life for the world to forgive our sins. Following that, the cross was carried to the Catholic Church. Their well-rehearsed Youth Group members reenacted the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The cross procession then arrived at the Baptist Church where we watched a movie portrayal

of the crucifixion and sang praise songs accompanied by their marvelous musicians.

As we all safely crossed Stratford's streets, cars courteously stopped, people smiled and supportively tooted their The ambulatory horns. participants enjoyed pleasant conversation about the significance of the day. Lastly, we carried the cross to the Anglican Church. There, we sang, watched another video and had a wonderful personal experience of the meaning of Jesus' death for each of us: Everyone was invited to write their name on a small sticky-backed piece of paper and then walk up to the cross and stick their name on it.

This symbolised that Jesus died for each one of us, by name, to forgive our sins. The cross was completely covered by our names. It was quite a visual and moving experience as our vicar beautifully and professionally sang appropriate songs and hymns a cappella.

After the Anglican meeting we followed our noses to the wafting aroma of hot cross buns in the church hall. It was a wonderful opportunity to chat with members of all five Stratford Churches. More importantly, we were able to remind our community of God's love for them.

**Bob Francesco** 



Allen Juffermans Surveyor Juffermans Surveyors Ltd

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### Easter messages



#### Churches remember the crucifixion.

On Good Friday members of Opunake churches combined to remember the crucifixion of Jesus Christ with the annual Walk of Witness.

The Walk represents the journey which Jesus made 2000 years ago carrying the cross on which he was to be crucified at Calvary.

The Walk began at the Cenotaph with the Rev Ian Sargent giving a reading from the prophet Micah before everyone set off around 9am.

The Walk stopped briefly at each of the town's churches for a brief reading or message. After a brief stop at The Wave Church and a reading from Belinda Philp it was on to St Paul's Co-Operating Church. Cobus Blom said that while they were not walking the path Jesus had taken all those years ago the Opunake churches were getting together to remember the occasion, as they have been doing for the last 40 years.

It was then on to Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and a message from Margaret Mullin.

The Walk finished up at St Barnabas Anglican Church where the cross was carried inside and a combined service was held. Those taking part were encouraged to pick up a stone on the way into the church and to place it at the foot of the cross during the service.

The Rev Ian Sargent presented the Gospel accounts of Jesus' death on the cross. After the service there was tea or coffee along with that traditional Good Friday fixture, the Hot Cross bun.

Having come together to remember the death of their Saviour on Friday church members were at their own churches on Sunday to celebrate his resurrection.

### Personal Testimony for Combined Churches Easter Message

My story starts with all the promise of what a good life might look like – I'm the oldest of six. We were all loved and looked after by my parents who are still married and we all went to church. I never had trouble with schooling, went on to tertiary study and became a chef. I had some dramas and hurts along the way, but nothing too terrible and they're stories for another time.

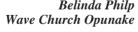
And yet, despite all of the potential...there is something that was within me, and I think lurks in all of us, that likes to whisper that we're not enough – not good looking enough, not worth much of anything, always making mistakes and everybody is going to find you out at some point.

In some ways the Christian message would agree with that – because, let's face it, we've all done some dumb stuff.

But what must shout even louder than those messages of not being ok is the utterly so-good-it-must-be-true message that the God who set this whole she-bang in motion has made each of us deliberately, intentionally and uniquely, and He not only loves each of us but He likes us too, amazingly enough – just as we are, right now, today.

And the truth that I am known, made and liked by a God who can be trusted because He himself is Love has transformed how I see myself, and others and how I choose to live

Belinda Philp





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Easter is an incredibly special celebration for Christians all around the world. An opportunity for each of us to celebrate the new life that Jesus has made available for us by his sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection. For all those that believe his great love has given us a fresh start, a secure identity, freedom from our sinful nature, forgiveness, hope for the future and the power to live and love well.

This all came as a big reminder to me recently when I became a grandmother – celebrating a new life, the miracle of birth, a precious little baby girl, perfectly formed, growing and flourishing day by day. Thriving in the love of a family and yet how much greater is Gods love for each of us that he would make a way for us. Who wouldn't want this?

May this Easter be a time when you discover the enormity of this great love.

John 15.13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Jennie McCullough St Paul's Church





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Thursday, April 24, 2025

### **OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS** Fluoridated water for half a million more kiwis

Local authorities in Rotorua and Whangarei are now complying with directions to fluoridate community drinking water.

It means that over 500,000 people in Aotearoa have

gained access to fluoridated water since July 2022. Professor Philip Schluter, Professor of Population Health, School of Health

Sciences, University

of

Canterbury, comments: Cecelia's on Tasman Garden centre specializes in seedlings and vegetables. We have a range of garden tools at amazing prices - Hoes, spades, shovels, crowbars, hedge trimmers, lawn mowers, weed eaters, etc. Pots, garden ornaments, water fountains, decorations for the garden.



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"Community water fluoridation has been hailed as one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20th century. It provides an equitable and cost-effective system of fluoride delivery to communities within Aotearoa | New Zealand and across the globe.

"According to the USA's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the introduction of community fluoridated water decreases tooth decay in children by at least 40% and tooth loss in adults by at least 40%. In a recent nationwide study of children here, we found a reduction of severe tooth decay by more than 20% in those living in fluoridated areas compared to their non-fluoridated peers. This is despite claims by some that 'people don't drink water these days' or that it is unnecessary due to the frequent use of fluoridated products like toothpaste and dental care. I have not met a parent or child with severe tooth decay (a largely preventable condition) who thought that severe tooth decay is a good outcome and that community water fluoridation was a bad idea. "With Rotorua and

Whangarei councils now complying with fluoridation orders, this means that over 500,000 people have gained access to fluoridated water since 2022. As the public benefits of water fluoridation are clear and well-established, based on the strongest scientific evidence available, people in these communities will have improved oral health in their future - as measured on a population level."

"There will also be flow on public health effects, with reduced demand on acute services and extractions of teeth needed under general anaesthesia in our already stretched clinics and hospitals. This is cause for celebration."

There are some studies reporting negative effects of community water fluoridation, including lowering IQ and increasing neurodevelopmental disorders and thyroid function issues. Unlike the evidence for community water fluoridation, these studies lack the same repeatability or rigour.

"A 2024 meta-analysis and systematic review conducted by the Ministry of Health concluded that there is no causal link between fluoride exposure at the levels used in Aotearoa | New Zealand for community water fluoridation and significant harm to health. Metaanalyses and systematic reviews bring together all available evidence and synthesises their findings. These are regarded as the highest form of scientific evidence in populations. This 2024 conclusion is consistent with previous Aotearoa | New Zealand reviews conducted in 2014 and 2021."

"In Aotearoa | New Zealand, the natural levels of fluoride in groundwater are generally low, typically around 0.1-0.2 parts per million (ppm). Community water fluoridation increases these natural levels to 0.7-1.0 ppm, in line with international recommendations. The only known adverse effect of fluoridation at this level is mild dental fluorosis, characterised by opaque white spots in the enamel. But, based on all the evidence, it was concluded in the 2014 review that: "The risk for mild fluorosis that is associated with fluoride exposure is highest for formula-fed infants, and young children who are likely to swallow toothpaste. In some cases the fluoride intake by these groups can approach or exceed the currently recommended conservative upper intake level, but the rarity of cosmetically concerning dental fluorosis in New Zealand indicates that such excess intake is not generally a safety concern.'

"As we observed in our NZMJ paper, right now, almost one in every five children in Canterbury (which is unfluoridated) has severe tooth decay. This and other largely preventable oral diseases are likely to have consequences reaching far into the affected children's and societies' futures. Moreover, two in every five Pacific children and over one in every four Māori children aged five years have experienced severe tooth decay, reinforcing the gross inequity patterns previously observed both locally and globally. All our children deserve better. And community water fluoridation is a giant step in that direction

### At Cecelia's on Tasman 89 Tasman **Street Opunake**



NING A

Cecelia's has interesting brass items and selects to share.

An antique, 19th-century Chinese archaic bronze Gu form vase is a fascinating piece of art. The Gu vessel, originally developed during the Shang Dynasty, was primarily used for drinking wine and offering ritual libations. These vases are characterized by their slender, sloping form and trumpet-like neck.

In the 19th century these

Left: 19th-century Chinese archaic bronze Gu form vase.

vases continued to be crafted with traditional characteristics and motifs, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of China. The Gu form vase was not only functional but also an elegant piece, often adorned with intricate designs and inscriptions.

This bronze vase has eight trigram decoration on the waist of the vase; it also has engraved leaves which were added later and are incomplete. The vase appears to possibly be 19th century, or earlier, with the decoration added later and the body being polished.

Dimensions: Height 7 1/8 Inches 18.2 cm Width 3 1/4 Inches 8.4 cm



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Courage takes many forms and local Lions clubs recently celebrated children who have displayed that commodity.

On Sunday April 13 the Lions clubs of District 202D held one of their two annual Children of Courage awards at Avon Primary School in Stratford.

Children nominated for having shown courage in their personal circumstances were treated to an afternoon of games and activities including donkey rides and trips to Midhirst and back on a fire engine courtesy of the local fire brigade. These were followed by the presentation of awards by vice-district governor Mike Powell and district youth northern chair Stephanie Jordan.

District 202D stretches from Urenui in the north to Foxton in the south and inland to Ruapehu. As well as the Stratford event another Children of Courage Awards was being held in Palmerston North.

Stephanie Jordan said this is the second time the district has run these awards. Although comparatively new to Lions in New Zealand, they had been established in Australia for some time. Stephanie says two years ago somebody



Above: Children of Courage with friends, families and supporters. Below: A ride in a fire engine courtesy of the Stratford Fire Brigade proved popular.

spoke about it at the Lions national convention in Christchurch and things moved on from there.

"District 202K have got their first one happening in June and other districts are getting it underway, but at the moment we're the only district doing it." Nominations can be made





Above: A nice fine day for a ride.

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in a several categories. They can include children with special needs who have shown courage in the face of adversity. These may include children confined to wheelchairs, are hearing, speech or sight impaired, undergone long periods of medical treatment or have long-term or terminal medical conditions. Awards can also be for a courageous act or deed or those who have overcome a hardship or physical disadvantage to achieve a high degree of sporting achievement.

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Stephanie says this year another category has been added for siblings who actively participate in the daily care of their brother or sister with a physical and/ or intellectual impairment.

She says the concept is catching on. This year there were nine children nominated for the awards in the northern end of the district compared to six the previous year. This was in addition to the seven being honoured in Palmerston North.

"This is not a competition. Every recipient is a winner in his or her own right," says Stephanie. "I think it is a really worthwhile thing to recognise in these children. They are important to our community and it's great to be able to support them."



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### **Babies at risk due to nitrate-contaminated drinking water in Ashburton District**

Greenpeace Aotearoa says that it is deeply concerned about the safety of drinking water in the Ashburton District after close to one in five bore water samples tested for nitrate at the beginning of April exceeded levels linked with blue baby syndrome.

They say that this is indicative of a failure by Environment Canterbury to protect drinking water from contamination.

Greenpeace spokesperson Will Appelbe says, "Environment Canterbury has a responsibility to protect Cantabrians, and they are failing in their duty by allowing drinking water contamination to exceed the Government's maximum standards for nitrate contamination."

Two samples tested were just over double the level of nitrate permitted in drinking water - a standard set in the 1950s to prevent Blue Baby Syndrome. However, this standard doesn't capture other serious health risks associated with nitrate-



Nitrates in our drinking water could be causing premature births.

5	contaminated			drinking	
e	water.				
	Almost	half	of	all	bore

water samples tested at



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#### Greenpeace Aotearoa's Ashburton town hall water testing event in early April were above 5 mg/L of nitrate, a level linked to an increased risk of preterm birth. The New Zealand College of Midwives recommends pregnant people consider avoiding water above 5 mg/L for nitrate. A sample from the Hinds town supply also tested at 6.55 mg/L.

"It's unacceptable that these communities have such high levels of nitrate in their drinking water, and it's particularly concerning for pregnant people and small babies, whose health could be at risk," adds Appelbe.

"Everybody, no matter where they live, should be able to drink the water from their kitchen tap without worrying about getting sick. This is a present and looming public health crisis for Mid Canterbury."

Appelbe says there is a growing body of evidence that indicates that longerterm exposure to drinking water above 0.87 mg/L can increase the risk of bowel cancer. Greenpeace tested 27 samples from the Ashburton town supply, with a mean level of 2.06 mg/L.

"Safe drinking water is a fundamental necessity for life, and it's alarming that rural communities are dealing with such dangerously high levels of nitrate contamination in their water.

"Intensive dairying is the main source of nitrate pollution in Canterbury - with nitrate from dairy cattle urine and synthetic nitrogen fertiliser leaching into drinking water supplies. The solution is clear - we need a phase out of synthetic nitrogen fertilisers and to transition to more sustainable forms of agriculture that don't pollute the lakes, rivers and aquifers."

The Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) was asked about how often water monitoring is carried out in Taranaki and if similar results and conditions have been noted here.

TRC Science Manager Thomas McElroy says the Taranaki Regional Council carries out state of environment groundwater quality monitoring at 30

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bores across the region, four times a year.

"There are two bores that have exceeded the Maximum Acceptable Value of 11.3 mg/L set in the national Drinking Water Standards. To our knowledge, these bores are not associated with community drinking water supplies. Where Council monitoring identifies a groundwater quality issue, the owner of that site is advised and directed to further information and/or support.

"Public water suppliers have responsibility for ensuring their supplies are treated to a level that is safe to drink. We recommend that people who have a private water supply also carry out regular testing of their water for a range of potential contaminants including nitrate and bacteria. For guidance on water security and testing, we recommend visiting the Taumata Arowai https://www. website taumataarowai.govt.nz/.

"In Taranaki, both urban and rural land use and discharges can affect the suitability of groundwater and surface water for some uses, such as drinking water. Other challenges can include low river flows due to reduced rainfall, warm in-stream temperatures, and increased nutrients, sediment and bacteria in some catchments. These factors can contribute to nuisance algal growth and potentially toxic algal blooms in lakes and rivers. Information on water quality in Taranaki and across New Zealand can be found at www.lawa.org.nz.

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April 2025 update

### **Talking Taranaki Regional Council**



### **Stadium celebration**

A community event on 4 May will mark the completion of the project to redevelop Stadium Taranaki. The celebration includes tours of the new East Stand, food trucks and stalls, music, bouncy castles, face painting and more. The venue, previously known as Yarrow Stadium, has been upgraded after the stands were found to be earthquake prone. Come along from 9.30am to 12.30pm and stay to enjoy two Central Football games at the stadium.



### **Connector boost**

Travelling between Hāwera and New Plymouth is now easier and more accessible. The Connector bus service has expanded to six return trips per weekday, with a new fully accessible bus doing two of those trips. The changes follow public consultation in 2024, where the community voiced strong support for more frequent and accessible bus services. Meanwhile, bus fares in Taranaki are set to increase from 1 July in response to a Government directive. To mitigate the rise, youth concessions for 5 to 18-year-olds have been reintroduced.



### Are you enrolled?

This year is an election year where you will choose 11 elected members to sit around the Council table. Now is the time to get enrolled so you can take part in the election; if you voted in previous local or national elections you should be enrolled but if you have moved you may need to update your details. To enrol in the October elections, head to vote.nz. For those wanting to stand in the New Plymouth, Taranaki Māori, Stratford or the North or South Taranaki constituencies, nominations open on 4 July.



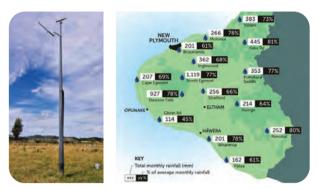
### Summer fun at gardens

It's been a spectacular summer at our three regional gardens - Tūpare, Pukeiti and Hollard Gardens - with thousands of visitors enjoying events and entertainment. One of the highlights was the Summer Jam at Tūpare in late February when more than 2,000 people descended on the garden to enjoy music and food. Around 600 folk headed to Hollard Gardens in March for the Seaside Market while Pukeiti has hosted the Yours Truly XX art exhibition and a Wellness Day. To find out what's on over the autumn and winter, head to trc.govt.nz/gardens/whats-on



### Craig is our new Chair

We welcomed Craig Williamson as the new chair of the Council in February. Mr Williamson, who has been a councillor for 15 years, was elected at the 18 February Ordinary Council meeting and replaced Charlotte Littlewood who stood down as chair but remains on the Council. "I look forward to leading the Council as we build on the progress of the last couple of years. My focus will be on continuing the kaupapa and ensuring we work together to deliver the best possible outcomes for our community," says Mr Williamson.



### Weather watch

We've been keeping a close eye on the extremely dry weather conditions caused by the current La Niña weather pattern, which is particularly impacting the south of our region which has been in drought. Rainfall and river flow is variable, and this is impacting ground and surface water resources. Rainfall was particularly low in the south in February and is well below normal in western and northern Taranaki although Stratford has seen normal summer conditions. MPI has declared a drought with additional support available from Rural Support Taranaki on 0800 787 254.



### Weir removal completed

We've removed a major barrier to fish passage on the Timaru Stream at Tataraimaka in North Taranaki, opening up more than 25 kilometres of the waterway to our native fish. The Timaru Weir, which had been a barrier for more than 100 years, is now no longer preventing fish from swimming upstream. A fish recovery operation before the removal of the weir salvaged around 3,500 native fish which were safely held and then re-released once the project was completed.



### **Protecting biodiversity**

The results of years of fantastic mahi by volunteers, backyard trappers, farmers, students, businesses and iwi working to trap predators have been revealed by our Towards Predator-Free Taranaki team. Some 60,000 catches were recorded on trap.nz from 2019 to 2024 including 32,378 rats, 3,633 mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels) and 1,794 possums (not including the 5,000+ caught in the Zero Possum project). The number of predators caught has increased by 250%. This vital work is helping to protect native biodiversity.



### **Busy monitoring season**

The Can I Swim Here? programme has wrapped up for the season. It was a busy one with more than 800 samples collected from rivers, lakes and beaches across Taranaki to help keep you informed where to swim safely. The most checked Taranaki site on LAWA was the Merrilands Domain on the Waiwhakaiho River. If you're brave enough for a winter swim, remember to avoid swimming for three days after heavy or prolonged rain. If the water looks unusually murky or smelly, it's better to wait for another day.

#### YOUR COUNCILLORS

New Plymouth Constituency Tom Cloke: tom.cloke@ trc.govt.nz - Susan Hughes: susan.hughes@ trc.govt.nz - David Lean david.lean@ trc.govt.nz Craig Williamson (Chair): craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz

North Taranaki Constituency Mike Davey: mike.davey@trc.govt.nz - Donald McIntyre: donald.mcintyre@trc.govt.nz **Stratford Constituency** Alan Jamieson: alan.jamieson@trc.govt.nz

South Taranaki Constituency Donna Cram: donna.cram@trc.govt.nz - Neil Walker (Deputy Chair): neil.walker@trc.govt.nz Taranaki Māori Constituency Bonita Bigham: bonita.bigham@trc.govt.nz



## 16 NEWS Thursday, April 24, 2025 Students raising money for charity

Rahotu school students have raised \$215 for the Opunake District RSA.

The fundraising was organised by the Hauora leaders at Rahotu Primary School.

Explained teacher Suzanne Taylor, the Hauora leaders at the school are a group of 17 student leaders who at the start of the year applied to be leaders explaining why they wanted to be leaders. All automatically became leaders and have played a pivotal role in various events at the school.

Interestingly the cohort all seemed to be interested in fundraising. Said Emily Burkitt (12), they had raised money for the Opunake District RSA by doing mufti days and washing all the teachers cars (for \$5). Asha Collins (also 12) added for the mufti day some students



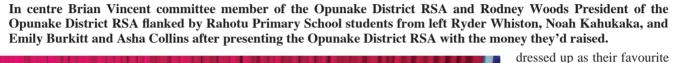
The leaders have all become good role models to the students "so the little kids can look up to us and be responsible", said Ryder Whiston (12). Noah Kahukaka, also 12, said another of their roles was helping around the school generally and assisting if someone was hurt.

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS** 

Other activities the school leaders had arranged have included organising games at lunchtime.

Their next fundraising venture is to have a "pink day" which is an antibullying day in connection with mental health. The students will perform a play in front of the assembly on how to stand up to bullying. There are also plans to fundraise for Daffodil Day where students will be encouraged to wear yellow and do different activities.

Interestingly the banning of phones at primary school – which was decreed by the Government – had had a good effect, Suzanne said adding that children seemed to be having fun at lunchtime rather than looking at screens.





Above and Below: Rahotu School children dressed up in their favourite book or movie characters to raise money for the Opunake District RSA.



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### Pihama WI at Relay for Life

Pihama Women's Institute registered a team this year for Relay for Life Taranaki. On March 29, we set off early in the morning to be in Inglewood at the TET Stadium and Events Centre for the team captains' meeting at 8.30 am. Most of the tents had been set up the night before, but the whole place was busy and very well organized. The Survivor's Walk came after the opening address at 10 am. This was a very emotional experience as people of all ages made this lap of remembering and being thankful. The rest of the groups started their team walk or run, stopping for activities such as line dancing, school comps and

book or movie character

in return for a gold coin

The students decided to

donate the proceeds of their

fundraising thus far this year

to the Opunake District RSA

for whom the students also

sell poppies over the school

donation.

dance-offs which were very entertaining. Lunch was provided for those who had registered and there were information tents to browse in. In the evening there was a candlelight ceremony, which again was very moving, with a slideshow of family and friends who have died of cancer. The event closed at 10.30 pm and everyone headed home, remembering all those loved ones that cancer has affected. Our PWI team was well supported financially, raising \$1833 towards the more than \$215,000 raised for the whole Relay for Life Taranaki. A very successful day.



Pihama WI raising money for Relay for Life.

### **Onward and upward for Opunake walker**

For Opunake athlete and competitive walker Toby O'Rorke a lot has happened in two years.

When the Opunake and Coastal News spoke to him two years ago he was a student at Francis Douglas Memorial College and hoping to be selected for the New Zealand team for the 2024 World Race Walking Athletics Team Championships. Fast forward two years and Toby is working for Clelands in New Plymouth as a builder's apprentice. Last year he was in the New Zealand team at the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships held in Antalya, Turkey where he finished 48th in the Junior Men's 10km race walk with a time of 47.04.

Compared to New Zealand conditions the weather was a lot hotter and drier in Turkey says Toby. His race was run at 7am in what Toby says were "nice, cool, breezy conditions."

One feature of note was the interest shown in competitive walking by the locals.

"It's really big out there. People were always waving and cheering," he said. Competitors were bussed to and from their events with a police escort. The championships are held biennially and Toby has qualified for the next ones to be held in Brasilia in 2026.

Last month he was in Perth for the Australian national championships where he finished ninth in the Under-20s 10km race walk.

Also in March he was at the Jennian Homes Nationals in Dunedin where he finished first in the Under-20s 3000m, improving on the second he got in this event a year before. He moved up to the Senior Men's grade for



Toby O'Rorke with the Stan Lay Trophy.

the 10,000m, as he wanted to see how close he would be to qualifying for next year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, another long-term ambition of his. He finished third.

Earlier in the year he was in Canberra having been invited to train with High Walking Performance Australia.

"It was a good experience training with international world Olympians and champions," he said. "It was an eye opener."

Last year he picked up the Athletics Taranaki Stan Lay Trophy for Sporting Person of the Year. At the New Zealand Secondary School Championships held in Timaru in December he took nine seconds off the record winning gold in the 3000 metres Open.

He was also one of nine Year 12 and 13 students chosen for the Sporting Taranaki Hub of Future Champions, and Toby says he has benefitted from this, learning about things as diverse as nutrition,

psychology, physiotherapy and the media.

Toby said he's been competitive walking for the last four years. It began as a 14 year-old taking part in the Colgate Games.

"I started because I wanted to win a medal. I was just doing it for fun and a having a muck around. I got a medal the first time round and it's stuck with me."

His current coach is Rozie Robinson. During the season Toby races for the Egmont Athletic Club.

He says there is not the same level of interest in the sport as there is in other countries.

"In New Zealand we struggle to field three seniors at times, while in Australia they can have three seniors at the Olympics with another five waiting to be selected. Other countries are bigger and bigger again."

New Zealand has however had some success at the sport. Our first Olympic medallist was Inglewoodborn Harry Kerr who picked up a bronze medal competing

for the Australasian team at the 1908 London Olympics. The Taranaki connection continues with Norman

settled in New Plymouth. Perhaps there is another

Read who won gold at the Taranaki name waiting to 1956 Olympics and later be added to that list?

### TRFU post third consecutive surplus

The Taranaki Rugby Football Union (TRFU) posted a total net surplus after extraordinary items of \$43,426 for 2024.

The result was announced at the 139th Annual General Meeting of the TRFU.

This result was in line with the original 2024 budget but given the significant and unexpected drop in New Zealand Rugby funding midyear this was a very positive result.

The reduction in New Zealand Rugby funding was offset through growth in grant funding and commercial revenue.

2024 commercial income rose by 10% against the previous year, excluding Bunnings NPC semi-final and grand final income from 2023.

non-financial Positive outcomes for 2024 included a 42% uplift in NPC regular season home attendances versus corresponding 2023 matches, a small rise in grassroots playing numbers to 5,461 local participants and the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls securing the Ranfurly Shield.

TRFU Chair Dan Radcliffe was pleased with the 2024 year.

"For the third year in a row, the TRFU has posted a profit - this year by \$43,426.

The year was not without its financial challenges, as we continued to operate in tough economic conditions, NZ Rugby dropped our funding unexpectedly by over \$100,000 mid-year and we completed our final year of operating with half of Stadium Taranaki for the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls and Central Roofing Taranaki Whio seasons."

"As we move through 2025, we continue to face some financial headwinds, with NZ Rugby's underperformance against financial forecasts resulting in a further \$240,000 funding drop this financial year. Despite this, the TRFU are optimistic about the year that lays ahead as we finally move back into a full Stadium Taranaki, and with some strong financial discipline, we are confident we will post a profit again for 2025.

"In addition to the financial result, 2024 was another strong year for Taranaki Rugby, with total player numbers in the region stabilising after a strong year of growth (13%) in 2023. The season was also highlighted by the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls locking the Ranfurly Shield away for summer, following a thrilling 42-29 win over Tasman in

Nelson. The Central Roofing Taranaki Whio showed promise and developed a number of younger local players over the season, setting themselves up well for 2025. At club level, Stratford-Eltham won their first CMK premier men's title as an amalgamated club and the first premier title for either club since 1991. Clifton comfortably won the CMK premier women's title over Southern, reversing the result from 2023."

Radcliffe thanked those individuals and organisations who supported delivering the Taranaki Rugby vision of creating memorable experiences.

In 2025, Taranaki Rugby will be looking to grow commercial revenue and manage increasing overheads while also progressing Te Whare Pūngao o Ngā-motu, a new collaborative community training facility at Stadium Taranaki.

Appointed Director Sarah Mako was appointed to another term on the TRFU Board.

Co-opted Director Nathan Gray was successfully nominated by the Southern Rugby Club as an Elected Director on to the TRFU Board.





Educating students on the importance of sustainable farming, transforming a treeless farm, and significantly reducing nutrient and sediment loss is some of the work recognised with a DairyNZ Sustainability and Stewardship Award at the 2025 Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

DairyNZ chief executive Campbell Parker said the winners showcased the best of New Zealand farming.

"The awards are a great opportunity to share the stories of farmers who are innovating and running sustainable and profitable farm businesses," he said.

"New Zealand dairy farms are constantly evolving and having a sustainable dairy sector is critical to our country's economic success and well-being.

"That's why DairyNZ





DairyNZ chief executive Campbell Parker says DairyNZ is celebrating the winners of its Sustainability and Stewardship Awards.

and Stewardship Awards recognises dairy farmers who demonstrate a strong commitment to managing, protecting, and enhancing their environment. The award focuses on positive, long term, environmentally sustainable on-farm actions. Most of the DairyNZ Sustainability Stewardship Awards 2025 winners took out multiple **Ballance Farm Environment** awards in their regions. This includes Stuart Neill of Pukatea Dairy Farms, who won the Canterbury Regional Supreme Award, Tor Pedersen from Broomore Farm who won the Waikato Regional Supreme Award, and Brendan Attrill from Caiseal Trust who won the Taranaki Regional Supreme Award,

As regional supreme winners Stuart, Tor, and

### SAFE lays complaint over mass fish deaths

SAFE has laid a formal complaint with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) citing breaches of the Animal Welfare Act, following New Zealand King Salmon's repeated reporting of high summer mortality rates.

The complaint has been followed up by SAFE calling for an industry-wide review into breaches of New Zealand's animal welfare legislation.

SAFE Campaign Manager Emily Hall says intensive fish farming breaches the Animal Welfare Act, and that MPI should be holding the industry to account. "Tens of thousands of fishes are suffering and dying from heat stress in New Zealand King Salmon's underwater factory farms, where they are trapped in rising temperatures unable to escape - effectively being cooked alive."

"The fish farming industry has been allowed to commit serious animal welfare breaches for far too long. We are calling on the Ministry to launch a thorough investigation and hold New Zealand King Salmon to

account."

SAFE describes harrowing conditions on fish farms, with fishes trapped in cramped, barren enclosures, denied the space and freedom they need to thrive. Hall says that in addition to overcrowding and heat stress, the issues impacting farmed fishes include skeletal deformities, skin lesions, stress and depression, and the quick spread of parasites and disease.

"If any other sector was allowing animals to die in the thousands year after year due to poor farming conditions there would be an investigation, and we expect the same for fishes."

SAFE says that in addition to investigating the mass fish deaths on New Zealand King Salmon's farms, an urgent industry-wide review is necessary to address systemic breaches of the Animal Welfare Act.

" Without urgent action fishes will continue to suffer in tragic conditions with no meaningful protection. The Government must step up and address this" says Hall.

and

Brendan will be considered for the Gordon Stephenson

#### Trophy, to be presented mussels and koura. at the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust's National Showcase in Wellington in June.

DairyNZ Sustainability and Stewardship Awards 2025 winners

Northland: Maria Puig and Mauricio Castellano - Maulen Partnership & Northland College Farm, Kaikohe. The farm acts as a platform for inspiring the next generation to take on the challenges of sustainable agriculture.

Auckland: Troy and Karin Everson – Hermanus, Rodney. The couple were recognised for turning their treeless farm into a thriving natural environment while also improving soil conservation, and health and safety.

Waikato: Tor Pedersen -Broomore Farm, Raglan. Enhancing water quality is at the heart of every management decision on the farm. This commitment is delivering tangible results, with the farm's participation in a NIWA water quality monitoring initiative confirming excellent stream health, highlighted by the presence of freshwater

Horizons: Michael Phillips, Oliver Sandbrook and Andrew Evans -Waka Dairies, Dannevirke. Farm exemplifies The forward-thinking а approach to dairy farming. prioritising environmental sustainability, animal welfare, and continuous improvement.

Canterbury: Stuart Neill - Pukatea Dairy Farms. The farm was recognised for its holistic approach to sustainability, integrating financial environmental, and social considerations into every aspect of the business.

Otago: Francois and Shelley Tillard — Clydesdale Dairy, Windsor. The Tillards have worked tirelessly to improve their farm's sustainability with a focus on efficiency and innovative irrigation solutions key to their

success. Taranaki: Brendan Attrill-Caiseal Trust, Huinga. The highly productive dairy farm environmental prioritises stewardship with end-toend farm sustainability and environmental practices at the forefront of all farming

operations.



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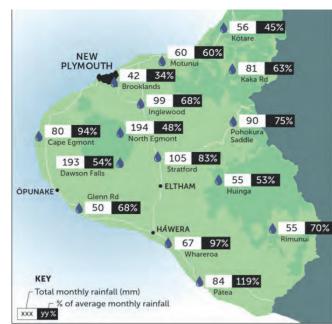
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The drv conditions Taranaki has experienced in 2025 continued in March with an average rainfall of 153.6mm - that's 31% less than usual, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

This ranged from 66% less at Brooklands Zoo in New Plymouth, and 19% more at Pātea at Bore 3. Brooklands Zoo also has the lowest year-to-date rainfall - also at 66% less than usual - while Omahine at Moana Trig has had the highest year to date rainfall with 30% less. On average there has been 47% less than normal across all rain gauges.

Mean river flows for March were 48% lower than typical values, low flows



were 10.9% lower, and high flows 73% lower than typical values while mean river (non-mountain) water

temperatures were 16.5°C, an average of 0.3°C warmer than long-term March values.

Mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 16.5°C, an average of 0.3°C warmer than long-term March values.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 16.1°C, which is 0.1°C cooler than longterm March averages. The maximum air temperature recorded in March was 31°C at Inglewood at Oxidation Ponds on 10 March.

March average wind speeds were 12.6km/hr, with average gust strength of 37.4km/hr, these were 0.2km/hr lighter, and 1.5km/ hr weaker than the longterm average. The maximum wind gust recorded in March was 83.3km/hr at Hawera AWS on 5 March.

shear brilliance Federated Farmers say they welcome the announcement that from 1 July all government agencies will be directed to use woollen products when building or

**Feds welcome** 

refurbishing. "This is a clear vote of confidence in the future of New Zealand wool as a natural and sustainable product," Federated Farmers meat & wool chair Toby Williams says.

"It's fantastic to see the Government recognising so strongly the value of New Zealand-grown wool and backing the world-leading farmers who produce it.

"Our sheep farmers work incredibly hard to produce a high-quality, environmentally friendly, and sustainable fibre that is second to none globally."

Williams says wool's unique environmental credentials-being biodegradable, non-toxic, and low-carbon-make it a far more sustainable choice for building.

FARMING

19

"This announcement isn't just a win for Kiwi sheep farmers. It's a win for the environment and future generations," Williams says. "For too long, synthetic alternatives have dominated the list of preferred construction materials despite wool being a better option in so many ways.

"In the past, it's felt like a total slap in the face to see our own government choosing those synthetic alternatives over sustainable and locally grown woollen products.

This is a very positive step in the right direction.

"To sum it up in two words? Shear brilliance." Federated Farmers looks

forward to seeing the uptake of wool in government projects and hopes this move will stimulate demand and innovation across the wool industry.

### wool but what about wood? Good for

The announcement by Government directing public agencies to consider using wool fibres over synthetic options is a sensible decision, but the Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association say it is disappointing wood fibres that possess the same innovative, sustainable and health benefits to wool have been overlooked.

"The wood products that we are talking about not only renewable are but have economic and environmental advantages when it comes to carbon storage and supporting our rural communities," said Mark Ross, Chief Executive of the Wood Processors

and Manufacturers. "With New Zealand's sustainable forestry model, using locally grown products wood incentivises our circular bioeconomy, boosts New Zealand's domestic wood processing industry, and supports our drive to meet our climate change targets".

"Forecasting by Deloitte's indicates that changing our market share to wood products by 25 percent would result in the removal of an additional 920,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the environment each year" said Ross, "Greater use of timber in domestic building and construction is critical to rebuilding New

Zealand's economy and providing regional jobs in a highly productive sector".

"As an example, engineered wood products, such as cross laminated timber and glulam offer multiple benefits to Zealand, including New reduced construction time, lower carbon footprint, excellent and thermal performance as compared to traditional building materials like concrete or steel. Mass timber has gained recognition for its versatility and globally is increasingly being adopted in residential and commercial construction projects.

"Incentivising investment growth within the and wood processing and

manufacturing industry is part of the Government's plan that was announced by Forestry Minister, Hon Todd McClay at Mystery Creek Field Days in 2024. Hence, the chance to back announcement by this prioritising wood along with wool products in Government building and construction projects is a missed opportunity.

"We now call on the Government to align the wool directive with wood, as to directing consideration by agencies of using wood fibre products in the construction and refurbishment of government buildings."

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### DairyNZ strikes balance with new levy rate

DairyNZ has set a new levy rate of 4.5 cents per kilogram of milksolids from 1 June 2025 and aims to keep the levy at no more than this rate for a minimum of three years.

The decision to adjust the levy for the first time in 16 years follows a comprehensive consultation with farmers where DairyNZ held meetings across the country and received more than 1500 formal feedback submissions.

The new rate will DairyNZ allow to continue supporting the country's dairy farmers

to lift profitability and sustainability through science and research, policy advocacy, and extension behind the farm-gate.

DairyNZ Chair Tracy Brown says levy payers provided valuable feedback and the adjustment strikes a balance between the different views of farmers while providing certainty for a minimum of three years.

"Some farmers endorsed our work and want us to do more, especially across science and research, while others wanted a stronger commercial focus to keep costs down, or the levy rate

### Convert grass into \$



#### Oaonui sunrise. to remain unchanged.

"In making the decision, the Board carefully considered the feedback, how best to support farmers and provide certainty into the future, the financial sustainability of DairyNZ, and sector resilience.

"Importantly, I want farmers to know that we've heard their feedback on areas important to them. We will deliver improvements including in farmer engagement, transparency around levy spending and return on their investment, and our science and research programme to keep the focus sharp on productivity, resilience and sustainability.

"DairyNZ is the only organisation that supports farmers dairy with scientific independent research for our sector therefore alone, we're

committed to delivering the right science in the right way on-farm, and proving its

value every step of the way. "Our vision is to ensure the levy is the best investment of every New Zealand dairy farmer. This commitment underpins everything we do. We will share more details about these improvements over the coming months.

"Dairy farmers can be confident DairyNZ will continue to back them with the right tools and support to ensure they have a positive future and can grow their businesses."

The global demand sustainable for milk, ongoing global trade and shipping disruption, and the Government's export growth agenda all contribute to the need for an agile and resilient dairy sector – and a strong industry-good body to support farmers.

At the new levy rate,

DairyNZ will maintain its focus on three strategic priorities over the next three years – accelerating on-farm productivity, powering more adaptable and resilient farms, and enabling sustainable and competitive dairying.

In line with its strategy reset last year, DairyNZ is working to collaborate better with partners to reduce duplication, strengthen policy advocacy to ensure practical and enduring settings for farmers, deliver smarter, targeted science by focusing on applied research that provides onfarm benefits, and rolling out improved extension events to lift on-farm support, with a renewed focus on more isolated regions.

DairyNZ's management team continues to apply a more rigorous commercial focus across the organisation, including cutting costs by \$5.5m in the past year and



#### and resources to provide expert valuation advice for all your rural real estate and From valuations and leasing assessments, through to

Staci Holmes refocusing efforts on high-

value projects. DairvNZ will alsc rebuild cash reserves to an appropriately responsible level over time to ensure it can continue to support farmers through any future trade or biosecurity disruptions.

"Dairy farmers can be rightly proud of their enormous contribution to New Zealand and rural communities, helping to deliver over \$25 billion in exports a year and 55,000 jobs," Tracy says.

"The future of dairy is bright, but that future depends on a strong industrygood body backing dairy farmers, working alongside them, and getting out in front of challenges.

"A huge thank you to those who provided feedback. It was great to meet with farmers alongside our Chief Executive Campbell Parker and hear their views."

It is DairyNZ's intention to hold the levy at no more than this rate for three years to provide farmers certainty, while continuing to review it each year as required under legislation.



SKYWORK Autumn is here. Have you got your Autumn fertiliser programme sorted? **CONTACT US** Give us a call and book in a date that suits for your application. 06 755 1685 We have the knowledge and 021 324 283 0 skills to help you! taranaki@skyworkhelicopters.com  $\odot$ 

### **Protect Our Oceans** Community Events in Ōpunakē this weekend

Community rallies to protect our oceans from the threat of seabed mining off our coast.

This weekend, **Ōpunakē** will host a series of important and nourishing, family friendly events bringing locals and visitors together with a shared love and care for our oceans and protecting them from seabed mining. Organised by local group, Protect Our Moana Taranaki, these events include film screenings at Everybody's Theatre on Friday night and Saturday afternoon, a Paddle Out For Our Oceans and Guest Speakers part of day of activities at Ōpunakē Beach from 10am to 2pm and a special night of live music and community celebration at the Ōpunakē Town Hall in the evening.

Events are whānau-friendly and, more than a celebration. They are a collective stand to protect our precious marine environment and safeguard the future of our coastline.

Our oceans cover more than 70% of the planet, generate over half the oxygen we breathe, absorb a quarter of the carbon dioxide we emit, and regulate our global climate. In Taranaki, the sea is not just a beautiful backdrop to daily life – it's a vital source of kai (food), culture, livelihoods, and wellbeing.

But right now, that ocean is under serious threat.

#### What's at stake?

Trans-Tasman Resources Ltd (TTRL) is seeking approval through a new "Fast Track" process to mine the seabed in the South Taranaki Bight. This involves extracting up to 50 million tonnes of iron sands from the ocean floor each year, then dumping 45 million tonnes of waste back into the sea – every year for 35 years. This form of seabed mining is untested on this scale anywhere in the world and presents an enormous risk to marine life, coastal communities, and the broader marine ecosystem.

This proposal comes despite years of opposition, multiple failed consent attempts, and concerns raised by scientists, iwi, fishers, councils, community, and environmental groups. A 2023 NIWA seabed survey confirmed that the area supports an abundance of marine life - from kelp forests and sponge gardens to fish nurseries for species like blue cod, trevally, snapper, and tarakihi. It's also a known habitat for taonga species including blue whales, dolphins, penguins, and seabirds.

These ecosystems are interconnected the \_ sediment plumes from could disrupt mining plankton at the base of the food web, affecting everything from reef life to whales. The risks include light blockage, habitat smothering, noise pollution, and long-term degradation of coastal waters and fisheries. Some species, like little blue penguins (kororā), are visual feeders and particularly vulnerable to sediment impacts. The reefs and marine biodiversity here are considered so unique that parts of the area are now officially listed as having "outstanding natural character" in the regional coastal plan.

### Legal and policy contradictions

Under New Zealand's coastal and biodiversity protection policies, activities that cause adverse effects

PROTECT OUR MOANA LUCE MUSIC COMMUNITY CELLERATION NO SEABED MINING INFORMATION INFORMATION



Event organisers, from left Chris Fuller, Fiona Young, Aroha Healion and Tihikura Hohaia.

to threatened species or significant natural areas are not permitted. Yet this proposal contradicts those very protections. Even the Ministry for the Environment has questioned whether the Fast Track Bill process is appropriate for complex, high-risk projects such as seabed mining.

Empty promises and onesided economics

TTRL has previous made grand claims about economic benefits to the region – but these don't hold water under scrutiny.

"TTR has made grand claims about the economic benefits to the region,' says Cindy Baxter, Chair of Kiwis Against Seabed Mining (KASM). "But under questioning during the application, it was forced to admit that there would be only tens of jobs for Taranaki – most going to skilled workers flown in from elsewhere. It also had to admit that the 1300 jobs it touts nationwide wouldn't be new jobs, but rather work that would augment already existing jobs."

What's worse, the costs of the damage – to fisheries, reefs, tourism, and cultural and community wellbeing – are being ignored.

"Who bears the cost of a sediment plume extending across the Bight year after year, quite close to shore, smothering vibrant reef life we know exists there?" Baxter asks. "The capital expenditure required \$602m per year, is only \$25m more than what it said 12 years ago, so that also needs closer examination. But who will be able to provide experts to do that? We would but we've been shut out."

Phil McCabe, a spokesperson for KASM and the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, and guest speaker at the event and film screening, reinforces the need for a balanced, honest economic lens.

"Claims by the company of economic gain are grossly one-sided," McCabe says. "Proper economic consideration must include costs - not just benefits. Seabed mining off Taranaki's coast would certainly cause damage to the marine environment that supports commercial, customary, and recreational fisheries. And because TTRL has consistently failed to provide an adequate environmental baseline, it's currently not impossible to quantify the full environmental losses we could suffer."

### A community standing strong

From Taranaki to the world, more people are recognising that a healthy ocean means a healthy planet. Sustainable fisheries, coastal tourism, and cultural and community sustenance and our breath of life, all rely on clean, thriving marine ecosystems. Local iwi, environmental advocates, councils, fishers, surfers, farmers, and families

#### have been at the forefront of opposing seabed mining for over a decade. Why show up this

weekend? This weekend's events in Opunake are about celebrating the moana (oceans) that give so much – and making our collective voice heard by having a presence on the beach.

We'll gather at 10am near the BBQ area at main beach and circle up on the beach to send a message of communities coming together to oppose seabed mining. This is an all ages and abilities activity on the beach, after this, there will be a paddle out, doing the same, with those comfortable in the water bringing their surf boards, boogie boards, stand-up paddle boards, wetsuits, and maybe some sea kayaks too!

Both on the beach and in the water, we'll have aerial photography. So come join us, be part of this special occasion and stick around to learn more with our guest speakers and community forum, there will be coffee carts and food available, live music and some art activities and perhaps some face painting too for the kids. There is a zero waste / parakore focus, so please bring reusable cups, drink bottles and plates.

The Fast Track Bill removes the public's right to submit feedback unless invited. This means our local councils and Iwi & Hapū, will carry the weight of representing us. If we don't stand together now, we may lose the opportunity to influence what happens next.

By showing up, speaking out, or simply being informed, you help give our council, Iwi, Hapū and community leaders the mandate to act boldly – and say "no" to proposals that put our ocean and our future at risk.

This is a grassroots community initiative that is fundraising to cover costs. 100's of volunteers hours are involved and community donations and volunteer support are all welcomed! Contact us on tiakimoana8@ gmail.com or via our facebook page, Protect Our Moana - Taranaki where you can also find updates and more information.

Join us. Protect our moana. Protect our future.

Fiona Young



action.

### Sister Anzac a moving commentary on war

Sister Anzac by the Hawera Repertory Society is an interesting take on what it was like to be a nurse on one of the hospital ships during World War 1.

Written by Aucklandbased playwright Geoff Allen and directed by Clive Cullen, action is set on the New Zealand hospital ship the Maheno off the coast of Gallipoli. There is also an interesting Taranaki connection.

Seen through the eyes of Red Cross Trainee Elsie Livesey, Sister Hilda

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Ground floor - The Village Mews, Oakura (opposite the hall)

### **MOTHER'S DAY** Sunday May 11th LOTS OF SLIPPERS FOR MUM

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O'Neill and Sister Maggie Haynes and Matron Alice Corkingdale, we watch as the injured are brought in the nurses sometimes faced with terrible choices in deciding who can be saved.

Amidst the confusion the matron has her own personal battle with the bombastic army medical officer Colonel Shelby Carter who is unappreciative of their efforts.

In the second half however the colonel begins to appreciate the nurses. The climax comes when the Germans advance and all lives are threatened.

Louisa Bouzaid as the demure Elsie gives a credible performance discovering her fiancé Sergeant Harry Young, amiably played by Timothy Woollett, is among the seriously wounded brought on board.

John Bouzaid as Colonel Shelby Carter gave a strong performance his booming voice issuing forth in the first half as he makes his presence and contempt clear. In the second half however he softens and, admiring the courage of the matron and her spirit, quaintly appears to fall for her. Kathryn van Gameren captures the part of the indomitable matron beautifully. (the matron is based on New Plymouth born Evelyn Brooke (1879-1962) who served in the First World War).

Samantha Turner as Hilda O'Neill and Maggie Haynes as Sarah Johnston-Dunn, the two feisty nursing sisters contribute to the dramatic The play is a moving glimpse into what it was to experience such terrible times and, as one person in the audience remarked to me at the conclusion, of how lucky we all are to have not lived through a World War.

Well done to all involved. Sister Act which is at the Hawera memorial Theatre has only four performances,

from April 23-26. Bookings are at www. ticket.co.nz and Hawera i-site. See advert. *Editor* 



Despair, courage and the horror of war.



MOTUROA SHOPPING CENTRE www.sentimentsflowers.co.nz



Hawera Repertory Society presents

SISTER ANZAC

23-26 April 2025

Hawera Memorial Theatre PRSA PLAYMARKET ITICKET OGIC 2

For tickets and more information

SCAN ME



The poignant and personal story of a matron and three nurses experiencing war for the first time on board the hospital ship *The Maheno*. This play highlights the strength of our kiwi women who went to war. Thursday, April 24, 2025

### **'Broken Pieces'' Four Basias**



Four Basias. Left, Chloe Danz (Basia, Helena) pairs with Daisy Elsmore. (Maria, Young Basia). Monica Willson (Basia, Helena) pairs with Kenzie Field (Young Basia, Maria). See article and advert for respective performance dates

Opunake Players latest production is a musical drama "Broken Pieces." Written by Paul Andersen-Gardiner, with music by Vivienne Genet, it tells the story of 733 Polish children who arrived in Wellington in 1944 as refugees from World War Two. The main character is Basia, a fictional representation of the children. Based on true events, it tells of her journey to New Zealand and, as an adult, her need to return to Poland to find where she belongs.

Paul chose the name

Basia (pronounced Barshar) because he thought none of the 733 children had that name. The story is a combination of things he'd read or been told so he wanted a name for all the children.

"I chose Basia after Basia Trzetrzelewska, one of my favourite singers from the 1980s," he explains. "I later found out that Basia is a nick name for Barbara, like Charlie for Charlotte. There were a few Barbaras."

Because the character Basia has quite a lot of singing, director Lynelle Kuriger decided to cast two women to alternate performances in order to preserve their voices. As such, Chloe Danz and Monica Willson, two of Opunake's accomplished singer/actors were chosen. Two children to play Young Basia during the flashbacks to World War Two, as well as her New Zealand daughter Maria were needed. Those parts went to Kenzie Field and Daisy Elsmore.

Monica enjoys being Basia as it gives her the opportunity to play a more serious part. The historical relevance the show has to some local families is also a factor. Chloe is enjoying being on stage, a place she is familiar with, especially as half of the singing duo Moemoeá. Kenzie likes the challenge of having to swap characters and with it, their moods. For Daisy the enjoyment of being on stage is a big factor as well as the original songs. "I love the positivity and togetherness of the cast," she says. Something I'm sure the whole cast would agree.

Tickets are now available at Sinclair Electrical for \$30. Chloe and Daisy's dates are May 15th, 18th,



Tickets available from: Andy Whitehead: 0274995203 Snapper Young: 0272485858





## What effects of climate change matter most to you?

With severe storms, coastal erosion, droughts and other extreme weather events on the rise in the past decade, we're asking residents for their thoughts on how we can manage the impacts of climate change. Tell us what you think.

#### Feedback closes 5pm 15 May 2025



npdc.govt.nz/ HaveYourSay



### **Taranaki Cancer Centre receives generous \$1.5** million grant from Toi Foundation

Health Taranaki Foundation is thrilled to announce a transformative grant of \$1.5 million for the Health New Zealand Taranaki Cancer Centre from the Toi Foundation for enhancements that will add to the comfort of patients and whanau using the

facility. This generous contribution in addition to the \$56.1 million government construction funding from the health capital envelope will help ensure that people Taranaki diagnosed in with cancer can receive critical radiation treatment

#### **CHURCH NOTICES**



Church Services - Manaia, Kaponga, Opunake, Pungarehu, Okata, Oakura

#### **Opunake Co-operating Parish**

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

#### **Okato Co-operating Parish**

Okato - St. Paul's - Sunday Service every 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 10.00am Oakura - St. James - Sunday Service every 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 10.00am Mid-week open church - Okato - St. Paul's -Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4.30pm-6.00pm

#### **Opunake Catholic Church**

St Martins, Pungarehu: Temporarily closed - no Masses Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday

#### Other areas

Sacred Heart, Manaia - Temporarily closed - No Masses St Joseph's, Hawera - Every Sat at 5pm; Every Sun at 9am St Patrick's, Patea - 4th Sunday of month; 11.00am St Francis de Sales, Waverley - 2nd Sunday of month; 11.00am

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga Sunday Mass 8.45am. Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).

> St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

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

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

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

St John's Community Church. Kaponga Cnr West and Eqmont Streets. Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea

**Manaia Union Fellowship** Terou St. Manaia. Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion

Friend & Fellowhip Group Thursdays @ Manaia Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer and Bible study Encouraging interactive discussion and Praise All are welcome We would love it if you could come Rodney & Val 274 8550 or 0272384187

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 90 Regan St., Stratford, 9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study 10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford. Contact Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799



#### The Taranaki Cancer Centre.

locally, reducing the need for extensive travel and alleviating the associated financial and emotional burden on patients and their whānau.

Each year, more than 600 people in Taranaki receive a cancer diagnosis, with over 300 requiring radiation treatment. These patients have had to travel to Palmerston North for treatment, often requiring lengthy stays away from home, increasing the impact their treatment has on them. With the establishment of the Taranaki Cancer Centre at Taranaki Base Hospital, the majority of patients receiving radiation therapy will only need to make one trip to Palmerston North for an initial consultation, after which they can receive further radiation therapy locally.

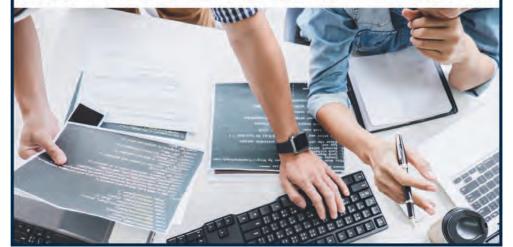
Taranaki Health Foundation Chairperson Brian Ropitini expressed gratitude Toi for Foundation's support.

"This grant represents a significant milestone in our mission to bring



#### No appointment necessary

Where: The Foundry, 130 High Street, Hawera 4610



enhancements to healthcare in Taranaki. It means that patients can focus on their treatment and recovery without the additional stress of travel and time away from loved ones," says Ropitini.

The integration of local cancer treatment services will not only improve health outcomes but also significantly reduce the direct and indirect costs currently associated with accessing radiation therapy outside the region. Patients will be able to continue working and remain close to their families, friends, and support networks while undergoing treatment.

The Taranaki Cancer Centre will also include 10 chemotherapy chairs, two isolation rooms, eight outpatient consultation rooms and a range of videoconferencing options to support virtual consultations and meetings.

Foundation CEO Toi Maria Ramsay emphasized the importance of investing in local healthcare services, stating, "Our commitment to the health and well-being of Taranaki communities has driven us to support this vital project. Ensuring access to high-quality cancer treatment close to home is essential for improving patient experiences and outcomes."

The Taranaki Health Foundation extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Toi Foundation for their belief in and commitment to this project. This grant is a major boost to the \$3.5 million target the Taranaki Health Foundation has for the Taranaki Cancer Centre. 100% of the money donated to the Taranaki Cancer Centre campaign will be used to provide enhancements that will improve the well-being for staff, patients and their families.

## **Invincible Spirit Dan Bryant**

by Lyn McKinnon, publisher Caxton, Christchurch, New Zealand

Dan Bryant was one of the founding members of the Taranaki Alpine Club. He was also the first New Zealander on Everest and paved the way for the conquering of the peak by another intrepid New Zealander, Sir Edmund Hillary.

Christened Leslie Vickery Bryant (1905-1957) but known as Dan, Lyn McKinnon recently published a book about the mountaineer.

In 1930 Dan Bryant placed a public notice in the Daily News, February 7 inviting interested people to a meeting to form the Taranaki Alpine Club; he became its first Club Captain.

Invincible Spirit is a history of Dan's life adventures in Taranaki, Mt Cook, the Himalayas and around the world.

Bryant chose secondary school teaching as a career and, after graduating Master of Arts at the Auckland University College, he took his first appointment at the New Plymouth Boys' High School in 1927. Here his proximity to Mount Egmont as it was then known, enlivened an interest in climbing. He introduced many boys from his school to the sport through his organised trips on the mountain and took more than 150 of them to the summit. From 1930 his teaching appointments were mainly in the South Island first at Waitaki Boys' High, then at Southland Boys' High, back to Waitaki as senior house master and then as first assistant at the



Dan Bryant, photo from the cover of Invincible Spirit forwarded with other information to the Opunake & Coastal News by Ian McAlpine.

Timaru Technical College. In 1946 he became principal of Pukekohe High School.

It was during the period from 1930 to 1946 that he took full advantage of his sojourn within easy reach of the Southern Alps to indulge his enthusiasm for climbing.

Bryant's first serious climbing in the Southern Alps was in the 1930 - 1 season when he accompanied W. G. Mace and R. Syme (after whom Syme Peak is named) who had done several seasons of guideless climbing in the Hermitage region.

During the next twentyfive years he built up an impressive list of successful ascents, the most outstanding of which was his traverse of Mt. Cook, with C. L Mahan. The 1933 Everest Expedition made a deep impression on Bryant, and,

in 1934, he went to London for a year's study at the School of Economics and Political Science. Vacations were spent climbing in Britain and on the Continent. In the five weeks he spent in Switzerland his climbs, all guideless, included a double traverse of the Matterhorn from the Hornli hut and back in 1621 hours. As the climb was made with a chance companion, an American student Paul Petzoldt, and neither had previously been on the Matterhorn, the time taken was remarkable.

A few months after his return to New Zealand he was invited to join the Everest Reconnaissance Expedition of 1935 and so became the first representative of this country to go to the Himalayas for serious climbing.

In the 1935 expedition,

despite his difficulty in becoming acclimatised. Bryant took part in ten successful ascents of peaks over 203000 ft. and climbed to 23,460 ft. His failure to acclimatise put an end to any hopes he had of gaining a place in the 1936 expedition, but his contribution towards ultimate success on Everest was an important one, for he established a reputation for icecraftsmanship and toughness that played its part in the inclusion of other New Zealand climbers in later expeditions. To all these activities, no less than to his work, he brought that same infectious enthusiasm, the same relentless energy, the determination to succeed, the initiative to break with the orthodox and seek new ways, the

cheerful good-humour and the competence that gave a sense of dependability when the going was tough, that marked his major mountain expeditions. It was these qualities that made him a good mountaineer, and more than that, a delightful companion.

Invincible Spirit gives readers an insight into this incredible man and his short life which ended far too early in a vehicle crash in December 1957 at 52 years old.

Invincible Spirit is available at the South Taranaki District Library and in bookshops..



### Mountain fun

Two days after French tourist Frederic Combier's rescue on the Mountain when descending from Syme Peak, Lindsay Maindonald, back on the Mountain, headed up to Syme Hut where he discovered a group of hikers having a bit of fun. One of them had brought up a chili costume which they were each trying on. At their urging Lindsay also tried on the costume. Says Lindsay, photographed, I couldn't resist....!

The Penguin Lessons

**Deep Rising** 

Apr 3:30PM

**A Minecraft Movie** 

**Bob Trevino Likes It** 

The Penguin Lessons

Offensive language &

sexual references | 1hr

51mins | Rated: M

Thu 24 Apr 7PM



### What's On Listings

#### **ONGOING**

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper. **MONDAYS:** The Barnabas Centre - St **Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman** Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am -

12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

Beginners Social Dance Classes: Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm. TUESDAYS

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

Pungarehu Golf Club Twilight: Tee-off between 4.30 & 6.30pm.

Opunake District RSA: Meet 1st Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm at the Opunake Fire Station. Financial Members are welcome to attend.

#### **WEDNESDAYS**

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

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

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

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

Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to5 .30pm.

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

#### **THURSDAYS**

Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.

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

**FRIDAYS** 

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

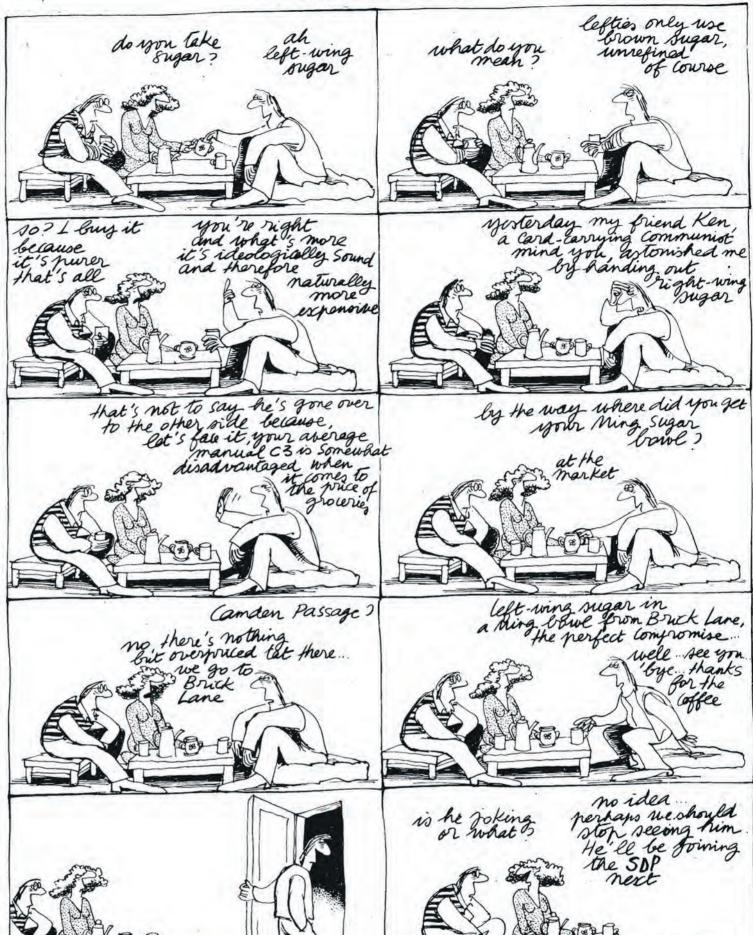
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm.

### AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:

Monday: Burger special \$15, Happy Hours 3pm- 6pm; Tuesday: Pork ribs \$20, Pool Tournament 7pm; Wednesday: Pizza night 2 for \$24, Poker night \$30 buy in; Thursday: Steak night for \$20, Poker Night \$27 buy in; Friday: Pensioners lunch \$15, Lamb Shank \$20; Saturday; Chicken Schnitzel \$20; Sunday: Roast night \$20 Complimentary dessert for dine in customers.

### NOVEMBER 2 - MAY 11, 2025

Lalaga Exhibition: At the Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth.



ANGRY YOUNG MAN

#### MARCH 7 - MAY 5

Art & Science and the Textle Colours exhibition: At from out of the blue gallery, Opunake

#### **APRIL 9 - MAY 3**

Postcards of NZ - Tourist Birds Style exhibition: The Village Gallery, Eltham

#### APRIL 23 - 26

Sister Anzac A Production by Hawera Rep, At Hawera Memorial Theatre.

#### **ANZAC DAY**

ANZAC Day Services are to be held in multiple locations around Taranaki. See ads from this issue and last issue for details. Cape Egmont Boat Club Anzac Day Service & Social: From 1pm at the Cape Egmont Boat Clubrooms, Warea.

**APRIL 26** Paddle Out for Our Ocean: Opunake Beach, 10am - 2pm. Live Music at the Opunake Town Hall: 7pm

MAY 3 & 4

Monster Book Fair at Hawera: At the Genealogy Group Building, 48 Union St Hawera. 9.30am-6pm. A huge new selection of specialty books. New stock in all categories. **MAY 12** 

BRETECHER

51

Opunake Beach Carnival AGM: At Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Events Centre, 7pm.

#### MAY 15, 16, 18, 22, 23, 24 & 25

Broken Piecess A production by Opunake Players. At the Lakeside Playhouse.

#### MAY 17 & 18

Taranaki 2 Ball Best Ball Tournament: At the Kaitake Golf Club. For entry details see ad in this issue.

#### **MAY 24**

Oaonui Community Hall Gumboot Ball: At Oaonui Community Hall, 8pm.

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS** 

Thursday, April 24, 2025

#### **CLASSIFIEDS** 27

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### **CAPE EGMONT BOAT CLUB**

Remembering the Warea & Pungarehu Servicemen with our

#### **SERVICE & SOCIAL**

On 25<sup>th</sup> April From 1.00pm, at the Cape Egmont Boat Clubrooms, Bayly Road, Warea.

#### **ALL WELCOME**

Please bring a plate to share after service.

### GRAZING

**GRAZING AVAILABLE** Phone Richard 027 510 9667.

MAY TO MAY Dairy Heifer Grazing available. Inglewood area. Phone Shane (06) 7567372.

XXXXXXXXXX



**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

**HOLE IN ONE PRIZE** To Enter Phone Denise at Kaitake Golf Club 06 7527665 or Email: kaitakegolf@xtra.co.nz

### **OPUNAKE BEACH CARNIVAL** A.G.M

7pm

Monday May 12, 2025 Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre All welcome

> Call Andy Whitehead 027 499 5203

### **TRADES & SERVICES**

### **GAM**

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### 



Outside First National, Cnr Victoria and High Streets, Hawera

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#### **HAWERA BUDGET** Advisory Service. Wed 9am to 12pm. Coastal Care, Opunake by appointment. Starting Feb 8th 2023 and fortnightly thereafter. Contact us by phone: 0800 333 048 (free from mobile). Facebook page: Hawera Budget Advisory Service. Email: info@hawerabudget. co.nz

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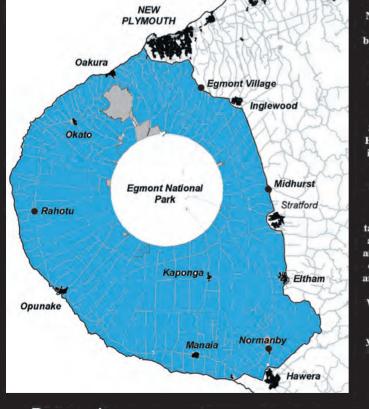


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