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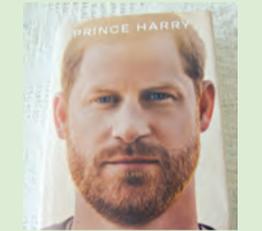
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Local news, local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events. Delivered free around the mountain every fortnight.



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A marathon effort for water safety awareness

Simon Adams, who farms in the Manaia area, is on a mission to increase awareness of the need for greater safety while swimming, as well as raising money for the cause. You can donate to his Give A Little page by googling Marathon May for Beach Education or you can search Simon Adams facebook and find the link. "New Zealanders are a bit too relaxed around water, especially males and underestimate its power." Sadly, Simon lost his son Jordy on November 13, 2021, aged just 18. He was drowned in the Waiwhakaiho River.

Simon intends to run four marathons (each one 42.2kms), with the first one in Rotorua on Saturday May 6. This will be an official event getting underway around 7am, with a run around the lake.

The second marathon will be on Saturday May 13 in New Plymouth, with support from the Fronrunner Shoe Shop. "They are helping me set up the course and providing a group of runners." This date is the 18 month anniversary of Jordy's passing.

The third marathon is Sunday May 21. The marathon will start in Okato and will end up at the Surf Lifesaving Club at Opunake Beach. The support from Coastal Rugby and the Club will be greatly appreciated.

The fourth marathon will take place on Sunday May 28.



Simon Adams getting in shape for his four marathons.

This will start at 8am and will be run on the Foreshore walkway in New Plymouth and will finish at Jordy's cross on the bank of the Waiwhakaiho, near Te Rewa Rewa Bridge.

"Jordy was very nice boy, very thoughtful. An amazing friend," explains Joyce, Simon's mother.

In preparation Simon is running about 50kms a week. He admits, "It's starting to wear me down a bit." He adds, "I'm now keen to get on with it," - namely the marathons. Has he ever run a marathon before? "Just one and it took me over four hours."

Joyce, is impressed with what her son is doing for such a great cause. "I can only but admire him - he's doing so well." Simon puts it this way, "If I could save

just one life it will be worth it."

Simon's partner Megan is very supportive and is training with him. She is also involved organisational aspects. "She's doing really well. "She'll run the first one then see how her body holds up. She'll be there for the while series in support."

The money raised will go towards educating primary schoolchildren in water safety; so far over \$5,000 has been raised. "I'm stoked with how it's going. People are very generous and helpful in setting up things," Simon comments.

Simon welcomes people joining him in any of the marathons.

If you need to know more please feel free to contact him on 027 714 0658.



Jordy's cross.

Sobering statistics on state of our freshwater

"Our Freshwater 2023 provides a sobering snapshot of the state of Aotearoa's freshwater. The report outlines the core pressures that have led to substantial degradation of our freshwater, which have serious economic, socio-cultural and health implications. "The report notes that Aotearoa has experienced one of the highest rates of agricultural land intensification over recent decades internationally.

For example, dairy cow numbers have increased nationally from 3.4 million in 1990 to 6.3 million in 2019, with Canterbury and Southland seeing ten-fold and sixteen-fold increases during this same period, respectively. Irrigated land has doubled during a similar period, with around 75% of this increase attributable to dairy intensification. "The report highlights some of the potential direct health impacts of the pressures on

our freshwater. The national ground water monitoring programme shows that 68% and 19% would fail the drinking water standards for bacterial and nitrate contamination, respectively. For bacterial contamination, 82% of all sites are either getting worse (50%) or showing no improvement (32%). For nitrate, 51% are either getting worse (35%) or not improving (16%) (baseline 2009). An estimated 45% of our river length is not

suitable for swimming due to bacterial contamination. In 2017, 1200 people got sick after reporting contact with recreational water. "The report also highlights what we do not know and where research investment is required. These areas include better investment in national monitoring and reporting, research into the health impacts of key contaminants and mātauranga Māori. «The report is focused on documenting the pressures

and state of freshwater, thus it does not detail potentially policy mechanisms to reverse degradation. The report does clearly show that further action is required to protect our freshwater for our physical and economic wellbeing.»

Dr Tim Chambers, Department of Public Health, University of Otago. Dr Tim Chambers was a peer-reviewer of the report.

On this month in history the Titanic sinks.

On April 15, 1912 the Titanic sunk after hitting an iceberg in the north Atlantic ocean. Of the 2224 people

(passengers and crew) 1514 died (68%). Because the ship was considered to be unsinkable, there were

only 20 lifeboats which would hold 1178 people. However, these were only filled to 60% capacity.

The captain was Edward Smith and he went down with his ship. The White Star line ship

was built by Harland and Wolff at the Belfast Shipyard at a cost of 1.5 million pounds.



Letters to the Editor

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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.

Pollution still causing havoc

It seems that Brian Vincent, a former Community Board member and earthmoving contractor is concerned about an eroding cliff by the Opunake Transfer Station, while Bruce Salisbury who once worked for the Tauranga City Council as a design engineer and has been resident in Manaia for seven years is showing concern at the sewage which has been leaking for some time into a stream where people once got watercress and eels. Bruce has already spoken to the Taranaki Coastal Community Board about this particular matter.

So my question to our three individual councils is, surely they know about all these problems, and they

have been going on for some time, so why haven't they all done something about it? Yet these councils keep telling us all we should keep our streams, lakes, rivers and beach frontages pollution and rubbish-free, so I do hope these councils can do something to clean up these problems.

While in the meantime Awatuna farmers Phillip and Donna Cram have constructed a huge wetland on their farm. Look, our wetlands reduce nutrient and sediment losses on farms and improve water quality, plus boosting biodiversity and providing habitat for birds and fish which is really good to see taking place, so maybe our three councils can learn from our farmers.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.

Another chapter for church

I can vividly remember when on November 26 2017 Otakeho's St John the Divine Anglican Church was deconsecrated. It was in 1894, 129 years ago it was opened by Archbishop W.G.Cowie. I, like many people thought it was the end, then it came up for tender. I also thought that no one wanted it and it would be demolished, but it wasn't to be.

Mark and Trish Stevenson fell in love with this beautiful historic building, bought it, and transported it on to their land where it is right now. Since then they have restored it back to its magnificent glory as seen in this great newspaper's photograph. On March 18, 2023 it was again reopened to start another

great era while keeping this church's history intact which is simply wonderful.

The people of Otakeho and surrounding districts must all be really thankful that having people like the Stevensons who took it upon themselves to restore the church. Our only problem that we still have today is that we have people who still think that our country's historic buildings, regardless of what they are are simply rubbish and not worth saving, but I do believe that these historic buildings are worth saving, as they are part of our country's history, so I do hope that one day I myself can attend a church service.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.

ADELPHOS

You might think of skipping this article and turning to the cartoon page at the end of the paper? That's really not such a bad idea. I often do before reading Adelphos. Claire Bretechner's cartoons have heaps to say about relationships and being human. I've read all her cartoons since our editor, Bernice, began publishing her last year; to me they collectively portray a kaleidoscope of mixed emotions, caricatures and situations. Bretechner often begins her cartoons by depicting a problematic relationship or male-female gender issue that we can relate to. However, her cartoon's endings seem to mix the paradoxical

Cartoon Contemplation—Part 1

or the ironic. And often we're left with a confused deadpan feeling because we typically expect cartoons to end in a more entertaining way. Maybe Murray Ball's "Footrot Flats: The Dog's Tale" might go down a bit easier here in Middle Earth's rural Taranaki. Or maybe Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" cartoon?

So Bretechner's cartoons deliberately leave us hanging with questions about the brokenness and challenges of everyday human relationships. She wants us to think and contemplate about life and is reminding us of the need for making meaning and sense of our lives. Christian tradition has viewed the root of such

unhealthy relationships with others and God under the category of sin. Sin separates us from a healthy relationship with God, others and our own selves.

In today's world the popular concept of "sin" is increasingly outdated. Whereas the more commonly used four letter "F...k" word has become quite popular according to the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) of New Zealand. They write, "Audiences are more relaxed over many swear words, particularly the F-word." Numerous studies I read indicate that the same is occurring in Britain, the USA and particularly in first world countries. So what will happen to a world when sin is increasingly becoming

an outdated, cancel-cultured or taboo concept?

And how do we respond to the increasing presence of sin around us and in a world that freely separates itself from God? The next Adelphos will look at some popular and positive options in Cartoon Contemplation—Part 2.

Manaakitanga,
Adelphos

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Opunake Christians commemorate Christ



Heading towards The Wave Church.

On Good Friday Christians from Opunake joined Christians from around the world in remembering the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The morning began with a group of about 40 people meeting at the cenotaph above Opunake Beach. After a prayer led by Cobus Blom from St Pauls Co-Operating Church, the annual Walk of Witness was underway with people taking turns at carrying the cross in remembrance of Christ's journey nearly 2000 years ago.



Praising the Lord at St Barnabas Church.

Accompanied by guitar players and singing hymns and songs of praise along the way, they made brief stops at the various churches in town, as well as taking in the town's central business district.

The first stop was at The Wave Church where Belinda Philp spoke about the prophecies about what Jesus would experience on the first Easter.

At St Barnabas Anglican Church, the Rev Ian Sargeant spoke about Peter who denied Christ three times.

"Peter at Caesarea Philippi said the right things when he said Jesus was the Messiah, but he didn't understand until much later. In our journey please use the time to think and meditate. Do I really know Jesus or is my understanding full of assumptions? What was God's great purpose in

sending his son to die on a cross far away?" At Our Lady Star of the Star Catholic Church Margaret Mullin said they were all there "to celebrate the most momentous weekend in the history of the world."

"We are all on a faith journey together. We all share a common baptism.

We are all challenged to take up the cross." The Walk of Witness finished at St Pauls with a combined service. Having commemorated their saviour's crucifixion on Friday, each of the churches celebrated his resurrection with their own services on Sunday.

"Hay! Is all your winter feeding equipment ready and running well?"

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OKATO COPPERS Kia Ora Koutou,

As you are all well aware, there has been an increase in burglaries and theft from cars in recent months around Taranaki and all of New Zealand. Unfortunately, our generally isolated areas have become more of a target, recently. I encourage everyone to park your cars off the road if possible. If you are parking on the road, remove valuables, but I also recommend steering wheel locks. This is a great deterrent as many young people are attempting to steal these cars.



Constable Matt Stone

need to be more vigilant around security as society is changing for many reasons and this is creating more crime.

On a more positive note, I am developing a plan with the intention of being more connected with the community. I have had the

privilege of attending some farm discussion groups recently, as well as the Kaitake Community Board meetings and the Oakura morning talk. I intend to attend more community groups/events and if you have any event or meeting that you would like me to attend then please touch base.

Lastly, with the spate of dishonesty crime recently, and be assured that we are apprehending some of the offenders, I am actively looking at ways to prevent these from continuing. One of these is CCTV cameras in the local villages. Unfortunately, this is not as simple as I would have hoped.

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

Give us back our money - with interest

Well well it's all about 10 waters or Affordable Water Reform. It doesn't matter what name you give it. If it quacks like a duck it must be a duck, and to add insult the Labour Government has asked all Councils to send out the bills and collect all the money for this so-called 10 Waters (AWR). They also want to take over office space in Council buildings to run the 10 Waters. They have told us that they can do it cheaper but they need our help again. Just remember that the ratepayers have to pay for all of this. In my view this is the first step in the Government selling off the new water company, and also a way of the Government to get rid of all Councils in New Zealand, and everything will be dictated from Wellington. We all know how good they

are running the country from Wellington, that's enough about that.
Roading - we are currently looking at all the traffic speeds around schools in the district. The common theme is either permanent 30kmh all the time or variable 30kmh which only applies during actual school hours. What do you think? Thanks to all the people who submitted on that.
It's business as usual at the Council. We are currently reviewing the Annual Plan and the rate increase and our 10 Year Long Term Plan. I have asked that Council invest more money into our roading network to improve the condition of our roads over our district, as I feel they are going backwards. For your information Council roads are the side roads and streets. Waka



CR BRYAN ROACH

Kotahi (the Government) own and manage the main roads and state highways. Talking about Waka Kotahi there has been another serious crash on one of their narrow bridges on State Highway 45, car versus truck, luckily no one was hurt. I've been told by Waka Kotahi that there is no plan to fix up State Highway 45 and all the bridges on it in their 30 year plan. This is absolutely disgraceful

and very poor management on the Government's part. Taranaki's road tax money has been going out of the province for decades now. We need it back with interest. It's time Auckland's and Wellington's road tax money comes back to Taranaki. A good place to start would be for all fully electric vehicles to pay their tax for using the roads.

To all my fellow farmers absolutely the best autumn ever for growing grass with mild conditions and warm weather temperatures. The plan should be to convert that extra grass into milk the best you can. Have a good winter break. See you all in the spring.

Roachy from the coast.

Cr Bryan Roach.

Care for all on World Asthma Day

This World Asthma Day, Tuesday 2 May, the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation is aiming to get Asthma Emergency Kits into New Zealand primary schools.

"The theme for World Asthma Day 2023 is Asthma Care for All," explains Foundation Chief Executive Letitia Harding. "We wanted to take a really practical approach to that theme and do something that will make a meaningful difference to the health of Kiwi kids with asthma this coming winter." One in eight New Zealand children has asthma and an estimated 3,000 children are hospitalised annually due to asthma. Approximately 350,000 school days are lost

because of this condition. "Every classroom, in every school will have a child with asthma. We want to ensure schools are equipped with appropriate medicine for an asthma emergency, and clear instructions for educators on how to help their students," explains Ms Harding. In the lead up to World Asthma Day on Tuesday 2 May, the Foundation is calling for donations and support to help reach their goal. "Every dollar raised will go towards providing Asthma Emergency Kits to schools in need. The Foundation receives no Government funding, so again we are calling on the generosity of New

Zealanders to help us do this vital work. \$20,000 would mean around 400 primary schools would receive a kit, and if we can raise more - even better" The Foundation received funding to provide 200 Asthma Emergency Kits to communities in need earlier this year. These kits were distributed to a group of decile one schools across New Zealand and are being rolled out to schools in the Tairāwhiti region. The kits are one of a range of resources that the Foundation offers to educators. "We know that educators play a key role in helping children with asthma. Whether it's being

aware of a student's triggers, or recognising when they are having an asthma attack, educators can make a big difference in the day-to-day management of a child's condition," explains Ms Harding. "That is why over the years we have developed practical resources like our free online Teachers' Toolkit and free digital asthma classroom, alongside our live action asthma education shows in te reo Māori and English. Our Asthma Emergency Kits have been available to purchase through our website, but we recognise that for some schools cost has been a barrier."

What can science tell us about how Beethoven died?

As he famously lost his hearing and his health declined, iconic composer Ludwig von Beethoven expressed a wish for the world to know and understand his

illness. To fulfil that wish, international researchers have tracked down multiple likely authentic locks of Beethoven's hair to use his DNA to better understand the causes of his health problems. The researchers say they were unable to find a genetic explanation

for Beethoven's well-documented deafness or stomach problems, but they did find he had hepatitis B when he died, and he had a genetic predisposition to liver disease that, combined with his drinking habits, likely contributed to his death. In spicier news, the

researchers say they also found his DNA did not match several recognised relatives on his father's side, suggesting someone in his family had an affair that was never outed.

Current Biology

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The teachers are frozen, the school principal is holed up and the aliens have cut the school off from the outside world. Meanwhile concerned parents wait anxiously outside for news with TV reporters hovering nearby. A child psychologist who bears a passing resemblance to the school's principal tries to provide expert analysis.

Who will step up to the rescue? Enter Ella, previously ignored by teachers and classmates who with the help of her friends rallies the school to take on and defeat the evil alien invaders.

An appreciative audience saw all this play out when Ella vs the Space Invaders was shown at Everybody's Theatre on April 12 as a fund raiser for Freesurf Youth Opunake.

Produced by Jason Bloor the movie took three years to make and had a cast made up of students and staff from Auroa School and members of the Auroa community.

The title character was



played by Ella Danz, with her parents Chloe Danz and Andreas Danz playing the Alien Queen and her sinister sidekick. The Danzs were not the only married couple in the cast, with Myles Webb, the school's deputy principal making the step up to principal for the purposes of the movie, supported by Erin Webb.

Ella vs the Space Invaders has its fair share of humour and satire. There are throwbacks to just about every sci-fi icon imaginable, from the opening War of the Worlds sequence about Earth having been observed from a distance by aliens from another world, through to elements of Star Wars, Star Trek and Dr Who. There are even similarities to J.M. Barrie's The Admirable Crichton where somebody previously overlooked and ignored is the one who emerges to save the day.

The film could easily have fallen into the "don't take this too seriously" trap, but all credit to everyone

involved in it that it doesn't. By the end of the movie the audience is willing on the plucky students in their set piece battle against the aliens. The tension is authentic, and all the cast members pull together to produce an evening of

rattling good viewing. Full credit to everyone, from the students and their acting skills, as well as the staff prepared to send themselves up and finally to Jason for seeing it through and putting it together.

Bryan Kirk.

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Losing the fight for healthy freshwater

New Zealand is losing its way in the fight to protect the health of lakes and rivers, says Fish & Game New Zealand.

"The latest report on the state of freshwater in New Zealand by Stats NZ and the Ministry for the Environment paints a damning picture," says Corinna Jordan, chief executive of Fish & Game New Zealand.

"Fish & Game staff and volunteers are at the frontline of protecting the health of our waterways so we're devastated at the continuing decline of our freshwater and the impact that is having on many of our freshwater fish, waterfowl, and their habitats, along with the ability for people to enjoy these environments.

"Clearly, the report shows we are not only failing in our duty to provide for a healthy environment, but we are also failing to protect source drinking water for our communities.

"All New Zealand is effectively doing is monitoring the decline in freshwater when in fact we need to be taking tangible and meaningful steps and



Corinna Jordan.

actions to make a difference. "Clearly, the current blanket regulatory approach is not working and instead we need a far more mature approach which is tailored to the specific issues a catchment may be facing and the activities causing those challenges.

"We also need to see our leaders singing from the same song sheet in relation to what we need to do as communities and individuals in protecting, and where impacted, restoring our natural spaces.

"Catchment community efforts and farming leaders building diverse and resilient farming landscapes are part of the solution and we need to see this supported and upscaled across New Zealand.

"New Zealand also needs to invest in preserving and creating wetlands, which provide a buffering function for the environment and provide essential habitat for indigenous species, but also our valued introduced species.

"We have lost a lot of wetlands adjacent to rivers and streams, which has impacted our ability to manage sediment loss and nutrient loss into our rivers, and buffer against flood events. Wetlands can also play a role in addressing climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and filter greenhouse gases."

There needs to be a greater recognition of the full value of freshwater including recreation, mental health and wellbeing, and food gathering, says Jordan.

"Trout are valued freshwater species and have been naturalised in New Zealand for 150 years, co-existing with indigenous species and providing an important food source for local tuna (eels) populations. Trout also have high

freshwater quality and higher flow requirements so are good indicators of when the system isn't working well."

"Ultimately, everyone must take responsibility for the decline in freshwater. We need honest leadership from central and local government and a consistent message to communities."

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OPUNAKE FIRE SERVICE

Tractor fire in Nopera Road



Raging tractor fire quickly extinguished.

Just before midday on Tuesday April 11 the Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade was called out to a tractor fire in Nopera Road. The fire engine swiftly reached the scene, which was marked by huge cloud of smoke billowing to the south. The tractor was on the (south) roadside beside the fenceline. The firefighters had the fire contained by 12.20.

The driver of the tractor was unhurt. Understandably shocked, he preferred not to say too much about the fire. A section of fence was burned away, as well as a sizable patch of grass. Both tyres were totally burnt away on the fence side of the tractor, which was carrying big bales of hay. An extremely raging fire has ensured major damage to the

tractor. A senior firefighter was unsure what caused the fire. However, was some overheard conversation

possibly suggested that a bird's nest may have been a contributing factor. However, this is just speculation at this stage.

Well done Opunake Volunteer Service and we wish the driver all the best having escaped a serious tractor fire unhurt.



Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade attend to the fire.

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Memories of a judge and academic

It was with some sadness that I learned last week of the passing of Justice Simon France. As a high Court judge he was at times a familiar face on our TV screens presiding over such high profile cases as the Scott Guy murder trial in Feilding and the 2015 retrial of Mark Lundy. My memories of the man go back further to 1988, when as a second year law student at Victoria University I remember him teaching the Criminal Law class, and two years later teaching Administrative Law. On hearing about Simon's passing I texted a former classmate who I have kept in touch with over the years and who now lives in Wellington.

"Gutted to hear about Simon France," I wrote.



Simon France.

My friend felt the same way.

Back in 1988 I remember Simon introducing himself

to the Criminal Law class.

"My name is Simon," he said. "Any praise higher than that goes to my head."

He never took himself too seriously, and although never callous he was able to see the lighter side of dark moments.

There was the time we were studying insanity and Simon showed us an American documentary series on the Hillside Strangler, the serial killer who terrorised Los Angeles in the late 1970s.

"There's several reasons I want to show this to you," he told us. "The first is that it's rattling good viewing. I've seen it three or four times already and I still get something new from it every time I've seen it."

Simon originally hailed from Northland and would occasionally allude to that part of the country in his lectures. In our Administrative Law class he was discussing a case involving a teacher who was having a dispute with his employer.

"He taught at one of this country's leading educational institutions," recalled Simon. "Kamo College."

Law was not something I continued with, so perhaps unlike some of my other classmates I never got to experience Simon as a judge first hand.

Simon was married to Supreme Court Justice Dame Ellen France and was made a High Court judge in 2005. In August last year he made the step up to the Court of Appeal but resigned last month for health reasons.

In my years as a university student there are those lecturers who left an impression, and those who are barely remembered. Simon France definitely fell into the former category.

Bryan Kirk.



Mark Lundy.



Scott Guy.

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ANZAC Day is an evolving commemoration for our new generation



dawn landings at Gallipoli, a day which claimed 2700 New Zealanders. The early morning light makes a Dawn Service one of the most emotional and compelling commemorations of this special day. As ANZAC Day approaches our hearts and minds turn to family. For me, my father Hoani Hipango's maternal uncle, British Royal Air Force Flight Officer Porokoru Patapu Pohe known as 'Lucky Johnny' is never forgotten. Whanganui born and growing up around Taihape, Johnny completed his training at the Ground Training School in Levin early in 1941 and was the

first Maori pilot to leave Aotearoa to fight in World War 2. He carried out 22 missions over France, Germany and Italy. What happened to him is a sad commentary on the loss of the up-and-coming generation that was repeated so often in conflict: in 1943 his plane was hit over Hanover and he managed to fly back as far as the English Channel where he crashed and was taken prisoner by the Germans. In a Nazi POW camp Stalag Luft 3, he was recaptured as one of 220 attempting to escape and was executed in March 1944 on Hitler's orders. Every year since his execution, he with 50

other escapees executed is commemorated by the local villagers outside Zagan, Poland. His photo hangs in Poland's NZ Embassy. Also at this time I personally reflect and remember my deceased brother Lt Col Waata Hipango (RNZIR) and the service he gave for Aotearoa NZ. And the many NZ defence force personnel over the generations. We must not forget. What heartens me is the broadening of the scope of the remembrance that this special day brings. ANZAC Day now promotes a sense of unity probably more effectively as the years go by – people whose politics,

beliefs and aspirations are widely different can nevertheless gather together as one community within one nation remembering the sad loss of so many lives and the freedoms and democracy that we have grown accustomed to. After more than one hundred years poppies are still worn, and all members of the community are welcome to take part and children learn about the futility of war through poetry and music. Poppy Day is this week. It's time for recognition and support to the RSA who do such wonderful community work in helping veterans and their families as well as

helping military personnel transition back to civilian life. I encourage and ask that you support those loyal volunteers who are out collecting on behalf of those who now need help, support and comradeship. The numbers of New Zealanders attending ANZAC services in every corner of our nation are increasing. We can be proud of what has become a truly national day of remembrance. Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou – We will remember them.

Harete Hipango National List MP based in Whanganui

HARETE HIPANGO MP
Lest we forget.

In New Zealand we have commemorated ANZAC Day since 1915. It's a tradition which began after World War 1 returned soldiers sought comradeship in the quiet, peaceful moments before dawn, with obvious symbolic links to the

Affordable water reforms to be led and delivered regionally



GLEN BENNETT
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

Significant changes to New Zealand's affordable water reforms that will establish ten new regional entities including here in New Plymouth, which will still deliver big cost savings to local ratepayers is welcome news says the MP for New Plymouth Glen Bennett. "The Government has listened to feedback and we're making major

changes to our affordable water reforms, while still delivering big cost savings to New Zealand households," says Glen Bennett. "Feedback from Local Government has been clear that our water infrastructure deficit needs to be addressed now if we're to save households from ballooning bills that will make water unaffordable, and that the

reform programme must be led at a regional level. We agree. "With the costs to address New Zealand's water infrastructure deficit projected to be up to \$185 billion over the next 30 years, we cannot leave these costs to ratepayers with rates rises locally in New Plymouth District with a population of 63,854, cost of \$6,570 per year by 2054 if we do nothing.

under Entity D; with South Taranaki, Stratford Districts included. "Too many of us have seen first-hand the recent flooding, cyclone, and extreme weather events impacting our community, and communities across the country. Our water infrastructure needs to be ready. And we are prepared

to partner with industry to achieve that. "At the same time it's essential that costs are not unfairly put on New Zealand households to pay for it. *Authorised by Glen Bennett, Parliament Buildings, Wellington*

Barbara Kuriger MP for Taranaki-King Country Backing Rural and Provincial New Zealand

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Authorised by Barbara Kuriger MP, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



"Labour is simply not prepared to put extra costs on New Zealanders during a global cost of living crisis. "Under our proposal to establish ten entities New Zealand households will still make big savings, projected at \$4,430 in a 33% cost saving difference a year by 2054 on average" with a 51% cost saving difference taking into account the whole district (Entity D; including South and Stratford District), says Glen Bennett. By extending the number of publicly owned water entities to ten, every council, and therefore every community, will now have a say and have representation over their local water services entities. Regional water entities will be owned by local councils on behalf of the public, and entity borders are based on existing regional areas, New Plymouths falling

Glen Bennett Your local MP

MP for New Plymouth
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@glenbennettlabour



Authorised by Glen Bennett MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Lest We Forget Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou We will remember them.

Harete Hipango List MP based in Whanganui
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Authorised by Harete Hipango, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Changes to the Maori Electoral Option

Māori who would like to switch electoral rolls before this year's General Election will be able to make the change until 13 July.

A recent law change means that Māori can now change between the Māori and general rolls at any time except in the three months before an election.

Previously, once enrolled, Māori could only change

rolls during the Māori Electoral Option period held every five or six years.

'This is a significant change for Māori voters who will be able to change the roll they are on more easily,' says Chief Electoral Officer Karl Le Quesne.

Māori voters who want to change rolls before the 14 October General Election need to make the change before midnight 13 July.

'We're sending information packs to 512,000 enrolled voters who have told us they are of Māori descent to let them know about the choice,' says Karl Le Quesne.

The Commission's Chief Māori Advisor Hone Matthews says it's an important choice for Māori. 'Māori choose between the Māori electoral roll and the general electoral roll when

they enrol to vote,' says Hone Matthews.

If you're on the Māori roll, you'll vote for a candidate in the Māori electorate you live in, and if you're on the general roll, you'll vote for a candidate in the general electorate you live in. Whichever roll you're on, you'll choose from the same list of parties for your party vote.

Rule change for overseas voting



Taranaki Maunga.

The rules for overseas voting are changing for this year's General Election to recognise the effect the pandemic has had on international travel.

'This is a temporary change made by Parliament for New Zealanders living overseas who have been unable to return home in the past three years,' says Karl Le Quesne, Chief Electoral Officer.

From 31 March, if you're a New Zealand citizen living overseas, you can enrol and vote if you have been in New Zealand within the last six years (previously three years).

If you're a New Zealand permanent resident living overseas, you can enrol and vote if you have been in New Zealand within the last four years (previously 12 months).

You must also be 18 years or older and have lived in New Zealand for more than 12 months continuously at some time in your life to be eligible to enrol and vote.

The law change applies for the 2023 General Election which will be held on 14

October. After the election, the eligibility criteria will go back to three years for New Zealand citizens and 12 months for permanent residents.

'We encourage New Zealanders living overseas to check their eligibility and update their enrolment details if they need to at vote.nz,' says Karl Le Quesne.

Information about the 2023 General Election will be sent to all enrolled voters at the end of July, including those with an overseas postal address. The Electoral Commission's website, brochures and enrolment form have been updated to include the change for overseas voters.

There are about 72,000 people who are enrolled and have an overseas postal address. 62% are in Australia, 16% are in the United Kingdom, and 6% are in the United States of America

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Taranaki Treasures Kodak Panoram1 Camera

Cecilia's on Tasman, Opunake has acquired an intriguing camera, which is likely over a century old. The Kodak Panoram Number One camera was manufactured in Rochester, New York, USA by Eastman Kodak between 1899 and 1928. Raewyn was the successful bidder at the auction in Hawera.

goes back to 1845 to Friedrich Martens with his Megaskop-Kamera. A major obstacle, however, was the use of flat glass plates being incompatible with the design of such a camera (Although Martens devised curved Daguerreotype plates in his camera with a rotating lens, their display was made difficult by their shape).

The genesis of this camera Fortuitously, the invention



was patented by Frank A. Brownell, who created the design. A series of models was subsequently released. The merits were advertised as follows: *Takes marvellously realistic pictures of broad stretches of landscape and seascape, open spaces in cities, squares etc. Large groups of people, reviews, regattas etc are all most vividly recorded by the Panoram Kodak. When held vertically, most artistic panel pictures are obtainable, such waterfalls, mountains etc. Simplicity itself. Loaded and unloaded in daylight.*

The camera has had an important role in history. For example, the Baldwin Ziegler expedition of 1903-1905 attempted to be first to reach the North Pole and took images with the Kodak No 1 Panoram camera. Also, the 1921 reconnaissance of Mount Everest used this camera.

The Kodak Panoram number 1 camera, which is on sale at Cecilia's On Tasman in Opunake.

of the roll film in the 1880s resolved this technical impasse. Yet it was not until the later invention of the flexible silver bromide films

that the panoramic camera achieved its optimal success and popularity. The Kodak panorama camera permits an instantaneous exposure over

an extensive field of vision by an analogous turning of the lens and by a slit shutter passing in front of the film. The design of this camera

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Stronger action needed to ensure ETS fit for purpose

Greenpeace say they welcome the Climate Change Commission's latest recommendations on Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) settings, and says the advice should not only be accepted but should be binding and free from political interference. The Commission's advice for 2024-2028 warns that further action is needed to correct the Emissions Trading Scheme, after Government announcements last year collapsed emissions prices, preventing meaningful emissions reductions. "The Commission's

recommendations must be binding to ensure that the ETS actually leads to a cut in climate pollution that's in line with our national and international climate commitments," says Greenpeace climate campaigner, Christine Rose. The advice comes following a decision made by the Government late last year to reject advice to raise the price of ETS units, as a result of the cost of living crisis. "Addressing the climate crisis and the cost of living crisis needs to happen simultaneously. One cannot be addressed at the expense of the other. To trade off

action on climate change against the cost of living is short-sighted - and will leave both people and the environment suffering as a result of inaction," says Rose "At present, the Emissions Trading Scheme is also hamstrung by the fact that it only addresses half of New Zealand's emissions. The agriculture industry, and in particular intensive dairy, is New Zealand's biggest climate polluter, and is currently exempt from the Emissions Trading Scheme. The sector has proven completely unwilling to reduce its emissions, yet has been handed the power

to develop its own pricing scheme - He Waka Eke Noa - which will reduce emissions by only about 1%. "That's nowhere near the action we need. The Government must scrap He Waka Eke Noa, and bring agriculture fully into the Emissions Trading Scheme, to make the system fit for purpose - actually addressing the climate crisis." **Next issue will be published on Thursday May 4. We look forward to your contributions.**

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Spare - by Prince Harry

At 210 pages the autobiography of Prince Harry is an extremely revealing account of Henry Charles Albert David of Wales, who was born on September 15, 1984. Published by Penguin Random House, London, the book sold 1.4 million copies on its very first day of release.

Prince Harry, as he is mostly called, or Captain Wales, to give him his military title, is astonishingly open about his life, including his differences with members of his family including Prince William who strangely always refers to him as 'Harold.'

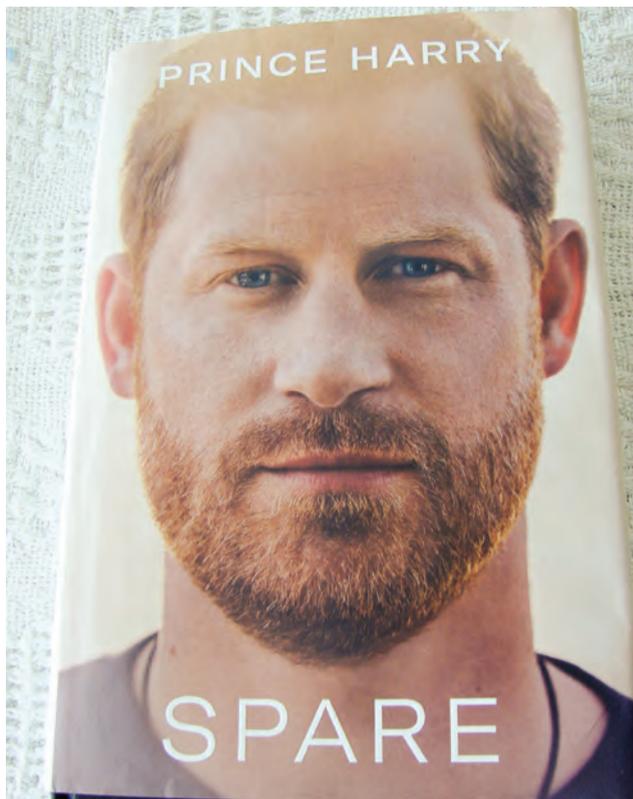
Interesting, are the names Harry uses throughout the book; for example, King Charles is always 'Pa,' his mother Princess Diana is 'Mummy,' Queen Elizabeth is 'Granny' and the Queen Mother 'Gan Gan.' Curiously, even in early middle age his father always refers to his youngest son as 'Darling Boy.'

Although his frequent differences with William are thoroughly covered, his strongest words are reserved for the media (referred to as paparazzi or pap for short), whom he considers were the main reason for making his mother's life a misery and ultimately causing her death in the Paris car accident. He has little time for the suggestion that the accident on August 30, 1997 was caused by the driver's excessive alcohol intake.

His most dramatic incident with William involved an physical altercation. "...he knocked me to the floor." (page 359).

"I'm proud of myself. I didn't hit him back." (page 360).

Harry is obviously severely disturbed by the loss of his mother, which has contributed to struggles with his mental state. For some time he was convinced that his mother was not dead, but had faked her 'death' to escape from the harassment, primarily by the intrusive



The front cover of Spare.

media.

Harry is open about his cigarette smoking, his alcohol intake – sometimes to the point of drunkenness, his early introduction to marijuana "...I smoked an entire shopping bag of weed. I don't recommend it." (page 93) and later cocaine.

His reaction to his stepmother Camilla is mixed, but he tries to accept her to make his father happy, but with a proviso: Please don't marry her (William has the same plea).

Harry has been criticised for documenting the number of soldiers he killed while on tour in either Afghanistan or Iraq. He compared it to taking pieces off a chess board. He justified the 'kills' by pointing out that it saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and was "Doing my job. What we'd trained for." (page 212).

Some claims he makes seem unlikely, notably that Camilla and Charles (or their staff) would make things hard for him so it reflected positively on themselves, which seems a bit far-fetched. "...launched a new campaign of getting good press for Pa and Camilla at the expense of bad press for

us." (page 361).

His time at school, firstly Ludgrove, was difficult because he was not especially academic and he got into some scrapes. "There was one particular teacher who, whenever he caught me, would give me a tremendous clout, always with a copy of the New English Bible made me feel bad about myself, bad about the teacher and bad about the bible." (page

36). Later came Eton where William demanded that they pretend they didn't know each other, which Harry found upsetting.

Various girlfriends are mentioned, with the media involved in harassment and even illegal surveillance. "She (Chelsea) was freaking out ... check the underside of the car. Sure enough: tracking device."

Finally, Harry meets Meghan Markle and some elements of the media unleashed what can only be described as a hate campaign against her, maybe contributing to a miscarriage. There are also death threats (but not from the media). The couple's shift to the United States became inevitable

as Megan's mental health is compromised by the unpleasant campaign, resulting in suicidal feelings "... she didn't trust herself to be at home for even an hour with such dark feelings." (page 358).

This superbly written book, which I thoroughly recommend, has so much more, such as the formation of the Invictus Games, time spent with Queen Elizabeth, Harry's special closeness to Africa, his treks to both the North Pole and South Pole (and his frostbitten penis!) and famous people he has met such as Nelson Mandela and the Spice Girls. Don't be put off by the controversial aspects the media has focused on, this is a remarkable book

for all to read.

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Another Dog Walk success

Despite the wind and occasional showers and with much canine excitement and chatter a group of dedicated dog walkers set off from Sinclairs Event Centre on Saturday 1 April, as a fundraiser for Hearing Dogs New Plymouth. As a result of our walks, Opunake Lakeside Lions are proud to be donating \$500 to this worthy service.

Nearly everyone completed the walk along the clifftops to the lake, around the lake circuit, and back to the beginning, the last of us wandering in five minutes before a torrential burst of rain. Every dog received a chewy gift for braving the weather (or was it their owners braving



the weather?), and special prizes went to Chuck the American Bulldog who had as many lie-downs along the way as walking, and Hugo the Fox Terrier whose owner completed the loop with a hip injury. A pretty awesome effort.

It was great to see walkers make new like-minded friends and all the dogs socializing. We have been asked Will we hold another Dog Walk? Let's see what next summer brings.

Opunake Lakeside Lions

Left: Denis and Hugo after their incredible effort with Diane from Opunake Lakeside Lions.



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Autumn is the time of year to tackle a garden project. Perhaps your herb garden needs an overhaul or may-be start one from scratch? Herbs can be grown in pots on the windowsill, on the patio or in a garden bed close to your kitchen.

A time for herbs



Herbs aplenty of many varieties.

Herbs add beauty, colour and texture to the garden, so include them in with flowers and vegetables as well. Some herbs are a natural deterrent to unwanted insects so are perfect for the organic gardener. Herbs need sunshine, good drainage and like soil with added compost. Water little and often - so they don't dry out - but don't saturate. Small leaved varieties such as thyme and rosemary come from the Mediterranean, so

like open sunny spots with protection from cold winds. Aromatic herbs such as basil and coriander prefer a more sheltered position and don't like to be overwatered. Herbs produce better and grow into a bushier plant when regularly picked or trimmed. Regular replacement of plants that have lost their vigour ensures that you have a full plant to pick from and can discourage disease. Leafy herbs should be harvested just before the plant

flowers, when the concentration of aromatic oils is high. Watch for aphids and use a spraying oil if needed. Our picks to get your herb garden started - parsley, rosemary, and chives. At Palmers we stock many varieties of thyme - why not try two or three?

Plant mint in a pot on its own as it can take over. Leave basil and coriander for later as these herbs are best planted in summer.

Matthews

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Cost of dying crisis for low-income families

Eligible low-income families are facing heart wrenching decisions when it comes to farewelling their loved ones, according to a Funeral Directors Association member survey.

On 1 April the Work and Income (WINZ) Funeral Grant increased 7% to \$2,445, as part of an annual CPI adjustment, but it still only covers a third of the cost of a simple ceremony and burial.

“While we welcome the increase, the grant continues to be woefully inadequate when covering the most basic costs of a funeral – that’s because a simple funeral with cremation

costing an average of \$6,500 and a simple funeral with a burial upwards of \$8,400,” says Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand Chief Executive Gillian Boyes.

And the issue is set to get worse with council fees for burials and cremations expected to increase again this year, alongside rising material costs and general inflation.

“We are concerned that real harm is being caused by the inequalities surrounding access to what should be a basic human and cultural right – to be able farewell a loved one with dignity and respect.”

The concern was illustrated by the Association’s recent membership survey, with the inadequacy of the grant meaning some families are forced to choose to have little to no ceremony, while direct cremation is the only option for others.

One Manawatu member commented; “We try to keep things to a minimum when we know that hardship and money is a problem, but the basics of council fees for a cremation or a burial alone are not covered (by the grant).”

Ms Boyes says that this has a variety of concerning impacts, with potential long-term effects for ethnic

communities and low-income families who are not able to adequately farewell a loved one.

“Families, who would prefer a burial for religious or cultural reasons are left choosing between either taking on unaffordable loan from a third-tier lender or borrowing from friends or family in order to provide an appropriate funeral service.”

Significant financial pressure is also being placed on funeral directors, which Ms Boyes says could ultimately result in geographical gaps in service.

“Some of our members are left accepting small drip feed payments which

threaten their own long-term viability. One of our Waikato members commented that some families continue part-paying for years, while an Auckland member noted the significant financial liability on their business saying that families end up having to pay over a number of months.”

“These pressures are being severely felt in our provincial communities. In the last four years, Ministry of Social Development figures show the number of Funeral Grants distributed in the Taranaki region increased 37%, while in Waikato they increased 22%, demonstrating a real need in our communities.

Ms Boyes says that it is critical that the Funeral Grant is increased to properly support the most vulnerable in our communities.

Funeral Grants are an asset tested hardship grant intended to contribute to the essential costs of a simple funeral, with approximately 5,000 grants issued each year.

Other than annual CPI adjustments, the last meaningful increase to Funeral Grants was 20 years ago. The Association has been advocating on behalf of its members for the Funeral Grant to be increased since 2000.



LEFT: Floral tributes are just one associated cost for the bereaved to pay for.

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Electroconvulsive therapy relieves depression better than ketamine

A meta-analysis of five trials, with a total of around 280 patients has found electroconvulsive therapy to be slightly better than ketamine after a major depressive episode. The study showed ECT, which

involves a brief electrical stimulation of the brain while the patient is under anesthesia, also had lower remission rates. However the researchers say the effect was relatively small, and there are more severe

potential side effects to ECT, so ketamine trials should also be offered to patients considering the therapy

JAMA Psychiatry



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New nurse practitioner adds value to Taranaki Aged Residential Care

After more than five years of extramural study, Maria Escarlan can proudly call herself a nurse practitioner after completing her master's degree in nursing through the University of Otago last year.

Maria fell in love with aged care nursing after moving to New Zealand from the Philippines in 2010. It was this passion combined with her desire to constantly provide patients with positive ageing experiences, that inspired her to study to become a nurse practitioner.

Years of working in Aged Residential Care

(ARC) meant Maria knew the demands on General Practitioners (GPs) were increasing and could see that by becoming a nurse practitioner, she'd gain a skillset that would enable her to provide a higher level of care and help more patients.

As a nurse practitioner, Maria is now a clinical nurse specialist in ARC for Te Whatu Ora in Taranaki. Maria's days are spent providing external clinical support to 26 Aged Residential Care (ARC) facilities across Taranaki, says Diana Fergusson, interim director of nursing Te Whatu Ora in Taranaki.



Maria Escarlan.

"Maria supports ARC facilities to proactively identify and intervene in medical geriatric issues to help ease the burden on GPs and reduce the number of elderly visiting the

Emergency Department and being admitted to hospital," Diana continues.

For Maria, being a nurse practitioner means getting satisfaction from being able to provide a holistic service, nursing and health care to the older people population who are residing in ARC facilities, she says.

"I'm now able to look beyond just treating the ailment by first considering non-medical intervention and if needed, prescribing pharmacological intervention," says Maria. "This provision of an advanced nursing service is hugely valuable to

ARC patients because they can stay in their environment, minimising or preventing inappropriate ED presentation or hospitalisations."

Becoming a nurse practitioner was intense and no easy feat and Maria says there were several people along her journey whose support has been invaluable. Special mentions must go to her mentors Wendy Walsh, also a nurse practitioner specialist in gerontology and a primary medical provider to ARC facilities, and Dr Victoria Stiebel who is a consultant geriatrician.

"These two both helped

me push myself to become better each day."

Maria also received informal mentorship from nurse practitioners at Te Whatu Ora in Taranaki, and encouragement from the nursing management team. She describes the continuous support from the older people's health department as integral and is particularly grateful to Dr Di Stokes, the consultant geriatricians and gerontology nurse specialists, whose regular medical case reviews have and will continue to help Maria improve her diagnostic skills.

Kaponga WI learn about Lifeline

The speaker at the April meeting of Kaponga WI was Elizabeth Davies – a fellow WI member of Lower Mangorei WI and formerly a longstanding member of Mangatoki WI. After Elizabeth and her husband moved to New Plymouth from their farm in 2001 she was looking for something to pour her energy into and so became a volunteer for Lifeline. A 24 hour service, Lifeline is a safe, effective and confidential service

to support the emotional and mental wellbeing of callers in their time of need covering a wide range of issues. Elizabeth completed extensive training before commencing the many years she was there for the community. There is no longer a group providing this in Taranaki now, however the National helpline is effective in the same way. Elizabeth was thanked for her very enlightening insight into

Lifeline and given a gift. The meeting which was held at the home of hostess Dene Lines ably assisted by Rosalie Gibson began with the aspirations. We were joined by our past member Shirley O'Rourke and her daughter Kathy. So special to spend that time with Shirley who we had so many lovely years with, but due to her poor health now is unable to be with us on a regular basis. The roll call "A moment from 60 or 70 years ago" was

very entertaining. Sharyn Hurley recalled how Joy Eliason taught her the piano (and produced her music books complete with the teachers comments) and Fiona Collins taught Sharyn at school.

A morning tea is to be held in honour of member Margaret Broomhall who has resigned due to ill health. We will very much miss Margaret who has been a regular. Best Wishes Margaret.

Fiona gave an excellent report on the recent AGM held in Kapuni. Our members ran a very successful sales table with no leftovers thanks to the persuasive actions of our president Jo Ellis and Jo was given the Silver dish in 'appreciation'. Congratulations to Jo also for the winning entries in the competitions which will go on to Timaru.

Fiona Collins will be a visitor at the forthcoming national AGM in Timaru.

Competition Results; Coconut Ice. 1. Jo Ellis. 2. Diane West. 3. Dene Lines. Uncooked Fudge Slice. 1. Gillian Frandsen and Dene Lines and Jo Ellis. 2. Rosalie Gibson, Diane West and Nan Stokes. Prettiest Tea Towel. 1. Dene Lines. 2. Rayleen Mc Donald. 3. Gillian Frandsen

Carolyn Nicholas



President Jo Ellis thanks speaker Elizabeth Davies.



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Inspiring future farmers

Taranaki Enviroschools' Ag + Hort (agriculture and horticulture) programme is keen to inspire tamariki through on-farm learning experiences.

Farm demonstrations will take place at Dairy Trust Taranaki's four research farms covering different topics like soil health, reducing emissions and sustainable land use options.

Recently, the Enviroschools team took 50 students from Stratford Primary and Stratford High School on a field trip to Dairy Trust's 51ha Stratford farm to learn all about nitrate leaching in pastoral farming.

Students and teachers were fascinated by a current farm trial which uses a technology called "Spikey" - a machine with spikes that hitches onto the back of a 4-wheeler or tractor and can detect urine patches in pastures. Spikey



Tamariki getting an up close look at the Spikey machine.

works by releasing a product on each patch of urine that inhibits nitrification.

Taranaki Regional Council Enviroschools Coordinator Lauree Jones attended the farm demonstration.

"We're super excited about our Ag + Hort programme this year as we have so many cool projects lined up. Our trip to the Stratford farm was a great way to kick it all off. I think

everyone, myself included, left the farm that day feeling positive about the future of farming."

Dairy Trust General Manager of Operations Jason Rolfe emphasises the importance of the Trust's mission to educate and ensure the future viability of farming in Taranaki.

"A key part of our business

is providing opportunities for tamariki to visit our farms and learn about the trials we are running. Here at Dairy Trust Taranaki, growing the next generation of farmers, scientists and rural professionals is a key strategic goal of the Trust. The questions asked and ideas shared by the tamariki were fantastic and provided a different perspective that we often don't hear enough from."

Taranaki Regional Council coordinates the

Enviroschools programme in Taranaki, working alongside regional partners. At the start of 2023, 48 schools and 25 kindergartens in Taranaki participate in the Enviroschools programme. That's more than 9,000 students. The kaupapa of Enviroschools is about the well-being of the whole school, community and ecosystem. The aim is to foster a generation of young people who instinctively think and act sustainably.



Enviroschools Stratford Primary and Stratford High School gather in front of the Dairy Trust office to hear plan for the day.

Ballance board welcomes new Associate Director

Ballance Agri-Nutrients have announced that Olivia Buckley has been appointed as the new Associate Director for the board.

Olivia is a Te Kuiti based vet and an owner and Director of Eight Mile Farms Ltd, a family farming operation, which integrates dairy and forestry with several sheep and beef properties.

"On behalf of the Ballance Board, I want to welcome and congratulate Olivia for being appointed to this highly sought after role," says Duncan Coull, Ballance Chair.

"We were very encouraged by the calibre and interest in this role, which gives hands on training to those wanting to grow their experience



Olivia Buckley.

in governance. Olivia's background and aspirations to continue to contribute to building a sustainable future for the sector through governance roles sits well with the objective of

growing the governance acumen of future leaders for the primary sector."

"This role will provide Olivia with the opportunity to learn how a co-operative Board operates, working collaboratively and actively participating with Directors," says Duncan.

"I am grateful to Ballance for providing me with this opportunity to begin my governance journey. In 2017 I completed a AWDT (Agri-Women's Development Trust) Escalator Course in leadership, governance, analytical and strategic thinking."

"This Associate Director's position provides an excellent opportunity for me to observe and participate in governance while developing my leadership skills," says Olivia.

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Effluent bladder tank best practices

Whether you're considering a bladder tank for effluent storage, or you already have one, here's what you need to know about best practice use...



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clear while emptying.

Stir regularly

Keeping the effluent well mixed is imperative to ensure solids do not settle at the bottom or for crust and weeds to form on top. It also helps to keep the biological activity alive, providing higher nutrient value.

Keep it fenced

Despite bladder tanks



It's important to choose a bladder tank that's fit for purpose.

being a closed effluent storage solution, and safer with no risk of people falling in, it is still recommended

they are fenced off. Fencing reduces the risk of livestock, children, or anyone else tampering with

the valves which could have undesirable consequences.

Maintenance checks

Although bladder tanks

designed for storing effluent are almost indestructible, it's always advisable to check them for any signs of wear or damage every now and again. Repair kits are available should you notice anything that needs attending to.

When selecting a bladder tank for storing effluent it is important to choose one built for purpose. Bladder tanks designed for storing water will typically use a thinner material and not include a lot of the durability features required to store effluent, resulting in higher maintenance requirements.

Lloyd Thomas
Nevada Effluent
Management Specialist

Rainy weather continues through March

Rainfall for March was on average 128.4% of the long-term average, and ranged from 64% at Brooklands Zoo at New Plymouth to 189% at Waitotara at

Ngutuwaera., according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

Year to date rainfall is sitting between 102% (Waiwhakaiho at Hillsborough) and 236% (Whanganui at Mataimona Trig) with an average of 146.7% of normal. Compared to typical full year totals, sites on average have already received 25.9% of a typical year's rainfall, with the highest value 35% at Whanganui at Mataimona Trig, whereas Mangorei Upper at Forest Hill sits at 18% of the typical year's total.

Mean river flows for March were 144.5% of typical values, low flows were 246.2%, and high flows 151.4%, of typical values.

Mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 16°C, an average of -0.5°C different to long-term March values. Night-time-low water temperatures were on average -0.8°C cooler than historic lows, and daytime high temperatures were on average -0.9°C below historic highs.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 16°C, which is -0.9°C relative to long-term March averages. Low air temperatures for March were on average -2°C cooler than the March average for previous years. Daytime high temperatures were on average -1.1°C below historic highs.

Mean soil moistures for March were 6.33% higher than typical historical values. On average, low soil moistures were 12.5%



wetter than previous lows, and the average difference of the highs was 0.7% relative to previous highs for March. The average soil moisture was 29.3%.

March soil temperatures were generally -0.4°C

relative to the long-term average. Average night-time low soil temperatures were -0.8°C relative to recorded lows, and upper daytime soil temperatures were on average -0.8°C relative to long-term March highs.

Plants let out sounds when stressed

Tomato and tobacco plants let out sounds when they're stressed, according to international researchers who say that when the plants are dehydrated or have their stems cut they let out popping sounds. The team says that the

frequency of these sounds is too high for our ears to detect, but can probably be heard by insects, other mammals, and maybe even other plants. The researchers used microphones to record healthy and stressed tomato

and tobacco plants and then trained a machine-learning algorithm to differentiate between unstressed plants, thirsty plants, and cut plants. The team found that stressed plants emit more sounds than unstressed plants.

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FREESURF Youth Opunake run surf competition

The inaugural Opunakē Surfswars Competition was held at Opunakē Main Beach, Thursday 13 April 2023. 43 Taranaki children, 5 – 14 years old, showed their best surfing for cash prizes in two-foot consistent surf. The one-day event was organised by FREESURF Youth Opunakē coordinators, Cain and Bianca Aldridge. Cain said “the aim of the day was to give the local kids a competition experience while making new friends. We want to encourage surfing as a sport and see kids motivating other kids to use our greatest Opunakē asset – the Main Beach.”



A good day out in the surf.

Cain has wanted to run a kids’ surf competition for years and is grateful that event restrictions have lifted. Cain hopes that more local competition will help Taranaki kids perform well at national events, such as the Sticky Johnson Primary School National Championships held annually in Gisborne. In Opunakē Surfswars four to five competitors surfed per heat; each child surfed twice and accumulated points

to gain a place in the finals. Under 9 Years Mixed winner Fraser Brown of Oākura said “I think I’m doing so well because I surf every day. I think the way to get better is to practice lots.”

The kids were encouraged to show good character throughout the day to win the ‘Dave Mason Character Award.’ Dave Mason passed

away this month outside his Stent Rd home surfing. He was a local surfboard shaper/artist and a great friend to Cain. Dave spent time with the local FREESURF Youth and encouraged them to never give up having fun in the water or on the mountain. Dave’s daughter, Hazel Mason came to show support for the kids in honour of her dad. The award went

to Skyler Hunn, who as a hardcore local, was kind and welcomed everyone to her home beach. Five-year-old Zen Bannoche was another good character on the day, who stopped surfing in his

heat to check his friend, Sid Gibson, was OK when his foot was hit by another surfboard. Zen didn’t go back out to finish his heat until he knew his friend was OK. Cody Aldridge (7 years

old) said, “It was fun and exciting, and we made heaps of friends.”

Under 9 Years Mixed – 1. Fraser Brown (Oākura), 2. Zen Bannoche (Opunakē), 3. Sid Gibson (Opunakē), 4. Isla Brown (Opunakē).

Under 12 Years Girls – 1. Mayana Larsen (Opunakē), 2. Elsa Lind-Mitchell (Ōkato), 3. Frankie Campbell (Opunakē), 4. Anne Bannoche (Opunakē).

Under 12 Years Boys – 1. Zion Aldridge (Opunakē), 2. Koa Gillespie (Oākura), 3. London Cockerill (Fitzroy), Joel Becroft (Ōkato).

Under 14 Years Girls – 1. Izaro Williamson-Sasia (Fitzroy), 2. Ava Lind-Mitchell (Ōkato), 3. Ruby Stenning (Bell Block), 4. Skyler Hunn (Opunakē).

Under 14 Years Boys – 1. Benjamin Dixon (Oākura), 2. Joel Becroft (Ōkato), 3. Logan Verster (Fitzroy), 4. Zion Aldridge (Opunakē).

Collaborative project looks to better understand E.coli

A collaborative project between DairyNZ and the Nguturoa Catchment Group in the Manawatu aims to understand, model and manage E.coli in rural waterways.

This five-year project will help understand sources and sinks of E.coli (bacteria). In doing so, it will deliver options for reducing E.coli losses from rural land to streams, and inform regulations with respect to what mitigation levels are achievable in pastoral-dominated catchments.

DairyNZ will be involved in all aspects of the project, including research, field work, determining policy implications of findings and engagement with farmers.

DairyNZ general manager sustainable dairy, Dr David Burger, says the project will give DairyNZ

a better understanding of E.coli processes in farming catchments. “This will mean we can better build models to develop and demonstrate options for farmers to reduce losses and help build regulatory understanding.

“This project is part of DairyNZ’s ongoing work to support farmers to reduce environmental footprint while continuing to run successful farming businesses. Farmers and the sector have a wide range of initiatives underway on-farm to improve water quality, and we acknowledge there is more work to be done,” Dr Burger says.

The Nguturoa Catchment Group was formed in 2020, after farmers and landowners along the Nguturoa Stream in the Manawatu-Whanganui region began a study into water quality.

Terry Parminter of KapAg, who provides technical support to the group, says the farmers and landowners wanted precise information to establish their farming priorities for improving the waterway and monitoring the effects of management changes.

Monthly sampling and testing were carried out across the catchment. Results showed that E.coli levels were at times elevated compared to national standards, so solutions to address this were needed.

The Nguturoa catchment runs from the ranges behind Linton to the Tokomaru River and down to the Manawatu River. It comprises dairy, sheep and cattle farmers and lifestyle block owners.



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Six Barbwire boxers at Karapiro corporate fight event

Six local fighters will be giving it their all when they enter the ring in just over a week's time.

The six fighters from the Barbwire Boxing Gym in Opunake will take part in the Iron Fist 14 Showdown at the Sir Don Rowland Centre on the banks of Lake Karapiro on April 29.

For one fighter it will be his first fight, while another will be in another fight only a week later.

"To have six fighters going away from a small community like Opunake is literally unheard of," says

James (Batman) Langton of Barbwire Boxing. "All the fighters have been putting in a huge amount of work to get fit."

For O.G. Robinson it will be his first fight, and James says he is impressed with the commitment he has shown.

"He's got his weight down from 120kg to 95kg which is a huge achievement, and he's really dedicated to losing the last 5kg he has to lose in the next 14 days."

Caleb Parete is looking forward to his second fight, following on from his win at the Battle for the Pacific

at the Walter Nash Stadium in Lower Hutt late last year. Only a week after the Iron Fist he is due to fight at the Taranaki v Aotearoa Hybrid Fight Night at the YMCA in New Plymouth on May 6. Before the year is out there will also be the Coastal Rumble on July 8, another fight in September and the Hawera Rumble in December. After that James says he hopes Caleb can have his first professional bout some time in 2024.

Also having his second fight is Gabriel Winter whose last fight was a loss in



Barbwire Boxing competitors competing at the Iron Fist Showdown.

Wellington a couple of years ago. James says Gabriel has had to miss a few training sessions because of injuries.

"He's shown a lot of courage in getting back into the ring. There's a saying that you win or you learn. In boxing you never lose."

Bobby Katene is due to take on Jahray Strange who has had three kick boxing fights.

"Bobby fighting an experienced fighter and he's sparring exceptionally well," says James. "I hope he can continue his winning streak."

The other Barbwire boxers competing are Hamish Rowe and Liam Kupu.

"Hamish is probably one of the most improved fighters in the club, and he's up against someone who has had a couple of kick boxing fights, so he's really got his back up against the wall," says James. "It will be a real opportunity for him to show himself what he's made of against a fighter who is far more experienced. Hamish has got a nice build and long arms. He uses these long arms to jab nicely with a one-two punch."

"Liam is a warrior who is always going forward, and always firing the first punch."

James says he is pleased with the amount of local interest being shown in the event and the number of people planning to make the trip to Cambridge.

"I'm blown away by the amount of support from the community and we'd like to thank everyone involved in this event. I've never heard of another club taking six fighters away to a corporate event before."

Good weekend for Opunake at lifesaving champs

Opunake Surf lifesaving Club teams enjoyed some success at the bp New Zealand IRB Championships at Waihi Beach on April 15-16.

Teams from Opunake made it through to the finals of the Under-19 Female Mass Rescue and the Under-19 Male Mass Rescue events with a win and a fourth place in the female event and fifth and sixth placings in the male events.

The Opunake I am Working team of Bella Pivac (driver),

Ella Griggs (Crew Person), Alika Hunn (Patient) and Lucy Midgely (Patient 2) had won the Under-19 Female Mass Rescue after having finished second in their semifinal. The Opunake Road Trip team of Holly Horo (driver), Maddy Drought (crewperson), Bernie Vanner (Patient One) and Kate Midgely (Patient Two) finished third in the same semifinal and went on to place fourth in the final.

In the Under-19 Male Mass Rescue, the two Opunake teams of Opunake Mountain

Climbers and Opunake free and lovely finished second in their semifinals.

The Opunake Mountain Climbers team of Harrison Martins(driver), Cayden Marsh (Crew Person), Melah Sinclair (Patient One) and Kate Midgely (Patient 2) finished fifth in the final while the Opunake free and lovely team of Charlie Rankin (driver), Alex Bengston (Crew Person), George Olliver (Patient One) and Lucy Midgely (Patient Two) finished sixth.



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Coastal Premiers v NPOB

It was back home to Rahoitu for our first home game of the season to play NPOB, the team that most people say will be the team to beat in this year's competition. After the previous week's disappointing effort we put a lot of emphasis on putting on a better display. Having current All Black and Chiefs lock Josh Lord being made available by Chiefs management was a huge boost and gave us big momentum heading into the Good Friday clash, and with the return of Chris Gawler our loose head prop and our new season captain the intensity was on to put in a big performance. We won the toss and played with a strong breeze at our back. We wanted to start well with a good crowd in attendance. We did start well and matched OB in all areas of play. Our set piece was excellent, our lineout was dominant with great throwing and plenty of tall timber to win us a steady supply of quality ball. Our scrum which was a major problem the week before was the opposite this week as we pushed OB back on a number of occasions, but unfortunately the only person in the ground who thought it wasn't legal was the man carrying the whistle. It stymied a lot of our play as we were penalised on a number of occasions while showing dominance which was frustrating for us. OB crossed for the only scoring play of the first half at about the 20-minute mark with a well worked try to make it 0-7 at halftime. After some stern words we turned into a strong wind. We were playing so much better than our first game. Our continuity was so much better. Daniel Crowley was running a



Kusi Dravna with Callum Tito and Kobe Sinclair in support.

good cutter at 9 with his snipes and competitive nature demanding plenty out of the pack. We finally managed to get on the board with a penalty kick by Jackson Sinclair. We let ourselves down with clearing our end from kickoff and OB crashed over to make it 12-3. Our defence was very solid, with Jeremy Newell and Blake Barrett and Beau Pari knocking OB players over behind the advantage line and with Cullum Tito making a couple of bone shakers on his more fancied opposition. Then Kusi Druana our fullback made our best play of the game off a kick return. His blistering pace and hot feet almost managed to go 65m beating many OB defenders showing what an exciting player he's going to be this season. Josh Lord looked like he was going to score his first try ever for Coastal but eventually Jackson Sinclair finished out wide to score to make it 12-8. After a long period OB scored again making it

17-8 and it looked like we were going to come out of the game with nothing. In the 78th minute we were awarded a penalty to the right of the posts and took the shot to make it 17-11 final score and a bonus point to give us something to take out of the game. All our bench that came on added plenty and we kept attacking to the end. Special mention to replacement halfback Kurt Hofman on debut as an 18 year-old who hasn't even trained with the team and gave it plenty and certainly didn't look out of his depth and showed with the other six or so players who are under 21 in the squad for the game that Coastal has a great talent pool coming through. We like to mention our supporters who turned out much appreciated and all the club's sponsors. It was great to see so many young kids running around the ground and having a fun day put on by the club. It brought back memories of when we were younger at the footy, and gives

the club a good feel and hopefully a few more budding Josh Lords and Ben Brophys coming through. Lastly cheers to Josh for fronting this week. His professional approach was good for the younger fellas in the team to see. He's a great bloke and an awesome player, and I'm sure we will see him in France in the black jersey trying to bring home the Webb Ellis Trophy. If anything it's great to see the best players playing for their clubs and I challenge the NZRFU that all All Blacks should connect with their clubs one game a season as it's great for grassroots rugby that has had a tough time over the last few seasons with player numbers and Covid. It hasn't been easy for all clubs and plus there are three other Barretts we would love to see in Green at some stage.

Our player of the day was Cullum Tito 3, Ropata Taylor 2 and one point shared one each to Jackson Sinclair and Daniel Crowley. Ride the wave



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Coastal Premiers v Tukapa

We travelled to Saunders Park for our third game of the season to play Tukapa, so things weren't getting any easier for us looking for our first win.

It officially was captain Chris Gawler's 50th match so the boys were looking for a big game to honour that.

We started very well playing an expansive game stretching Tukapa from side to side. Our set piece was looking outstanding our lineout working well and scrum going well.

After 10 reset scrums we finally crashed over with a try to hard working lock Dylan Schuler, and with Jackson Sinclair converting we were off to our best start of the season up 7-0 in the 12th minute.

At the 18-minute mark Tukapa hit back after a couple of errors to tie the game up.

At the 25th minute Kobe Sinclair scored a long-range strike after a pinpoint accurate kick by his brother Jackson. Kusi regathered and batted it to Kobe to run 50 metres to score wide out starting a good game for all three for the day. Jackson converted a sideline conversion to give us a 14-7 deserved lead.

Tukapa kicked a long penalty to take it too 14-10.

Then after the kickoff a great kick again by Jackson fielded by Kusi fed to Kobe who made the last pass to Callum Tito to dash away to score again to give us 24-10.

Then at the 38 minute Cullum Tito was accidentally kicked in the jaw by a stray boot from a tackle.

He crashed to the ground and thankfully the ref stopped play for a number

of minutes as Cullum was dealt with by both the physio helping him, and luckily the touch judge Chris Morrison who is a doctor, so we thank them for that.

We changed to the second field and rejigged the backline and Daniel Crowley who was having a storming game at 9 was moved to the midfield.

Kurt Hofman came on for his second game of the day and played his guts out. The guy has a huge ticker and a big future ahead of him.

After halftime Tukapa struck early to close the gap to 19-17.

Then in our last scoring play of the game after the 50 minute mark, Jackson Sinclair fielded a high kicked threw a slick pass to Kusi Druana who used his blistering pace to coast into the corner to make it 26-17 with another tough

conversion 23 to play topping off a great day for him.

Then Tukapa scored to make it 26-24. we led until the 73rd minute when they crashed over again to take their first lead of the game and a final score of 31-26. A gutting loss.

For Coastal it was a great effort by all, a huge step up, and an exciting game to watch.

I think we suffered as our injury toll was high leading into the game and we never had the fresh legs to come off the bench to get us home, but it is what it is and we will be back this Saturday at Rahotu to play Stratford Eltham so things ain't going to get any easier. It is a fairly even competition although a few scores blew out at the weekend which was surprising.

We wish Cullum a speedy

recovery. It wasn't nice to watch and hopefully he will be OK in a month.

Player of the day was Chris Gawler congrats for 50 games. He sets a great standard and is very respected by his team mates. He is always positive and so good with the young guys, and I'm sure he lifts the crowd attendance with his big muscles and his pretty boy face.

Kusi scored 2 mvp points and Mr Reliable Beni Kalin the 1 of a number of guys who could have scored points. Luca Cassidy our big lock had some storming runs and with his locking partner Schuler kept Tukapa on their toes.

It would be nice to see a good turnout against Stratford Eltham this Saturday at Rahotu. Ride the Wave !!



Daniel Crowley and Josh Lord clearing the ball.

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Coastal Women v Southern

Coastal Women had a strong start to their season against Southern. A good start to the game had the Coastal ladies up 17-10 at half time. The Coastal powerful forward pack were rewarded for their work with Leah Barnard scoring two tries and Jaymi Ngaia

scoring a try, with Beth Cook converting one of those tries. It was going to need a gusty effort from the Coastal women who only had 15 players available. They had to dig deep throughout the game. The second half was always going to be tough, with Southern bringing on

fresh legs. Coastal ladies scored two more tries in the second half through Leah Barnard and Anna Hita, but Southern managed to outscore Coastal to take the win 34-27. The Coastal team were positive about what they had achieved and there were a lot of learnings to

take from the game. Coach Toka Walden said "the line outs were a standout, which lead to strong line out drives." Leah Barnard had a standout game, with her hat trick of tries earning her Coastal player of the game.

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Scott Anderson, Matthew Picard and Sione Fangatua Tuitupo Division 1.

Coastal Women Vs Okaiawa

Coastal Women's second game of the season against Okaiawa was a hard fought game on a hot autumn afternoon. It was a tough battle in the forward packs between the teams. Coastal player of the game Jaymi Ngaia was running with

purpose off the scrum and making upfront tackles. Coastal showed domination in the scrums, and half back Beth Cook made some try saving tackles and she showed some good decision making throughout play. Coastal were leading 12-10

at halftime, but again the lack of subs hurt Coastal with Okaiawa being able to bring on fresh legs, which was the difference. Shinae Minhinnick on debut had a strong first game, showing lots of promise for her future. Coastal finished the end of the second half strongly, scoring two tries and a conversion in the last five minutes, but it wasn't enough to get the win, going down 37-31.

At end of round 2 Leah Barnard was the top try scorer and top point scorer for the CMK Chartered Account-ants Premier Women's Rugby and managed to add another try to the total against Okaiawa. Keep up the great work Leah. Coastal's next game is their first home game of the season on April 22 at Rahoitu against Inglewood at 11.30am. Come and support the Coastal ladies.

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Money raised from running benefits mental health

Sarah Drought has finished the fastest female runner in the Christchurch Half Marathon held on April 16. Sarah who finished 17th overall is donating half her prize winning money to the Mental Health Foundation.

Sarah who is 35 years old and works as a principal policy advisor for the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment in Wellington finished the event with a time of one hour, 13 minutes and 41 seconds. She had grown up on a farm near Opunake where she attended Opunake Primary School and Sacred Heart Girls College. She regularly competed in the Taranaki Cross-Country Championships and later the National Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships.

Sarah says her father had had issues with mental health, and with the Mental Health Foundation being the charity partner for the event she had decided to give half of any prize money to that cause.

"My personal connection motivated me to raise money and use some of my profile as an athlete and my personal connection to encourage other people to



Sarah Drought running for Mental Health Foundation.

donate."

She says she was "blown away" to have raised an extra \$3000 for the Foundation in addition to that being donated from the prize money.

Earlier this year she was a member of the 26-strong New Zealand team competing at the World Cross Country Championships at Bathurst in Australia. She finished 47th in a field of 94 and was the fastest New Zealand woman taking part. Before taking part in the championships she had achieved a win and a Personal Best at the Wellington Half Marathon.

Sarah's grandmother Nevis Brewer says Sarah has always been keen on her running and is continuing to give money she raises from her running to the Mental Health Foundation.

"She gets up and runs at the crack of dawn," she says.

Meanwhile Sarah is looking towards the Wellington winter Harrier season and taking part in the next Wellington Half Marathon which this time will also carry a national title with it.

Taranaki Air Rifles

I would like to point out that no Bunnies blood was spilt in the running of the Easter shoot. But plenty of Easter Hot Cross Buns were eaten.

There was a good turnout of shooters keen to drill holes on the paper rabbits. Now I hear you say, who egg- exactly won? Well three enormous Easter Eggs Gold Silver and bronze were awarded to First Frank Eustace, Second Geoff Coubrough and third to John Costain and fourth to Nigel Kay. Brian Cook had that dreaded sound of an air leak hissing from his rifle so it was a wonder that the last pellets even made the target.

The results were: Frank Eustace 1055, Geoff Coubrough 1010, John Costain 1000; Nigel Kay 960; Keith Zehnder 849; Mark Evans 659; Shane

Roberts 651; Charlene Roberts 637; John Chandler 581; Brian Cook 268.

Many thanks to Karyn and Brian Cook for organising this yearly shoot once again. It was thoroughly enjoyed by every one. The mystical animal rabbit, deer or whatever was provided by Mark Evans and was free for shooters to make their mark. It ended up riddled with holes. Thank you every one for making it the cracking day it was.

At the Pistols at 12.5 metres on April 15, John Costain once again had something for breakfast that we all want. Talk about "A game," John had the best handicap score by heaps with 453 nearly 40 points ahead of Geoff Coubrough on second, only narrowly ahead of Aussie John in third. In fifth was Nigel Kay on 387. There

were three PBs, scored by John Costain, Aussie John and Nigel Kay. As we progress through the season PBs are getting harder to get so congratulations to those three. We had two new shooters for the first time with borrowed pistols, Daniel Chirac and Bradley VD. Merwe who after only three cards managed to score over the 80 mark on a card. I predict if they get their own pistols they are going to be hard to beat in the future. So now scores before handicaps were: John Costain 349, Frank Eustace 356, Aussie John 299, Mark Evans 309, Geoff Coubrough 393, Nigel Kay 307 Daniel Chirac 79,88,78, Bradley V.D. Merwe 58,50,8.

Frank Eustace

Taranaki Indoor Bowls

The Rep trials 2023 season involved an outstanding 32 bowlers.

Trevor Bourne, Taranaki Indoor Bowls Selector had a headache after the first night of trials as everyone played amazing bowls, which made his selecting very difficult

to decide. A few late nights with his little black book and after the second trial he made his decision.

The 2023 Taranaki Rep team to play in Levin for the NWWTH Quad play 15th-16th April is as follows: Rodney Morris (SK), Win

Finlay, Ella Smailies, Allan Duker - Trevor Bourne (SK), Wayne Cameron, Stephen Vince, Jo Corbett - Sue Bourne (SK), Chris Reed (CPT), Andrea Berry, Judith Muggeridge - Martin Harding (SK), Rose Ratahi, Jamie Taylor, Brittany Kivell, Ray Finlay (reserve).



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The Sunshine Boys, yeah right



Al and Willie face off.

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The cast..

Written by Neil Simon who wrote the popular television show *The Odd Couple*, *The Sunshine Boys* at New Plymouth Little Theatre is an endearing comedy.

The main characters are two actors in the twilight of their life who, urged by their agent, agree to resurrect the comedy sketch that was so popular when they used to perform together in a vaudeville act before one decided he'd had enough after 43 years.

The pair however never got on and the petty bickering between them when rehearsing ranging from where to place the chairs to how to respond to a knock on the door to greet the other shows the two are as incompatible as ever and is fuel for a lot of laughs. Perhaps predictably the pair's reconciliation doesn't survive performing the skit before the public as one storms off the set. By the end of the play however it is clear that the two also need each other and in the moving finale, now in a rest home for retired actors, the pair appear reconciled to their differences. It is a touching moment when one places an arm on the shoulder of the other that their affection for each other, despite their turbulent relationship, is clear.

It was an amusing, heart warming play. Well directed by Vivienne Baty who has directed and acted in many past New Plymouth Little Theatre productions. I'm told it was the two main actors who chose the play and a great job they did of bringing the two cantankerous divos

to life.

Dave Rohe delivers a great performance as the obstreperous Willie while Morris West as Al who gives as good as he gets is an equally convincing irascible opponent as the pair argue about pretty much everything.

Mike Bugbee who plays the agent Ben and is also Willie's nephew clearly hoping to gain from the reunion, with his purple suit and slicked back hair oozes oiliness, gives an authentic performance.

I also enjoyed the role of the young nurse in the humorous skit seductively and amusingly played by Delaney Groenwald. The no nonsense registered nurse played by Nicci Smith attending Willie who is now in hospital after a heart attack putting her difficult patient in his place in her broad Scots accent gave a great performance and raised a lot of laughs.

Iain Malloy as Eddie and Steve Wright - who has appeared in *Shortland Street* - in their smaller parts complemented the great cast and the fine acting.

I left the theatre feeling both amused at how small irritations can be very funny, but also moved and uplifted by the ending. A funny comedy with, like a lot of comedy, a message.

The *Sunshine Boys* run at the New Plymouth Little Theatre has been interrupted due to illness. The last four sessions will now take place from May 3-6. Do go along and see it.

Bernice McKellar

NEW PLYMOUTH LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS

THE SUNSHINE BOYS

A CLASSIC COMEDY BY NEIL SIMON

DIRECTED BY VIVIENNE BATY

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The New Plymouth Little Theatre's production of the play *The Sunshine Boys* by Neil Simon has unfortunately been postponed due to illness. The last four sessions will now take place on **May 3 – 6** and not this week.

If you already have tickets through iTICKET, ticket holders will be emailed and the dates will automatically be changed to the corresponding week days in May. If ticket holders can't make that date they can change tickets or get a refund by contacting iTICKET.

If you weren't able to see the play in April now is your chance to grab some tickets for May!

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Final fortnight – Turner ‘Round Taranaki

Merv Turner’s exhibition *Turner ‘Round Taranaki* is in its final fortnight at Hāwera’s Lysaght Watt Gallery.

Over the past couple of weeks, the artist’s oils and watercolours of iconic regional landmarks including Tongapōrutu and Opunake have delighted locals, visitors from other parts of the country and Australia.

Also featured are artworks focusing on another Turner favorite - old, neglected, tumbledown buildings as seen in *Just Memories*, *Otakeho House* and *Tangarakau Mansion*.

A small number of paintings reveal other locations around Aotearoa/ New Zealand or feature British scenes from the artist’s native country.

Also, on display and available to the public is a publication co-produced by Merv and Heather Turner - *A Back Country Dictionary: Remembering the Forgotten Highway* – and which complements the character of this exhibition so well.

The gallery is right next to the town square that



Above: Merv Turner’s *Just Memories, Otakeho House* is on display at Lysaght Watt Gallery.

features in one of Turner’s most vibrant works of the exhibition *Hāwera Market Day*.

The gallery is situated at 4-6 Union Street, Hāwera and opening hours are 10 am - 4 pm Monday to Friday and Saturday 10am to 1 pm.



Right: Merv Turner in his ‘studio’.



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Happy Returns

I’m pleased. A whole van full of my works has come home again. I thought they’d be gone forever.

Purring quietly, I’ve found places for them in my newly cleared studio.

You can see the where and the why on my bit of the Showcase Section of the Virtual Tart website.

And while you’re there, if you haven’t already seen the current exhibition, the *Alchemy of Love* collection by our artist and alchemist Teresa Goodin, do have a look (but not if you’ve got a snake phobia), and send her a message.

Cheers.
Dale Copeland.



Doing Time (Dale Copeland).



TURNER ‘ROUND TARANAKI
MERV TURNER

3 - 29 APRIL 2023

Exhibition Opening: 4.00pm Sunday 2 April

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The Village Gallery Eltham

Church Services

Thursday Brush Strokes 11 April - 5 May

Curated by Karen Waterson. A group of like-minded people from many different walks of life get together each week to try to sort out all the problems of the world and paint.

Started a number of years ago by Jean Franklin, the present members of the group are Lynette Harrison, Eileen Saunders, Sonny Murphy, Gloria Smith, Leanne Bayley, Janice Carroll, Sam Carroll and Karen Waterson. Tony Waterson will also exhibit some of his turned and sculptured woodwork.

Jean Franklin mentored and founded the group teaching many beginner skills in applying paint and creating effects and encouraged complete beginners to have a go.

Her legacy has lived on as they are still meeting today long after she has left the area.

They meet every Thursday in the Baptist Church Hall in Stratford supporting and encouraging each other in their endeavours. The group have discovered the therapeutic benefits from having a creative outlet and are sharing results from their



Above: This wonderful work from Sonny Murphy can be seen at the Village Gallery.

efforts.

It just proved you are never too old to begin something new. The exhibition is a

Below: Leanne Bailey's 'Stag', at The Village Gallery, Eltham.



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 Service - Okato - St. Paul's - Pew for You, every 3rd Thursday of each month, 4.30pm-6.00pm

Opunake Catholic Church
St Martins, Pungarehu: 8.30am every 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
Other areas
Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)
Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am
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The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on May 4, 2023.

THE VILLAGE GALLERY
THURSDAY BRUSH STROKES
11 April - 5 May
curated by Karen Waterson
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Above: Karen Waterson's 'The Joy of Freedom.'

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<p>SHACKLETON Doco 1hr 30mins PG Thursday 20th April 7pm Saturday 29th April 7pm Sunday 30th April 1pm</p>	<p>ALLELUJAH Drama 1hr 39mins M: Sunday 23rd April 7pm</p>
<p>AIR Sport, Drama 1hr 52mins M: Language Friday 21st April 7pm</p>	<p>* ANZAC DAY SCREENINGS * LANCASTER Documentary 1hr 50mins PG Tuesday 25th April 1pm & 7pm</p>
<p>MAVKA Adventure, Fantasy 1hr30mins PG Saturday 22nd April 1pm Thursday 27th April 1pm</p>	<p>RED WHITE & BRASS Comedy, Family 1hr 25mins PG Thursday 27th April 7pm</p>
<p>PAPER SPIDERS Drama 1hr 49mins M: Drug use Friday 28th April 7pm Sunday 30th April 7pm</p>	

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Twice monthly on a Thursday
- TARANAKI PODIATRY**
Every 2nd Wednesday of the month
- BUDGET ADVICE**
Wednesday fortnightly
- HIP**
Every Tuesday

Permanently residing in the building are:

- OPUNAKE PHARMACY,**
- OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE,**
- ST. JOHN AMBULANCE, PLUNKET,**
- TDHB SERVICES, COASTAL PRINTERS, FOODBANK**

For a full list of services & happenings here

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CONTACT ARETHA LEMON
Facility Manager on 06 761 8488

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

COUNTER-CULTURE

What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

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

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.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5.30pm.

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

THURSDAYS

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

Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8277 or 06 761 8337

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

WEEKENDS

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

APRIL 7 TO NOVEMBER 6
State of Nature exhibition: PukeAriki Museum, New Plymouth

APRIL 11 TO MAY 5
Thursday Brush Strokes exhibition: At The Village gallery, Eltham.

APRIL 20
Tumahu Hall AGM: At the Hall, 2417 Wiremu Rd, 7pm.

APRIL 22
Love Shack - the Ultimate 80's Party Band show: Butlers Reef, Oakura.

APRIL 25 (ANZAC DAY)

Manaia Anzac Day Service: Starts at 6.30am. from Manaia Bowling Club and RSA Rooms.

Warea and Pungarehu Anzac service and social: At the Cape Egmont Boat Clubrooms, Warea, 1pm.

APRIL 29

Taranaki Iwi Rahui Update: Sinclairs Events Centre, Opunake, 10am.

MAY 1

Opunake & Districts Business Association monthly meeting: Opunake Business centre, 5.30pm.

MAY 3 TO MAY 6

New Plymouth Little Theatre presents The Sunshine Boys: See ad and for more details.

MAY 12

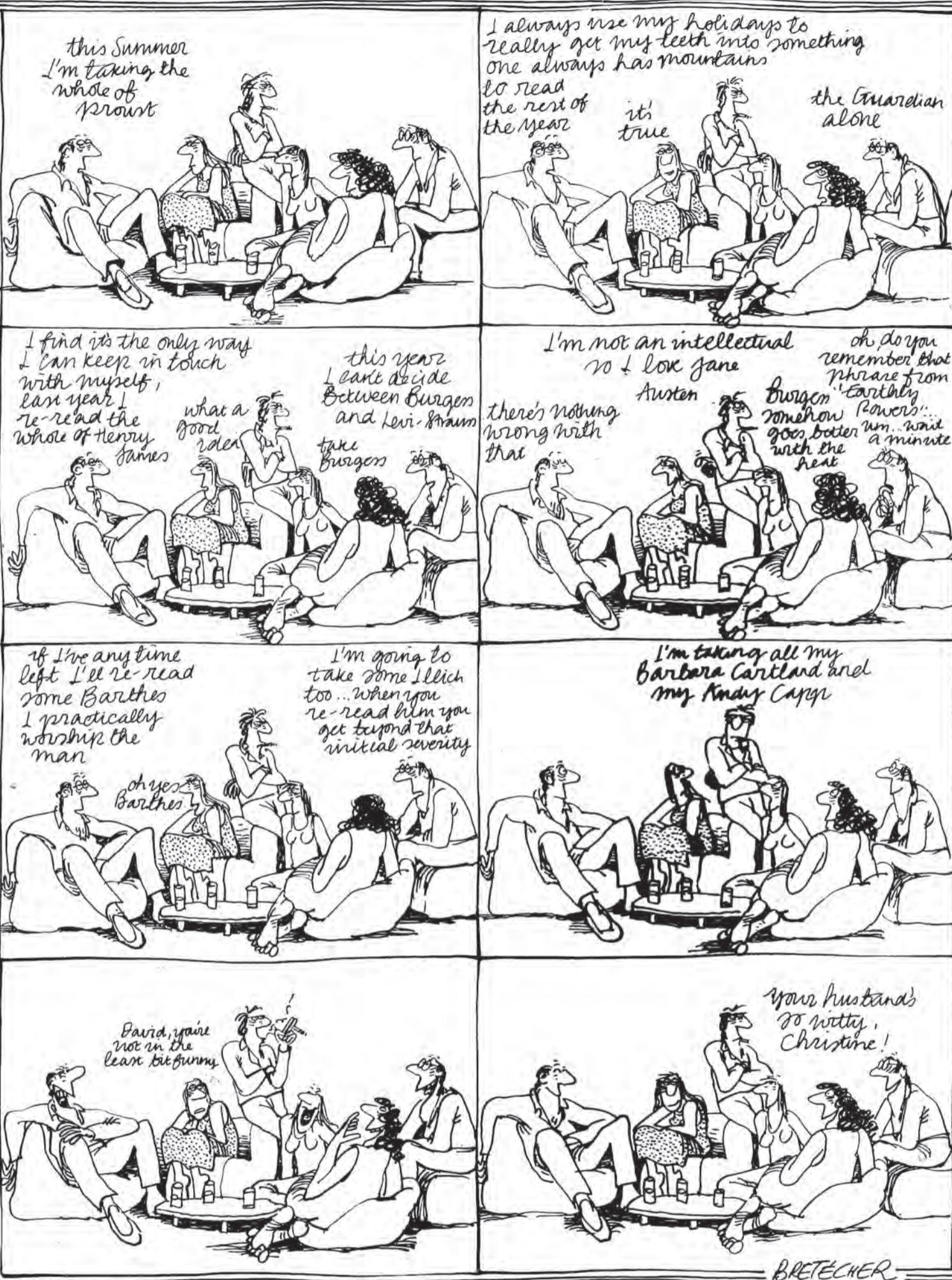
Chiefs vs Reds: Rugby at Yarrow Stadium, New Plymouth.

MAY 23

Otukaia Reserve Trust AGM: Oaonui Hall, 11am

JUNE 30

Tumahu Hall Paper, Scissors, Rock tournament: At the hall, 2417 Wiremu Rd, 5pm.



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Phone 06 761 7016
23 Napier St, Opunake

PUBLIC NOTICES

TRADES & SERVICES



Next Meeting is on
Monday May 1, 2023
at 5.30pm

Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the
Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake
(opposite the Coastal Care Medical Centre)



**CAPE EGMONT
BOAT CLUB**

Remembering the
Warea & Pungarehu
Servicemen
with our

SERVICE & SOCIAL

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

ALL WELCOME

Please bring a plate to
share after service.

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

**OTUKAIA RESERVE
TRUST**

(Section 51 BlockX11
Cape S. District)

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Venue:
Oaonui Hall
5142 South Rd, Opunake

Date:
Tuesday 23rd May 2023

Time: 11am

Agenda:

Karakia

Mihimihi

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

Correspondence

Financial Report

Approval Creditors

Payments/Expense

Reimbursements

Replacement Trustees

Election to Office

Treasurer

Anne Davis

**UNVEILING OF NEW
ANZAC WALL**

A Rawhitiroa WI project
11.30am Anzac Day
Rawhitiroa pool gates



Contact Phill - 027 236 7129

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tobiestockhoff@gmail.com.

LOST

BUNCH OF KEYS lost
probably Aubrey St, New
Plymouth, or Okato area.
One is purple, another is a
Terios car key (black plastic
top). Ph 06 752 4377.



GRAZING

GRAZING. May to
May dairy heifer grazing
available. Inglewood area.
Phone Shane 06 756 7372.



The Opunake & Coastal News is distributed free to every home and business within the rural area, bounded in the north by the New Plymouth City border, extending east to Egmont Village and around to the edge of Stratford, south to the border of Hawera township and inland to Kaponga and through Eltham.

RSA Manaia & District R.S.A.



Anzac Day Service 25th April
Starting at 6-30a.m. from
Bowling Club & R.S.A. Rooms
All Welcome.

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Flatdeck Ideal Farm Ute, 6 Speed Manual, Diesel Turbo, ABS Brakes, Stability Control, Dual Airbags, Cruise Control, Air Con, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Stereo, Bullbar with Side Steps.



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