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World bowls success for local players. See page 4.



Proposal to save Manaia hall. See page 11.



Normanby's world renowned daffodil grower. See page 19.



Gearing up Christmas. See pages 28-



Seventy five years of pumping gas. See pages 30-31.

# OPUNAKE & COASTAL



The Ohawe Progressive Association got best community float at this year's Hawera Christmas Parade.

# Big crowds for street festival and parade

The Hawera CBD was packed with people on Saturday (December 13) waiting for the Hawera Santa Parade and enjoying the Morning Street Festival which preceded it.

Organised by Bizlink Hawera the Festival and Parade is something locals enjoy and look forward to.

"It's an opportunity for our community to come together and support our local retailers," said Nikki Watson of Bizlink Hawera. She said Bizlink emphasised creating a vibrant town and there were lots of free activities

and entertainment available. The weather had come to

were building up of people wanting to enter floats. High Street was closed at 9am. Stallholders plied their trade while mascots including Garfield and Minnie Mouse wandered the street, stopping to pose

for photos. There were face painting and sketch artists, or a chance to sit back and have a ride around the CBD on Tinka the Train.

Entertainers included Mitch and the Guitar who

**FIRE BOARD** 

performed outside Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga. Meanwhile the Hawera the party, and the numbers Brass Band was playing Christmas music at the town square in Union Street. Nikki says every year they have a different artist playing in the town square and this year it's the turn of the brass band.

> Band conductor Jody Thomas said they last did this about five years ago. She said she conducts two bands, the Hawera Brass Band and the Auxiliary Band and both were there that day.

"It's nice as people are starting to gather in," she said. "It's always fun to play Christmas music. It gets you in the mood for it."

On his way to judge the floats, South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon said he was pleased with the way things were going.

"It's ticking on," he said. "To come to a parade like this, this is the third one I've been to. Patea was a good parade, and you got the same with Eltham last night, and what we're seeing in Hawera today is huge. It's the festive timing and everyone seems to have that same feel."

Around midday the blare of a police siren let everyone know that the parade was on its way and it was time to clear the street. A highland pipe band followed soon after, and then the floats assorted vehicles, accompanied by mascots in the form of Spider Man, the Cat in the Hat and other favourites interacting with the crowd as they passed by. Finally leading up the rear was the man in the red suit himself.

Nikki Watson says this year there were about 35 floats, with more trucks than in previous years.

The prize for best business

float went to Farming, while the Ohawe Progressive Association was the best community float, with Southern Rugby in second place. The prize for best overall float went to Evergreen Plumbing and their Santa's Workshop

The parade over, the streets were opened, but there were still queues at some of the stalls as onlookers were prepared to linger for a little bit longer.



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Santa and Mayor Phil at the Eltham Christmas Parade.

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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.



Our Opunake office will be closing at 3pm on Monday 22nd December.

> We are open again at 9am on Wednesday 7th January, 2026.

We wish all our customers a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year



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### **AED** idea, brilliant

Now, whoever had this extremely brilliant idea and was able to get these community organisations from around the coast all come together, which took them to raise \$16,000 within a six months period to now have four AEDs on four different roads 310 Dover Road, 287 Pitone Road, 2008 Wiremu Road and 94 Ngarimu Road, must be congratulated for their great work.

Being a former coastal person myself I do know that the coastal area covers many hundreds of mountain roads winding turning and sometimes being dead ends. Within this area anyone driving on these roads could have a heart attack and by the time help does arrive that person could have passed away for good.

So not only is this an extremely great idea, now about something how like this could help out coastal police, as most of us (illegible) on minds are now extremely sophisticated in technology so just maybe the same type of idea without these crims knowing.

Tom Stephens, Opunake

### **Stumbling** block

As many people may remember I was a former mountain guide in Te Papa Kura-o-Taranaki/Egmont National Park for 30+ years, sharing my experiences with locals and visitors. Maybe you were one of them. Moving forward, there has been no local mountain guide business concessionaire for tourists for a couple of decades now to take people to see our beautiful national park. The stumbling block is you can't operate a business without knowing the future rulings. This stumbling block is that there has been no current Egmont National Park Management Plan written since 2002, and no Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki one ever. Still waiting for a current one for 23 years. Twenty three years is nearly half the

time frame volcanologists tell us the mountain may blow up.

So many of our tourists have missed out on local guiding experiences while we wait for the Department of Conservation to get their act together and get a current management plan before I drop dead or the mountain blows its top.

> Ian McAlpine New Plymouth

### Mt Messenger Muddle

Thank you Rolland McKellar for bringing to our attention the disgusting financial theft of tax payers' money over a small portion of a new highway. It is clear to many that Governments and Councils believe they have an open credit card and to spend our paid tax as they please and mostly it is to their "cohorts."

No wonder New Zealand is almost \$200,000,000,000 in debt and the interest alone is staggering. These politicians have no conscience nor care about who pays the debt. It is programmed out to future generations. Guess who is

Christmas 2025—An Anchor of Hope

providing the funds.? Nasty evil firms who will wish to collect very shortly. Just like a bank collects with a mortgagee sale.

With many projects cost overruns are so suspicious, and one wonders who is collecting as they pass Go? How do we stop it? Well, "united we stand divided we fall," so come on everybody stand up and demand the theft stops.

the good Keep up journalism, there are many more matters that need exposing to the rate payers of South Taranaki as well.

> Keith Aldrich Hawera

### Dear Editor,

On Behalf of St Paul's Church, Okato and myself, I wish to take the opportunity of the seasons Goodwill to All to thank the community for their generous support in helping the following organisations in our fund raising programme; butter for breakfast for Coastal Taranaki School, Plunkett safety gates, and St Paul's Church hall kitchen.

Continued on page 3.

### **ADELPHOS**

Yet another Christmas. Here in New Zealand we have beautiful warm weather. So far there's no phony AI Facebook sightings of Frosty the Snowman sunbathing on Mt. Taranaki's volcanic blacksand beaches. It's a special time of year with welcomed holidays, backyard barbeques and family gatherings. Our national anthem "God Defend New Zealand" asks His continued protection from the "shafts of strife and war." Our country lives in peacetime at usual political wranglings.

New Zealand seems a far cry from war-ravaged hot spots in the world positioned to ignite global warfare. Many other countries are not experiencing the security of Christmas' tidings of "peace on earth, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, King James Version). Under cruel Roman oppression, Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus' lives were fraught with difficulties and death threats from King Herod. But the angel Gabriel's promises (Luke 1:26-56) gave them an anchor of hope for their baby Messiah's future: that this baby would save people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).

Mary and Joseph had little idea of the future miraculous and tragic events in their son's life. They only believed that Jesus would one day save people from their sins.

When babies are born, some parents might have dreams of their child's athletic or academic potential. Joseph and Mary's uncertain dreams of Jesus' life potential were finally fulfilled in His early thirties through His physical resurrection that conquered both sin and death for the world. Jesus was physically risen from His grave by God. His resurrection is not a myth or emotional symbol as taught by some liberal ministers and scholars. Scripture bluntly responds to them, "... if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:14, New International Version). The angel's promise of Christmas' baby Messiah is fulfilled in the Easter resurrection, offering us the same eternal resurrection-

Unfortunately, the birth of

Jesus is often only focused on looking backwards at His first coming as a baby. But Christmas' real anchor of hope is about looking forward in faith and grasping onto "all" God's promises about Jesus' birth, life, death and physical resurrection victory over our own death.

"Yet another Christmas' often echoes the message of an innocent new-born babe who would one day change the world. But if we listen very carefully, blocking out the holiday noise, Christmas is God gently whispering to each of us a very personal question: "How has the birth of my only Son changed your life?" The answer to that question can be our anchor of hope for Christmas 2025.

A very blessed and healthy Christmas to you and family,

Adelphos





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f **AUTHORISED DEALER**  Continued from page 2.

It is hoped next year something for babies and toddlers will be on the horizon. Thank you too for the help from Okato Lions club and Brian Vickery who we really miss.

The generous donations from the Community Market have contributed to firewood delivery, fresh produce to those unwell and donating equipment for the kitchen for half price coffee for Senior citizens held in the supper room of Community Trust Building ODHS every Wednesday afternoon.

Also, the great dedication to Wendy a mere 80-yearold, who manages and distributes around the coast the food bank with her Santa helpers. This is supported by OCP the St James Oakura and St Paul's churches. A special thanks to all who gave to Okato fire brigade for a food bank special collection.

This letter also wishes to thank the Opunake Coastal News team produces high who journalism the region, keeping us informed on issues such as Palestine, seabed mining, unemployment, dairy industry, school events and more, always up to date. May everyone be blessed this season and perhaps find an act of kindness in some letterboxes.

Lesley Dowding. Okato.

### Smoke and mirrors

They did not put a cap on power prices, no cap on groceries, no cap on rental housing. So, one wonders, why the concern for citizens now? Why a cap on rates?

Nobody likes paying rates. This coalition's plan to cap local government rates at 4% is welcome news, then.

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But wait, no, it's just smoke and mirrors.

They say the cap is meant reduce extravagant spending by local councils and to force them to focus on core services: waste, roads, water supply, sewage, and public transport. Community services like libraries, parks, pools, and recreation centres are judged by coalition members not to be core services but extravagant, wasteful spending.

The cap will result in reduced income for Councils; Councils will need other means of funding to allow for the continuation of services. It is reasonable to expect that a government would share GST or tax revenue to supplement the ratepayer dollars and keep rates lower. But don't hold your breath here. This cap will result in cuts to services, higher user fees, and a lack of investment in essential infrastructure.

Continuation of services will occur In a User Pays scenario; ratepayers using a service or facility will pay the full cost to use it. Service may also be provided by a for-profit, privately owned which purchased entity council assets, also a User Pays plan, think water meters and road tolls.

To top it off, a new regulatory body will be created to assess Council requests for an increase in rates above the 4%. This means some bureaucrat in Wellington will be making decisions for our community.

This rates cap is not a plan to help ratepayers; our communities will decline. Some residents will not afford to pay fees for service. The cost of living is breaking us all and we will be required to pay more and more to access services in our community. They are not concerned about our communities; they are just creating another opportunity that benefits the coalition's billionaire donors.

Mary Moore

### Manaia Mt Messenger

Thursday, December 18, 2025

A big thanks to Rolland for his Mt Messenger Muddle piece. Tragic for the Pascoes who fought the good fight. The old saying goes, "You can't fight city hall."

Interestingly the Iwi (Ngati Tama) were handsomely paid off with money and exchange of lands on the coast (20 hectares of bush for 120 hectares of coastal land and \$7.7 million), but the Pascoes, committed environmental/agriculturists received no awards from the likes of the Taranaki Council. Just Regional a pecuniary backhander. You can't blame Ngati Tama either. Just our own collective stupidity.

We love the drive over Mt Messenger, and it was not a significant hindrance, and suspect it was the lobbying of the trucking industry which drove the disastrous project over the line.

> David Hancock Eltham.

### Gaza

The first harsh winter rains sweep in over Gaza, flooding thousands upon thousands of families in tents in the displacement zones. The third winter of genocide begins. The video of the freezing, the hungry, the traumatised, fill us with horror. Unless we don't look. And what Zionist Israel is doing has to be seen. Otherwise it defeats us, as it defeats all law, all decency, all regard for the human being, lost, like the organs 'harvested' from bodies of the unidentifiable Palestinian dead, dumped in bags, in the mud, by 'the world's most moral army' in a ceasefire that never really

Watching progress of this sadistic Zionist conquest building toward 'biometric concentration camps' and 'model cities' predicted by the Trump/Kushner NY real estate set, we are lost for words. For Palestine, hell an empirical constant, minute-by-minute colonial hate crime built around insufferable and propagandised holocaust rage. For us, looking around at our own colonial history, there is a deep, angry, silence. In the fight against fascism, it appears we probably won't, and certainly won't, if our Government and controlled media responses to the genocide are anything to go by, rewarding the oppressors by reporting less and less of it. And what is reported is piecemeal, with no context. The genocide becomes just another story...another movie (Nuremberg)... another byline. This writer, in his isolation, sees the recent UNSC resolution 2803 as the extension of Balfour; and Zionism - both Christian and Jewish - as an extending global Fascism. A blunt force genocide,

removing all freedoms from the peoples of Palestine, just as it's criminal impunity somehow justifies it and removes from us the freedom

to personally care.

Our Christmas present for 2025 is socially engineered absolution.

One thing is certain: while New Zealand is Zionist, Aotearoa, is not.

Roger Morris Oeo.

### **Christmas** greetings

As Christmas Day 2025 draws nearer and nearer I'd like to wish those involved in the publishing of this extremely wonderful Opunake and Coastal newspaper and to every Taranakian wherever you all may live, your occupations, the unemployed and those who work and are residents in our rest homes, those working in our hospitals on Christmas Day, to all cultures, genders, religions and to all ages I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and an extremely

Happy New Year. Now during our festive season I do hope that everyone of us, whatever you all are doing remembers to always play safe, not only your own families, relations

and friends, but always look out for your neighbour next door to you all. During this year there's been far too many upsets within our country. Knowing that no one is perfect, let's try to be positive, listen to people's opinions. Also we are so

lucky to have freedom of speech, so let's start looking out for each other.

So may the Good Lord bless everyone in Taranaki. Nga Mihi Nui.

> Tom Stephens New Plymouth.



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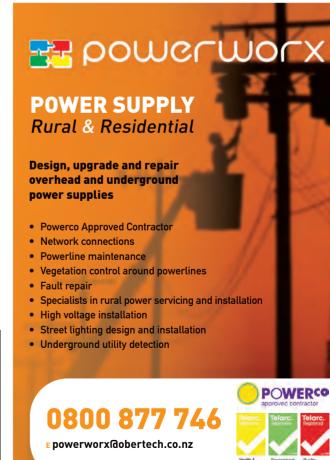
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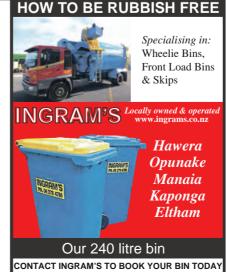


The first issue of Opunake & Coastal News for 2026 will be out on the 28th of January. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our contributors and advertisers in 2025 and look forward to catching up with you all again after a short break.

### We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support in 2025.

We will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day and 2nd January, 2026.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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# Young bowlers top of the world

Taranaki bowls players
Briar Atkinson and Camron
Horo have won the World
Bowls Junior Indoor
Championship mixed pairs
played in County Antrim,
Northern Ireland.

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (September 25) Bowls New Zealand had selected Camron (Rahotu) and Briar (Oakura/Paritutu) to represent New Zealand in the singles and mixed pairs events.

The 26th World Bowls Junior Indoor Championship,

for bowlers under the age of 25 was played from December 1-4 at the Jim Baker Stadium in Ballyclare. Thirty-six players from 18 countries took part.

Briar and Camron chalked up wins in all their group matches against Ireland, Ireland/Israel and Canada before coming out on top in two tiebreak deciders in the quarter-finals and semi-finals against Wales and Scotland respectively. They faced the Irish duo of Zoe Stratton and Daniel Spratt again in





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Seasons Greetings from the Residents and Staff at the

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Continued from page 3.

### A Christmas Message

I can't believe, as I write this letter, it is only 10 days until Christmas Day, and then comes the New Year,2026

It's been an eventful year on many fronts, from local Government changes, central Government and to the scenarios playing out on the world stage, and tragically another event, at the present time, has shocked the world from our nearest neighbours in Australia.

As we all know amidst the joy of this approaching Christmas time, Christmas brings us the message as proclaimed by the angels "That the Christ Child was born to bring peace and goodwill to all people of the world." There also can be much sadness, for many at this festive time of remembering the Christ Child's birth, of loved ones no longer with them,

financial and health issues overwhelming them and the span of world distance keeping loved ones apart - children, parents and grandparents separated in distant lands. But to each of us comes the duty to show that joy and peace, the angels message brought to each other, remembering even the wealthiest and most famous can also be the most lonely.

I would like to thank you each one in the ward of Eltham/Kaponga for the love and support you have shown me over the years and again as I enter a third term.

As I campaigned each term, my interest of concern lies with you the people and how we on the Community Board and Council can best serve you. I trust in this aspect each one of you whether on the farm or in the towns, have a very joyous and blest Christmas and New Year.

To those who are finding this Christmas very difficult for the reasons we have spoken of, I trust the message the angels brought

### Camron Horo.

the final, dispatching them 7-2, 9-0. Bronze medallists were Malaysia's brother and sister Nurin Izzati and

"that to you be given a special extra measure of peace and goodwill and love to all."

I again wish to thank you for the measure of faith you put in returning me to a third term for the next three years to support and help you the best I'm able too.

Peace, joy and goodwill should, I believe, be everyday to one another, not just Christmas Day. But this 2025 festive season I would like to wish you all a very happy and Blest Christmas and safe and prosperous New Year for 2026.

Lindsay Maindonald Eltham/Kaponga Community Board Muhammad Izraf and Scotland's Leah McCloy

Continued page 5.

### Thank you

I would just like to thank surgeon Mr Steventon for the sterling surgery he did to help my breathing. It was an absolute success

and I can't thank him enough. It is such a relief to be able to breath properly again through my nose. He also has a lovely manner and, along with the staff at Taranaki Base Hospital who were so kind and nice, it was an all round good experience.

So, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I breathe freely again!

Bernice McKellar Opunake

# Apology

We apologise for the error in the last issue of the Opunake & Coastal News.

Whanganui Member of parliament Carl Bastes was incorrectly described in the story as the Member of Parliament for the Taranaki King Country electorate.

Edite

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# Young bowlers top of the world

Continued from page 4.

and Stephen Lowrie.

"We are really proud both of Briar and Cameron and what they have achieved on the international stage," says Ian Lewis of Bowls Taranaki. "Not only are they fantastic bowlers but they are fantastic role models."

Camron and Briar both enjoyed the experience of playing in Ireland, though noted the novelty of playing indoors.

"It was a higher level of competition and playing inside made you really play harder for your wins," said

"It was pretty different and pretty cool," said Camron. 'It was a nice facility there. The speed-wise of the green was fairly similar to here."

This is the first time the two of them had played together. Camron says they gelled together well.

"Although it was the first time me and Camron had played together, we know how each other play quite well," says Briar. "We obviously knew we were going well in section play. We were happy playing together and had the connection as well."

This is the first time New Zealand has won the mixed pairs event.

Briar and Camron's medal haul did not end with the mixed pairs. Briar took silver in the women's singles and Camron took bronze in the men's singles.

Briar had won all her games until she lost out to Ireland's Lara Reaney 6-2, 4-3, who she had earlier beaten in the group games on a tie-breaker.

Camron says he was "pretty happy" to get a medal, but also disappointed that he didn't go on further.

"I only just made it out of my group play to get into the semifinals, and then only just lost my semifinal to the winner as well" (Australian Joseph Clarke).

Briar, a nurse from Bell Block is in her eighth season playing bowls . She traces her interest in the game back to when she and her family would watch her grandfather Danny Watt play for the Lepperton Club. Briar later joined Lepperton and from there moved on to Paritutu. In the last year she has been playing at Oakura.

She claimed the National Champion of Champions Singles title in 2023, followed by the National Under-21 Singles title in 2024. Earlier this year she made her debut for the blackjacks against Australia.

"It was played here in Wellington and it was really exciting to play against Aussie. We lost the last game, but it was really good to play at that level for your country."

Camron (21), an apprentice plumber has lived all his life in Rahotu where he attended Rahotu Primary School and Opunake High School. He first took up bowls at the Rahotu Bowling Club as a fourteen-year-old. His father Gavyn still plays here, and his grandparents used to play here.

"It's a pretty good environment and everyone at Rahotu has taught me a lot. They are always happy to give a hand with something and tell you when you've done something wrong."

He also plays at the Paritutu

In 2020, he was awarded the Pakiri Rangatahi Trophy at the 46th Aotearoa National Bowls Championship, given to the top under-20 Māori bowling talent.

Camron claimed 2025 National Under-21 Singles title, defeating Briar Atkinson in the final. In September he was named Bowls New Zealand Emerging Player of the Year, a title which Briar had taken two years earlier.



Briar Atkinson.

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# **COASTAL COPS** Police Message to the Community

Taranaki Police are urging the community to plan responsibly ahead of New Year's Eve celebrations in Ōakura, following concerning incidents in previous years.

During last year's event, Police rostered four staff to patrol the area proactively. Despite this, officers encountered a crowd of approximately 300-400 predominantly people, aged between 15 and 20, congregating around Messenger Terrace. Intoxication, breaches of the local liquor ban, and

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thank all her clients

for their support.

"I wish you all

a Merry

**Christmas** 

and a

Wonderful

New Year.

disorderly behaviour were the main challenges faced. Hundreds of alcohol containers were tipped out throughout the night, and additional police resources had to be called in to manage the situation. While violence and disorder were contained, the scale of underage drinking and unsupervised gatherings was deeply concerning.

Liquor Ban in Force

A local bylaw liquor ban remains in effect for New Year's Eve 2025. This prohibits the possession and consumption of alcohol



Oakura Beach at sunset.

Photo; Oakura Beach Holiday Park.

in designated public areas of Ōakura. Police will be actively enforcing this ban. Prohibited time: From 2pm on New Year's Eve (31 December) until 2am on New Year's Day (1 January). Consequences for Breaching

- Alcohol will be confiscated and disposed of.

the Ban:

- Offenders may face fines or be arrested.
- Minors found drinking in public may be referred to Youth Aid.
- Adults supplying alcohol to minors may face legal consequences.

Police presence enforcement

There will be a strong police presence at Ōakura on New Year's Eve and the morning of New Year's Day. We will take a zero-tolerance approach to violence and disorder with consequences for such behavior.

A message to parents and caregivers

Police are disappointed by the number of youths breaching the liquor ban and drinking in public. Parents and caregivers play a vital role in preventing this behaviour.

We need parents and caregivers to make sure their young people are acting responsibly, knowing where they are and what they're doing.

Please keep track of your children and have a plan with them about how they and their friends are going to have fun safely.

unsupervised Large, gatherings of intoxicated young people pose serious risks to community safety. We urge adults to consider the wider implications of providing alcohol to minors and dropping them off at unsupervised events in unsafe environments.

Let's work together

We all have a part to play in keeping our communities safe. Police ask

community to support efforts to ensure a safe and enjoyable New Year's Eve for everyone.

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS** 

For more information on the liquor ban zones please visit the New Plymouth District

Council website Liquor bans Reporting incidents If you see any suspicious or unlawful activity, please call

or 105 if it is after the fact. Police urge you not to attempt to take matters into your own hands or confront individuals yourselves

111 if it is happening now,

- instead, stay in a safe location, gather as much information as you safely can, and contact Police.

You can also report any information anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

> Constable Stacey Lamb Okato

### **OPUNAKE FIRE SERVICE**

### A Merry Christmas from the Opunake Fire Brigade

As the year comes to a close, it is a good time to look back and thank everyone who has supported us over the last 12 months. Organisations, businesses, and individuals have all helped in various ways to ensure our trucks are ready to respond and that our firefighters are well supported while attending incidents, training, courses away from home.

A number of our firefighters have been busy throughout the year attending courses and gaining additional qualifications. Two of our successfully firefighters passed the very demanding Station Officer course. Other courses attended included the Recruit Firefighter course, Pump Operator course, Driver course, and Operational Support course. Callouts have also increased compared to previous years. To date, we have attended incidents, including several large structure fires. With summer upon us, now is the time to be mindful of outdoor fires and rubbish piles around the farm. Please keep an eye out for fire bans, and if you are unsure, visit



**Group Manager Clive Lennox presenting Steve Bennett** with his Station Officer helmet.

www.checkitsalright.nz. This site provides current fire status information and links to any permits that may be required.

We will once again be involved in the Christmas Parade and the Beach Carnival, where we are

planning to try something a little different for the kidsso come along and have a

From all of the volunteers at the Opunake Fire Brigade, we wish you a safe and happy holiday period.

Andrew Pentelow (CFO)



As the year comes to a close, we extend our warmest wishes to the Ōpunake & surrounding communities. Stay safe, and thank you for your continued support. Ngā mihi nui,

**Öpunake Medical / Coastal Medical** 

### **Holiday Hours**

**CLOSED** 3.00pm Tuesday 23 December **REOPEN** 8.30am Monday 5 January

For medical advice during the holiday period, please contact: Ka Ora Telecare on 0800 252 672 Available after-hours (5:00pm - 8:00am) and statutory holidays only.

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In an emergency phone 1-1-1

Please ensure any repeat prescriptions have been requested by 2pm Friday 19 December.

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opunakemedical.co.nz



### NPDC and Police teaming up to keep you safe this sum-

in New Plymouth district are back for the summer, and NPDC and the Police are working together to keep it

With big events like the TSB Festival of Lights and concerts at the Bowl of Brooklands, great parks and some of the best beaches in the country, the district will be buzzing over the next few months.

New Plymouth District Mayor Max Brough doesn't want to see a few people's bad behaviour ruining the summer and says there will be zero tolerance to "drunken and anti-social nonsense."

"We're not putting up with any crappy behaviour in town this summer," says Mayor Max. "It makes a mess of our city and is turn-



Inspector Darin Haenga and Mayor Max Brough plan to tackle bad behaviour in the city centre.

ing people off going to places like Puke Ariki.'

Mayor Max says the issues have prevailed for too long despite many efforts to assist

"We've got too much invested in our district to let a few people ruin it for everyone. Ratepayers' money has gone into making our city centre a better place, such as work to open up the Huatoki set to start in the new year, and creating safe spaces and supporting projects providing storage for rough sleepers' property."

NPDC is also bringing back its City Safe Compliance Officers for 12 months from 13 January following positive feedback from local businesses last year, to work alongside Police to make sure the celebrations stay peaceful.

New Zealand Police Acting

Taranaki Area Commander Inspector Darin Haenga said officers would continue to enforce the alcohol bylaw which bans public drinking in the city centre, central Waitara, as well as Pukekura Park outside of exempted

"The summer holiday period brings with it a few more alcohol related challenges. We will be taking a zerotolerance approach, and any time we identify a ban being breached, we will be taking appropriate action," said Haenga.

NPDC's three City Safe Compliance Officers will work closely with local support agencies, the YMCA and the Police. If required they can trespass individuals from private property, remove possessions and enforce Freedom Camping Bylaws.

# Thank you from the Manaia Volunteer Fire Brigade

I'd like to thank the community for the support they have given the Manaia Volunteer Fire Brigade in the last 12 months and to the local businesses who have allowed firefighters to attend callouts. Without

co-operative

their support we wouldn't have been able to get out the door.

I'd like to wish the community and the surrounding districts Merry Christmas.

Be safe out on the roads and

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SHANE TAYLOR Manaia Chief Fire Officer

always check if it's alright before you light a fire. Out in the wider area where it's dry be vigilant when you light a fire, and if possible, avoid lighting fires until it's not so dry.

We always like to hear from anyone who is interested in joining us. If that sounds like you please get in touch.

### **Parking Control** and Traffic Bylaw under review

The South Taranaki District Council is reviewing its Parking Control and Traffic Flow Bylaw and would like

The review aims to improve accessibility, safety, and efficiency on South Taranaki

• Introducing an interactive Parking Control Register an online map showing all parking restrictions and their

Clarifying definitions adding new ones for mobility devices and personal transport devices.

clauses protect pedestrian access and allow flexibility for

Council's senior policy advisor Anne Sattler says

requirements under Land Transport Act (1998)

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the changes reflect evolving transport trends, community expectations,

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# Seasons greeting from your Taranaki MPs



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As Christmas approaches and 2026 is just days away, Taranaki's three National Party MPs are taking the opportunity to wish Opunake and Coastal News readers well for the festive season.

New Plymouth MP David MacLeod's electorate extends as far west as Ōpunake.

"I've really enjoyed getting down to Opunake to catch up with locals over coffee, meet with business owners, and celebrate the community's milestones like Opunake High School's centenary and Coastal Care's 10th birthday. My office will be taking a short break over Christmas, returning January



WHANGANUI

12, 2026. I look forward to more opportunities to visit in the new year."

Taranaki-King Country MP Barbara Kuriger says, "At Christmas we reflect on the year past, celebrate our achievements, and cherish the company of family and friends.

In rural communities,



BARBARA KURIGER MP TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

we know the importance of community spirit, hard work, and resilience - all qualities that shine. It's a time to come together, share stories, and appreciate the strength of our whanau, friends, and neighbours. I am incredibly grateful for the support and warmth I receive from you all. Your



DAVID MACLEOD MP NEW PLYMOUTH

dedication, kindness, and unwavering spirit make our region a wonderful place to live and work."

And Whanganui MP Carl Bates, whose electorate includes South Taranaki and Stratford says, "As we rapidly move towards Christmas, it is time to reflect on the year that has almost

passed and look forward to 2026. It has been a privilege again this year to represent my electorate in Parliament and something I do not take for granted."

"For now, from my family. Candice, Angus, Logan and Bonnie-Ann to yours, we wish you a very Happy Christmas, and all the best for the New Year."

Thank you to everyone in the Ōpunake and Coastal News' circulation area for everything you do to make our rural communities vibrant and strong. Have a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Barbara, Carl and David

## Blueprint for pollution and environmental harm says Greenpeace

Greenpeace Government's rewrite of New Zealand's core environmental laws includes an outrageous new idea, whereby companies will be able to claim financial compensation when councils introduce rules to limit pollution or protect the environment.

proposal, called "regulatory takings" was announced as part of Government's plan to replace the Resource Management Act with a Natural Environment Bill and a Planning Bill.

Greenpeace campaigner Genevieve Toop says: "New Zealanders should never be expected to pay financial compensation to the very companies causing damage to their communities.

"Under this plan, New Zealanders would have to pay companies causing environmental harm to get them to stop. It flips the entire principle that polluters should pay on its head.

"In practice, this means that if regions like Gisborne want stronger rules to stop forestry slash destroying homes and rivers, ratepayers would likely be forced to pay offshore forestry companies 'compensation.' It's absurd," Toop said

With the Government planning to cap council rates, Greenpeace says most councils will be financially unable to introduce new protections - effectively blocking locally specific regulations to prevent environmental degradation, nitrate such as the contamination crisis.

The new bills also propose raising the threshold for what is considered environmental harm, restricting public notification of consents, and requiring submitters to reside in the relevant area, a move that would effectively shut national environmental NGOs out of the process.

"Land, water and wildlife

are already under significant stress. We've got a nitrate contamination crisis Canterbury, slash erosion in Tairāwhiti, and native wildlife on the brink of extinction," says Toop.

"New Zealand urgently needs stronger environmental protections but what the government announced is a blueprint for more pollution and more environmental damage.

"These reforms prioritise corporate property rights above the health of nature, lower the bar so companies can cause more harm and squeeze environmental groups out of the process."

Greenpeace is calling on the Government to completely remove all regulatory takings provisions from the RM replacement bills. Over the coming weeks, Greenpeace will be analysing both bills and producing a full submission to the select committee.

# Manaia WI members visit a special home

Malcolm welcomed all to the December meeting of Manaia Women's institute held at the Waimate Hotel, Manaia. Several members had attended the Federation enjoyed the day.

Members donated Christmas presents for children to the Salvation Army

The raffle for an iced Christmas cake was drawn, the winner being

French ticket number 137. The proceeds of the raffle (\$300.00) to go to the South Taranaki Federation for their donation to the new cancer building at Taranaki Base Hospital to purchase two drip stands.

Members enjoyed a very nice lunch and then visited Robyn Pitcher's to view her house which she had decorated for the Christmas House Tour.



Manaia WI members visit Robyn Pitcher's Christmas decorated house.





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# **Greenpeace Denmark moves** to limit nitrate in drinking water

Minister is making moves to dramatically lower the legal limit for nitrate in drinking water, after a governmentcommissioned report recommended reducing the legal limit for nitrate contamination to 6 mg/L of nitrate (1.3 mg/L nitratenitrogen).

Greenpeace spokesperson Will Appelbe says New Zealanders deserve the same action.

playbook that the Danes are working from here. They don't know anything that we don't know - they're following the scientific evidence and choosing to prioritise people's health and access to safe drinking water over the economic interests of the agribusiness lobby."

"New Zealand is in the middle of a growing health crisis caused by

nitrate contamination from intensive dairying. When Government our recognise this and take action?'

New Zealand research indicates that elevated levels of nitrate contamination in drinking water could be causing up to 100 cases of bowel cancer every year and leading to 40 deaths a year.

Appelbe says the situation in rural New Zealand is unacceptable.

"The fact of the matter is that many rural communities in New Zealand are unable to drink their water because of unacceptably high levels of nitrate contamination, and we know the cause of that pollution. It's the intensive dairy industry, led by Fonterra."

"Fonterra's oversized dairy herd and overuse of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser is leading to escalating levels of nitrate contamination in drinking water, but today it's become clear that the writing is on the wall for the intensive dairy industry.

"Already, there are many drinking water wells and public town supplies in New Zealand that are above the nitrate limits proposed by the Danish. There are even private wells that are above our own - far too outdated legal health limit. And it's going to get worse unless this Government puts the health of communities ahead of Fonterra's profits.'

Greenpeace is urging the Government to take action by lowering the legal nitrate limit, stopping further dairy expansion, and phasing out the use of synthetic nitrogen

"There are simply too many cows. If Denmark can act on the science, so can we. People's health is on

# One in eight teens victimised sexually

The number of New Zealand teenagers reporting unwanted sexual experiences is higher for some groups, rising to almost one in five for girls and to about one in three for transgender and non-binary teens, according to a 2019 survey of over 7000 high school students. Māori and Pacific students and teenagers from poorer areas were also more likely to report these experiences.

The researchers found an increase in the number teenagers reporting unwanted sexual experiences in 2019 compared to their previous survey in 2012. They said this could be due to reduced stigma or could indicate a real rise in sexual violence happening to teenagers in New Zealand.



Many New Zealand teenagers are at risk.

Feedback wanted on speed management planned changes

The researchers highlighted and inclusive sex education protect Aotearoa's diverse

population of youth.

### the importance of strong curriculums that reflect and

South Taranaki District Council is inviting feedback on proposed speed limit changes in South

Traffic volume and pedestrian activity have increased and will continue to due to rapid residential and commercial development in Hāwera, particularly around Glover Road, Turuturu Road, and the South Taranaki Business

South Taranaki District policy environments for residents, businesses, and schools while supporting community wellbeing and economic

proposals include variable speed limits around marae to respect cultural practices and adjustments to rural school

improve road safety, protect vulnerable road users, and

Public consultation runs from Monday 1 December 2025 to Friday 30 January 2026.

Anyone can make a

changes online or picking up a paper copy at any of the South Taranaki District LibraryPlus centres, or Hawera Administration Building.

Residents. schools, marae, and businesses are encouraged to have their say.



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### Councils senior advisor Anne Sattler says the proposed speed limit Taranaki. changes will create safer

growth. "Additional

### zones to better reflect local conditions" she says. These changes aim to

ensure compliance with the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits

submission on the proposed

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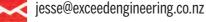
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### Why life is perception – The Christmas Edition

You and five friends head off to the movies together just before Christmas to watch the latest festive film. Afterwards you discuss it over coffee. Within minutes, the verdict is in: one loved the movie, one was bored, one cried into their scarf, one thought the ending was terrible, and another wants to watch it again later this week. You all give it completely different scores out of ten, even though you have all just watched the exact same movie. None of that surprises

What might be surprising is this: real life works in exactly the same way. We all believe we are seeing and experiencing the same world, yet that 'same' world is often viewed and felt radically differently by each of us... so why does that happen?

If there's one thing you learn living in South Taranaki, whether you're in Ōpunakē, Hāwera, Manaia, Rahotu, or one of those rural outskirts where the cows outnumber the people 40 to 1, it's this: life isn't really what happens to you; it's how you see it.

You can have two people standing on the same patch of land, staring at Mt Taranaki on a blue-sky summer afternoon. One admires the mountain in all of its majesty, Christmas-card feeling steadiness, awe,



RICHARD HALL

and quiet inspiration. The other only sees the clouds gathering at the summit and wonders if the barbecue will be ruined.

Same mountain. realities. That's perception, the invisible lens your brain uses to translate the world before you even realise it. And it doesn't matter where you live, perception often determines whether you're having a good day, a bad one, or a "sweet as, could be worse" kind of day.

### So... where does perception actually come from?

experience as though it is simply happening to us. But what we are actually living through is a version of the world shaped by a lens our mind has been building ever since before we were even born. It generally functions well, but it is never blank or unbiased. These are the main things that shape it:

1. Your past experiences

Every awkward moment, success, every heartbreak, every emotional event, every trauma, every film, every TV programme, every book, every magazine, every social-media post and internet article, understand that all of life goes into our brain's 'perception blender.'

For example, if you grew up with a big friendly dog who lay under the table vacuuming up any fallen bits of Christmas ham, you may see another dog now and think:

"Aw, look at that good boy."

However, if a snarling canine once barked loudly, and then launched itself at you outside the dairy on a scorching Boxing Day afternoon when you were eight, you may see a dog now and think, "Keep away, Satan."

Your brain uses past experience to predict current danger or comfort, even when the present moment has absolutely nothing to do with that childhood Christmas trauma involving a rogue labrador, and your rapidly melting Trumpet.

### 2. Your learning and upbringing

We don't just collect experiences, collect we beliefs. Family sayings, school lessons, cultural values, and the wisdom of grandparents and parents delivered as universal truths: "Don't talk back," "Children should be seen and not heard," "Always put others first," "Always finish your plate."

become mental These templates, psychological presets that shape how you now interpret everything that happens, including how you now approach Christmas Day.

### 3. Your emotions

Our emotions change our perception the way a filter changes a photo, same scene, but a very different look and feel.

If you're happy, people seem friendlier, traffic feels lighter, and even the weather gets a shoulder shrug.

If you're stressed. feels every comment personal, every task feels overwhelming, and someone breathing too loudly in the checkout line can feel like an act of aggression.

### 4. Your brain's survival wiring

We're all walking around with a threat-detection system that hasn't had a software update in about 100,000 years. So when a strange noise echoes through the house at 2 a.m., your brain doesn't whisper, "probably the cat." "someone It announces, is breaking in, prepare for

### 5. Your social world

Humans catch emotions like they catch the flu. If the people around you are stressed, negative, or constantly predicting doom, "bloody economy, mate," then you absorb it.

If your crowd is grounded, supportive, and calm, you absorb that too.

We tune into others like radios tune into stations.

### Why perception matters

Perception becomes the story you tell yourself about your life. And that story shapes how safe you feel, how stressed you get, how motivated you are, how you interpret other people, how you handle setbacks, and how much joy you allow in.

Three people can face the exact same situation walk away completely different internal experiences. Take a classic

this time of year scenario: your car makes a strange noise on Christmas Eve, halfway to the shops for lastminute pavlova ingredients.

One person panics: "That's it. Christmas is cancelled."

Another shrugs: "Turn the Xmas music up.'

A South Taranaki farmer says: "She'll be right till after Boxing Day.'

Same noise, three realities. Perception defines which reality you live in.

### People don't respond to reality, they respond to their interpretation of it

Someone cuts you off in traffic on the Surf Highway on Christmas Eve, with tinsel flapping in their rear

If you think, "that idiot did that on purpose," your blood pressure skyrockets along with the Christmas stress.

If you think, "probably racing to grab the forgotten cranberry sauce, been there," you instantly relax.

Nothing external changed. Only the interpretation did.

### South Taranaki: **Masterclass in Perception**

Living here trains you in perception whether you realise it or not. We deal

weather that changes every 12 minutes, roadworks that appear out of nowhere, cows determined to escape into the wrong paddock, tractors constantly slowing down traffic, and half the town knows what you are getting for Christmas before you do.

You can't control any of it. But you can control how you interpret it.

So we adapt. We laugh. We shrug. We say, "what the heck," and get on with it. That resilience, that ability to re-interpret the moment and deliberately shift a negative thought or feeling (after checking you are actually safe), is you consciously creating positive perception.

### So why is life perception?

Because every feeling. every stress response, and every moment of joy is created through the personal lens your protective mind has built over a lifetime. You are not experiencing reality raw, you are experiencing your own unique version of it, and if understood, that version can be positively changed.

### Final thought

Life is like driving along Surf Highway 45.

You can focus on the roadworks. potholes, whilst campervans, complaining it's too hot...

or you can slow down, look out and enjoy the coastline. our incredible maunga appreciate the warmth, and fresh sea air, and the wideopen space that people fly from all over the world to see.

Both exist.

Please realise, you can choose which one you spend more time looking at.

Please also realise, if you understand perception, you can choose to have the best Christmas and break that you have ever had.

So have an awesome one, thanks for reading, and I'll see you again in 2026.

> Richard Hall Mind Support  $\bar{O}$ punak $\bar{e}$



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# Could Manaia Districts War Memorial Hall be a multisports centre

John Parry has approached the South Taranaki District Council with a proposal to save the historic Manaia and Districts War Memorial Hall, which is located at 25 South Road, into an ice sport complex, which could be of benefit to the whole of Taranaki.

Although the Hall was quite recently designated for demolition, with the softening of the criteria for deeming a building an earthquake risk, other more positive options are feasible. As well as the undoubted historic value of saving a special building, John has come up with a carefully planned document outlining a proposal. "Our Hall is so precious, it is the heart of our community,"

John comments. Although John probably best known for his local soap factory, he is well-grounded, at both management level and coaching level in ice hockey. One of his tutees was his son Ricky, who was selected as goalie for the New Zealand ice hockey team. He was in the national team for eleven years.

It should be pointed out that John's proposal also encompasses the sports complex in Hassard Street, Manaia, which is also down for demolition. As it has been locked up for seven years, John considers this a waste of perfectly good, and safe facilities - once used by cricket, tennis and rugby clubs in the township. With the relaxation of the earthquake specifications it should be saved and returned to community use,

John reasons. John pointed out that building neither deserving of 'earthquake risk' demolition and should



John Parry in front of the Manaia & Districts War Memorial Hall.

be preserved on historic and pragmatic grounds.

John also explains that he has practical experience in transitioning a building; specifically he was closely involved in converting the redundant Pilkington Glass factory in Whangarei (early 1990s) into the Okara shopping centre that continues today in a vibrant fashion. Demolition is not always the optimal solution.

Anyway, to support his proposal John has spent many hours in research producing the document (mentioned above) which outlines his vision, including and possible costing sponsors, as well as the best model of ownership should the proposal be accepted by Council.

One local supporter of the proposal is John Yarrow, Director of Yarrows the Bakers (2011) Group, who has offered to donate the land on the south side of the War Memorial Hall, which would be needed in the projected construction should it be approved by Council. In his letter Mr Yarrow makes the comment "... the demolition Limited

of the old hall is probably unwarranted." He goes on to allude to the "over-reaction" regrding the possibility of earthquake risk to Manaia buildings, and also the Yarrow Stadium in New Plymouth.

John conceded that his proposal would not be inexpensive, but points out that previous projects have reflected that considerable amounts of finance can be sourced by requests to both local bodies and central government as, as well as charitable funding bodies.

He outlines 10 Most Likely Funders of these, which he names as:

- **Lottery Community** Facilities Fund (DIA)
- Lottery Environment & Heritage Fund
- Kanoa Regional Strategic Partnerships Fund (MBIE)
- Sport New Zealand Zealand New
- Community Trust (NZCT) The Lion Foundation
- Pub Charity

- Foundation North
- Taranaki Foundation/Local **Community Foundation**
- Corporate Sponsors/naming Partners.

power Eg. Fonterra, companies, Air New Zealand, Z Energy, Spark Foundation

mentions John fundraising interesting method: the logo and details of local businesses could by marked boldly on the roof (an advertisement in effect), such that they can be seen by passengers on aeroplanes flying overhead.

There would be many advantages in his proposal John argues, such as providing a venue for winter-sport activities, including ice hockey, speed skating, figure skating and curling. Also, public and school programmes could be included, as well as birthday parties, weddings, corporate bookings and the like.

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Continued Page 12.



from the team at Challenge Rahotu

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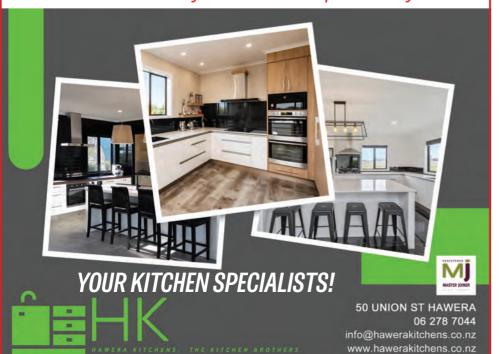
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# Ceramic artist Clarice Cliff dominated ceramics market

with nighttime study at the

Born in 1899 in the heart of Stoke-on-Trent, one of England's hubs for ceramic production, Clarice Cliff was born into a large workingclass family and began work as an apprentice decorator at a local pottery factory in

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Liam Kupe

her early teens. She spent several years in Stoke-on-Trent learning skills and techniques, such as gilding and enamelling, so she could lavish amazing designs and motifs on ceramic vessels. Clarice paired her work

Burslem School of Art. Then, in 1916, Cliff took on a new position at the A.J. Wilkinson ceramic factory in Burslem, where her true talents as a ceramic artist were realised. In addition to sending her to London in the 1920s for a brief study **Merry Christmas** stint at the Royal College from the team at of Art, Wilkinson's owners also awarded Cliff her own Elkay Roofing studio at the nearby Newport Pottery factory. Once

installed at Newport Pottery, Cliff set out on a series of innovative designs in 1927 under what she called "Bizarre" wares. These vessels broke new ground in response to rising trends in Art Deco motif, and their immediate popularity meant that Cliff could hire apprentices to help decorate her designs. Her oversight of one of the era's most thriving workshops - totalling by some accounts more than seventy assistants - by the end of the 1920s led to her promotion to Art Director of all of Newport Pottery in 1930, a remarkable accomplishment for a female



The four plates pictured are from the Bizarre Range. Available at Cecelia's Opunake.





artist in the early twentieth century.

Cliff dominated ceramics market of the 1930s with her brilliant combination of the bold geometry of the Art Deco movement and the defined,

saturated colours associated with DeStijl masters like Theo van Doesburg or Piet Mondrian. This use of the modern art visual language in her wares granted them a vibrance and freshness that contemporary audiences

The excitement for Cliff's creations waned following World War II, and by the mid-1960s she officially retired. Her work was recognized in January 1972 in a solo exhibition. Clarice Cliff died later that same

Could Manaia Districts War Memorial Hall be a multisports centre



your support in 2025 From Craig, Natalie, Jaylin and Zakiah

Craig 027 207 7775 | Natalie 027 508 8174 Email: craigcorriganelectrical@gmail.com



The sports complex in Manaia is pictured with John Parry in the foreground.

Continued from Page 11.

High-altitude and extremecondition training could included included with high-wall orientation platform and a blastfreezer with altitude simulation.

Furthermore, there would be positive implications growth, economic employment and tourism. Local businesses would benefit with accommodation sought, cafes frequented and enhanced retail spending in

general.

All kinds of events could be hosted including endurance training events and speed skating competitions. It would be a great step for the enhancement of activities for young people of the province.

John is at pains to explain

that he wants to work with the South Taranaki District Council, not against them, in this. He has expressed admiration for Mayor Phil Nixon during this process which has involved a series of meetings: "Phil Nixon is brilliant. He's a really good mayor." However, he feels there must be more public consultation before such a drastic step as demolition is even mentioned.

John Parry is keen to know what people think about what he has proposed, as well as the importance of saving the Manaia & Districts War Memorial Hall and the Sports Complex. His mobile phone number is 027 4369 898.

Other possibilities are letters to the editor, feedback to the South Taranaki District Council (either directly or through local body councillors) and attendance at any forthcoming public meetings on the issue.



We wish our clients and their families the very best Christmas season and a happy and prosperous New Year. As the end of another year draws to a close we would like to thank you for your support and we look forward to offering you continued service in the New Year.

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# Coastal Taranaki School's prizegiving 2025



**Lucy Gibson and Michael** Corbett. Lucy won the Knowledge and Kindness, Year 6 (Corbett Award), which  $\mathbf{Mr}$ Corbett presented.

Coastal Taranaki School's prizegiving, held Thursday December 11, was a celebration of the school's many and diverse achievements over the year.

Two distinguished visitors, seated near the front were Bill Kidney from the Masonic Lodge (Karoa 115 Opunake) and Michael Corbett. Both men were later to present special awards to two outstanding students.

Deputy principal (Senior years 9-13) Sarah Oke welcomed everyone. She has a special message for departing students and teachers, "You will always be part of our whanau. CTS

will forever be your home." Later on, the other Deputy principal (Junior Years 0-8) Gemma Chambers also spoke. She acknowledged the contribution of the staff: "We are a staff of empathic, focused and outstanding educators who consistently dig deep to support one another, all for the benefit of our students."

Early on the Cultural group gave an impressive waiata with complementary actions, including pois. Matua Luke provided guidance musical (guitar) accompaniment. He paid tribute to Billy his student leader whom he described as "the amazing driving force." He concluded, "he's my superstar." Billy will be missed, as next year he attends Francis Douglas College in New Plymouth. To those audience he said, "I appreciate all your love and support."

Everyone stood for a karakia with words displayed on a large screen to one side of the stage. The National Anthem followed with the screen a useful aid, as needed.

Acting principal June) Richard McMillan gave a wide-ranging speech and mentioned that the new principal will be Sonia Mau. He paid tribute to the staff as comprising, "a strong team of excellent teachers, with complementary skills and talents."

He also upheld the academic success of students including, "Year 1-8 are all

achieving well particularly Tyler Reddick. in the core areas of numeracy and literacy." In addition he said, "In years 9-11 the benchmark TAA literacy results have shown a huge improvement this year."

Richard got a good laugh when he quipped, "It really has been lots of fun - even when is hasn't."

Near the end of his speech he had a message for the students, "Have an awesome life. Treat others with empathy and understanding and embrace the value of manaakitanga (respect) as core to the way you lead

- Cheryl Vosper Memorial Award for service to the library Perran Smith-Grinter.
- Kgystern Manuel Memorial Award Enthusiastic learner Lewis Kennedy.
- Citizens award Year 6 (Garry Brophy) Brooklynne Rush.
- Service Intermediate School (Gold Cup) Ben Thomas.
- Most Helpful Year 6 student Zara Longstaff.
- Distinguished guest Bill Kidney presented



Students leaders for 2025 were, from left Lara Smith, Hayley Sulzberger and Rebecca Goodin. (Katie Brown was also a student leader but left CTS in

your lives. Kia Kaha."

There were a number of enjoyable songs such as It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas and You'll be Shorter. The choir musically led the way.

The academic awards followed which centred on Excellence, Most improved and Diligence, as well as the sporting awards.

There were eleven Special Awards:

- Head students Rebecca Goodin, Lara Smith and Hayley Sulzberger (Katie Brown left CTS in June).
- Excellence Year 12 Arabella Waugh.
- Carpe Diem Clyde Hart-Yates.
- LA Alexander Trust Agricultural Scholarship

award (Ikaroa Lodge) to Caspian Fowles.

Knowledge The and kindness award, Year

the Dan Holmes Freemans 6 (Corbett award) was presented by distinguished guest Michael Corbett to Lucy Gibson. She received a silver spade.



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Winning the overall Year 12 Excellence award was Arabella Waugh. She is pictured with her cups for excellence in English, Maths, Art, and Music, as well as Year 12 Excellence.





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# Fast Fox cabins have multitude of uses

Fast Fox Construction Ltd who build high end homes are also doing a great side business with their Fast Fox

The business which operates out of Koru Road Oakura is owned by Jason and Fiona McIntyre who live nearby and have their workshop and showroom open for people to view when driving past into town.

Jason is an engineer, builder and landscaper and the couple founded Fast Fox in 2019 when Fiona returned to Taranaki to live closer to her parents John and Mary Washer after being in Orewa for some years.

The attractive relocatable cabins nicknamed The Cub, The Den and The Forge are constructed on site. Built on skides they are easily moved to their new home on the back of a flat board truck.

The one room cabins have a multitude of uses says Fiona as extra bedrooms, home offices and hobby rooms. They can either have a flat roof or pitched and can be made any size. The ones on display are 3 metres by 4.4metres and are fully insulated.

They can be finished however according to what the customers would like with various doors, decking and



The standard cabins which they have on site retail from \$25,000.

window configurations.

You can run an extension cord from your house to the cabin via a 3-pin plug on the exterior and the cabins are fitted with attractive modern exterior porch lights and interior downlights.

They are finished to a high standard with double-glazed windows/doors, are carpeted and fully lined/insulated and typically sited on piles at their end destination.

No building consents are

needed for the standard size cabins and they are an excellent solution for worker accommodation. Other facilities can be added such as bathrooms but would need a building consent.

The cabins can be built to the customers specifications which means they can be any size or configuration.

Fast Fox have a range of cabins available with some standard cabins ready now.

If being built according

to customer's requirements they usually take around 4-6 weeks to build.

Happy customers from Taranaki and the lower North Island have commented, "We wanted extra space as our family grew, and the cabin Fast Fox built as a sleepout was the perfect solution. It's warm, private, and blends beautifully with our home."





The interior of one of the standard cabins.



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# Dog owners let their imaginations off the leash when naming thir dogs

It's said that a dog often resembles its owner – but some New Plymouth District owners see their pets as more exotic, judging from the names they give them.

The most unusual dog names registered with NPDC over the last year show how much we love our best friends, says NPDC Community Health and Animal Services Lead Kimberley Laurence.

"Who wouldn't enjoy a night in settled on the couch with a bag of corn chips and Guacamole, the family Vizla? Neapolitan mastiffs are usually big dogs with large appetites, but Jelly Bean was probably named after their sweet personality. And Tui Belles Roux tells me this is a German Shepherd



"If I beat you to the fence I'm choosing that name we like best." Woof woof. "Who cares - I've just spotted our neighbours cat and it's nowhere near a tree."

with a lot of character," she says.

Other names that leapt out of the pack included Chicabella, Chico Chan, Gyeoul Winter, and Bobo Baggins.

Meanwhile, the five most popular dog names are much the same as last year: Bella (145), Poppy (133), Charlie (122), Luna (119) and Max (112).

As the weather heats up,

NPDC's Animal Control Team has some tips for keeping your dog happy and healthy during the hot summer months:

• Never leave your dog in the car – heat stroke

can come on fast, even on moderately warm days. Leave your pet at home in a cool, shady spot with fresh water.

• Give your dog two bowls of fresh water at home in case one tips over.

• If leaving your dog at home, give it a variety of toys to keep it from being bored and barking. Puzzlefeeders and interactive toys are great options.

• Give your dog frozen treats in a bowl or ice-cube tray. They take longer to eat so keep your dog occupied, as well as helping it keep cool on hot days.

• Be careful transporting dogs on ute trays because the tray surface can get very hot and burn their feet. Either give

them a shaded spot or pop them into a dog crate with good ventilation.

• It's best to exercise dogs early morning or late evening in summer, when the temperatures (and pavement surfaces) are cooler, and keep your walks/runs short so they don't get over-exerted in the heat. Remember: dogs can get sunburnt too.

• Walk dogs on grass or dirt tracks instead of hard surfaces and be aware of how hot our black-sand beaches can get – if it'd hurt your bare feet, it'll hurt theirs.

• Fleas and parvo are both more common in summer, so keep up with your dog's vaccinations and flea treatments.

## Council seeks views on alcohol

South Taranaki District Council is asking the community to take part in an anonymous Alcohol Survey to help decide whether or a Local Alcohol Policy is needed.

The survey seeks feedback on how alcohol affects peo-

ple, families, and communities in the District.

Council's senior policy advisor Anne Sattler says the information collected will help the Council understand if a Policy is required and, if so, what it should include.

"A Local Alcohol Policy

would set rules around how alcohol is sold and supplied in South Taranaki, guiding licensing decisions and ensuring they reflect local needs," she says.

"We're aiming for at least 1,000 survey responses to get a strong picture of community views. The feedback we get will play an important role in shaping future decisions".

The data pooled from the Survey, combined with information from agencies such as Police and Health NZ, will inform a Social Impact Assessment Report.

"Being informed by local evidence and community perspectives, the Council aims to ensure licensing rules reflect South Taranaki's unique needs," says Anne.

Residents can complete the

anonymous Alcohol Survey online, download a copy from the Council's website or pick up a paper-copy from any of the District's LibraryPlus Centres.

The survey is open from 1 December 2025 until 30 January 2026.

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# Christmas carolling in Kaponga

There was plenty of Christmas cheer when a capacity crowd showed up for the Kaponga Combined Churches' Carols for Christmas.

An audience of around 200 people filled the Kaponga Town Hall on December 7 to celebrate Christmas.

Keeping with a Christmas around the world theme, the evening began with a Filipino take via video of the traditional Christmas story. It featured Maria and Jose looking for a place in Bethlehem, only to find that every shanty was full.

Leading the Carol singing was Anglican missioner the Rev Paul Bowers-Mason, better known perhaps as one half of the Mason Brothers with his brother Wayne (formerly of The Fourmyula and composer of Nature, voted by APRA the greatest New Zealand song of all time). Assisting him was Paul's wife Wynne who is also an Anglican minister, as well as Margarite Gut and Taranaki Methodist ministry enabler the Rev Michael Lemanu.

Together they led the audience in singing such favourites as Away in a manger, While Shepherds watched their flocks by night and Mary's Boy Child. Paul gave the Christmas message.



Kaponga Primary School presented a bracket of Christmas songs.

"It's really hard to celebrate on your own, but it's really hard to go through hard times on your own," he said. "One of the names of Jesus is Immanuel- God with us. God in the form of Jesus came down to be with us."

He said that just as God came down to be at our level, we should be prepared to put ourselves out for someone who needs us.

Students from the two Kaponga schools, Kaponga Primary and St Patrick's performed two brackets of Christmas songs.

Also there was the Methodist Multicultural Choir from New Plymouth who performed Te Harinui, Willow Macky's carol about that first New Zealand church service on Christmas Day 1814. This was followed by Silent Night. Michael Lemanu said they would be singing in Samoan, Fijian and Tongan, followed by English.

"If you want to join us in English you are more than welcome to do so," he said.

As Methodist ministry enabler Michael looks after Methodist churches around the maunga of which Kaponga is one. He says he would come to Kaponga about once every six weeks. He says this is the first time

the Methodist Multicultural Choir has performed in public.

"In our Pacific culture singing is a bit second

nature," he says. "In our New Plymouth church we have a very strong Tongan and Fijian membership, so we often do a lot of singing."



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The Methodist Multicultural Choir.



St Patrick's School Kaponga led by Rebekah Gut.



# Academic successes celebrated at Taranaki Diocesan School

The Te Kura o Pi'opatanga o W'akaa'urangi Taranaki Diocesan School Dux for 2025 is Abigail Meyer.

Abigail, 17, was named dux at the school's formal prizegiving ceremony held at the TET Kings Theatre on Tuesday, December 9.

Abigail took business studies, drama, history, English and health for NCEA level 3, and says it had "always been a dream" to be named dux. She hadn't fully believed she was going to get it.

"I definitely was aiming for it, but it wasn't something I was sure I would get. I knew others also had the same goal, so I had to just stay focused on my studies."

Abigail is heading to Wellington next year where she will be taking a conjoint degree in law and commerce at Victoria University.

Abigail was joined on stage by Chelsea Babalcon (18) who was named Proxime Accessit.

When it comes to learning, she's been lucky to have some great teachers over the years, she says.

"It makes such a difference. I changed my whole future, what I planned to study, because of who taught me and how they encouraged me."

That future will be in health or medicine, she says, and she is currently weighing up her options, with offers from Waikato, Auckland and Otago universities to decide between. Chelsea has been awarded Te Paewai o te Rangi: scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement by Waikato University, worth up to \$30,000.

Principal Maria Taylor



Abigail Meyer (left) and Chelsea Babalcon

says: "I am so proud of our students' achievements this year - the ones that are celebrated publicly and the personal successes that other people don't necessarily see. Our girls are resilient and courageous as well as successful. I look forward to seeing what they go on to achieve.'

Te Kura o Pi'opatanga o W'akaa'urangi Taranaki Diocesan School senior awards:

Bishop's award (creative contribution to school community): Georgie Vickers. Mana Wahine award: Kate Johnston. Kapa Haka award: Isabela Lee-Alvarez. YMCA trophy for excellence in youth leadership: Tatjana Hanne. Josephine Rutherford Memorial prize for senior helpfulness: Eden Smythe.

Grover Tray for service to the school: Abigail Meyer.

Sutton Cup for Art: Bryda Barr. Kate Jordan Cup for Dance: Ava Taylor. Senior Drama award: Abigail Meyer. Design and Technology prize: McKenna Norris. LA Alexander Trust award for agriculture: Kate Johnston/ Sophie Ogle. Calvert cup for English: Chelsea Babalcon. Jennie Petrie Mathematics cup: Chelsea Babalcon. Stewart Family cup for Physics: Chelsea Babalcon. Science cup: Chelsea Babalcon. Keynesian Cup for Business studies: Abigail Meyer. Classical Studies prize: Karen Jones. History prize: Abigail Meyer. Award for nurturing Christian growth: Meadow Wellington. Girdwood cup for outstanding diligence in class and extra-curricular:

Abigail Meyer. Best allround Gateway student: Georgia England. Best allround star student: Myah Johns. Moss Cup for senior speech: Isabela Lee-Alvarez. Catherine Richmond trophy for student contributing most effort: McKenna Norris. Year 13 Porrit prize for top overall year 13 academics: Abigail Meyer. Year 11 Porrit prize for top overall year 11 academics: Harper Downs. Year 12 Porrit prize for top overall year 12 academics: Amelia Pearce. Olex Cables cup for student with top NCEA level 1 aggregate: Eden Smythe. Best NCEA Level 2 aggregate cup: Tatjana Hanne. Gold Award: Abigail Meyer, Tatjana Hanne, Isabella Sunman. Proxime Accessit: Chelsea Babalcon. Travers

Cup for Dux: Abigail Meyer.





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### Kia Ora and a warm welcome from Rahotu School!

As we wrap up a fantastic 2025—a year absolutely full of learning and heaps of events that our students enthusiastically took part in—we are excited to look ahead! Are you looking for a vibrant, supportive, and community-focused learning environment for your child? Rahotu School proudly serves our local community, offering high-quality education in a traditional rural setting where every child is known and nurtured. We warmly invite any families new to the area, or those considering enrolment for the upcoming 2026 school year, to connect with us. Come and experience the supportive atmosphere that makes Rahotu School special.

To learn more about our school, and begin the enrolment process, please visit our website: www.rahotu.school.nz

> We look forward to welcoming you and your family! Matt Moorby, Principal, Rahotu School

Our kapahaka rōpū unite together to celebrate cultural identify through waiata, poi and haka from our youngest through to oldest. To us - keeping connected, maintaining whanaungatanga and demonstrating manaakitanga on and off the stage is essential.



Our Kapa Haka group.



Bonnie and her lamb.



William and his calf.

In Mahi Ngahere we integrate our FLAME values, Te Ao Māori and curriculum areas while working with our community to explore and connect with our taiao (environment). Tamariki embrace community gardening at Parihaka, contributes to restoring our own native ngahere and other projects, and develops knowledge and skills to help our community to thrive.



Students working in the ngahere.

Term Dates for 2026

Term 1: January 29th - April 2nd Term 2: 20th April - 3rd July Term 3: 20th July - 25th September Term 4: 12th October - 11th December

Right: Students enjoying our new mud & water play area.



Left: Students ready to go rafting at TOPEC Camp.

Below: Kora having a go on the rock



The Hauora Leaders once again organised and planned our annual Rahotu School Mud Day. The kids had lots of fun getting out into the mud and water with activities including running through mud pits, playing in our school mud kitchen, a water slide, mud relays as well as having the fire engine and hose spraying over the course. A big thank you to the Rahotu Fire Brigade who always comes out and helps us make the day the best it can be!



The mud pits are always a hit.



Jaelyn enjoying the mud.



Lacev. Briar & Charlie - firefighters for the day.

# OBITUARY: Melvyn Edward ("Spud") Brogden. 13 January 1934-26 November 2025

'Spud," Melvyn Edward Brogden who passed away on November 26 was an internationally recognised daffodil expert hybridiser.

"It's quite interesting how in Taranaki he was just Spud from Normanby but overseas he was almost like royalty as a breeder of daffodils," says Hawera Horticultural Society president Paul Lander. "Over in America and around the world he was quite well known."

On a trip to the United States in 2016 Spud was presented with the American Daffodil Society Gold Medal.

He recorded his first daffodil cross in 1954 and registered his first cultivar in 1956. He went on to register more than a hundred, including Capree Elizabeth, Egmont Star and Florence Joy, named for his beloved wife Joy, who passed away in 2023.

Spud began his long involvement with National Daffodil Society in 1957, was on the executive committee from 1973-2011 and was president from 1994-7. In 1998 the Society awarded him the David Bell Gold Medal for his outstanding lifetime commitment and significant contribution to daffodil breeding. He was made a life member in 2001.

He was a well-renowned and respected hybridiser and judge, travelling to the United States, Australia and Britain and throughout New Zealand.

The "Spud," name by which he was most commonly known came from his lifelong interest in anything to do with gardening.

"When I was about three or four, my elder brothers and sisters used to meet their friends to walk to



Spud Brogden with his daffodils.

say 'taties'. So they called me tatie for a while and eventually it became Spud."

He was born in Hawera, the youngest in a family of six children raised on Mason Road. When he was 15 the family shifted to Grey Street in Normanby. He was educated at Tawhiti Primary School Hawera High School and completed an apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker with Holloways, in Hawera. He later worked for Ian Ross and Rex Hickey as a carpenter and then for Arthur Brown,

He met Joy while picking peas for a local greengrocer. They were married in 1956 and shifted a house from the Normanby Aerodrome to Grey Street, next to Spud's parents. They were to have four children. Spud is remembered as a family

rugby. He played for the Normanby Club and was a Taranaki referee. For a time he was a coach and selector for the Taranaki 4th Grade team.

He was also an active member of the Normanby community, for which he fund raising organised activities.

As well as daffodils, Spud also had a lifelong interest in gladiolis. His father Bill had brought cornlets back with him from France after World War I and started growing and selling them. His business's first seed catalogue was produced in 1934, the year that Spud was born. In 1960 Spud took over the export side of the business. Bill instilled in Spud the commitment to accurate record keeping for which he became known.

Lander, who having served 14 years has now equalled Spud's time as president. "He got me on the committee helping with a few jobs, then helping out with the show, and then vice-president."

his replacement," says Paul

Spud is remembered someone who

always happy to share his knowledge, particularly with younger growers. He supported primary school students and worked with high school agriculture and horticulture classes, supplying bulbs for student projects and awarding bulbs for exhibits at annual spring





breakaway from the New Zealand Gladiolus Society. Spud was among the original members, and he and Joy would run annual gladiolus shows at the Normanby Hall until the last one in 2016.

Other groups Spud was involved with included the Taranaki Daffodil Group, of which he served as president, and the Hawera Horticultural Society.

Spud was President of the Hawera Horticultural Society for 14 years. He would later serve as patron, firstly in a co-role with Joy, and then on his own.

"He and Joy kept the Society going, and he trained



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Congratulations to our 2026 Head Boy: Albie Dorn, Head Girl: Aaradhya Tyagi, Deputy Head Boy: Khiann Ramos and Deputy Head Girl: Georgina Mullin. We are incredibly proud of you all and look forward to seeing your leadership

We would like to give a special thank you to Mrs Stephanie Van Vuuren for giving 19 years of teaching to our school. She has been a vital part of upholding our school's special character. Our parish will miss her leading us in song! On Labour Weekend, October 2026 we will have our 125 Year School Anniversary - save the date and see you there Mrs Van Vuuren! A sincere thank you to everyone who has supported the growth of St Joseph's School Ōpunakē. Ma te kotahitanga e whai kaha ai tātau - In unity, we have strength.



School Office Opens Thursday 29 January 2025, 9am. For all enquiries email office@stjo.school.nz or leave a message when you call 06 761 8388. Merry Christmas!

### 2025 Prizegiving Results

Diligence Awards for students showing the most dedication to their learning

Loxie Cressey & James Stratton Year 0 Year 1 Joseph Baylis & Hazel Thomas,

Year 2 Caleb Leigh, Lacey Parata, Rémy Le Prou & Kaitlynn Diu

Year 3 Tait Mellow & Esme Dorn

Year 4 Theo Kim & Amia Diu

Ryan P Taylor, Magdalena Grasso, Jock Julian & Aria Arora Year 5

Year 6 Andrew Ropoama & Charlotte Campbell

Year 7 Khiann Ramos & Aaradhya Tyagi Xavier Le Prou & Carla Capati Year 8

UNITY Awards for students best showing our school values

Humility Lucy Lawn / Leo Vollebregt / Kata Naus / Natalie Mullin /

Samara Orchard / Jayden Hales

Excellence Khlaia-Rose Brewer / Charlotte Gopperth / Elliotte Walsh /

Harper Mellow / Regan Smith / Erana Harrison Emerson Mellow / Reuben Bognuda / Arthur Langton /

Faith William Lawn / Madison Hales / Celeste Langton

Reef Walsh / Minnie Julian / Sebastian Vollebregt /

Sean Estrada / Michael Zhang / Georgina Mullin

Thea Kim / Judd Walsh / Monty Julian / Rio Mumar /

Katelyn Cripps / Fergus Bourke

### **Special Character Awards**

Theresa Anne Landers Memorial Trophy - Charlotte Gopperth Year 0-4 Student showing living commitment to Religious Education Margaret & Jack Landers Trophy - Minka Stockhoff Year 5-8 Student showing living commitment to Religious Education St Joseph's Öpunakē Trophy Kaitātaki Tane - Lucas Sta Maria St Joseph's Öpunakē Trophy Kaitātaki Wahine - Frankie Campbell Duynhoven Arts Trophy - Frankie Campbell

### **Sports Awards**

Respect

Integrity

Margaret Holmes Cup - Most Outstanding Netball Player - Toni-Leigh Cooke David Fleming Cup for Most Improved Netball Player - Frankie Campbell Lawn Family Trophy for Most Valuable Basketball Player - Toni-Leigh Cooke Langton Family Cup for Most Improved Basketball Player - Jayden Hales Drought Trophy for Most Valuable Rugby Player - Mack Lynskey & Xavier Le Prou Murfitt Trophy for Most Improved Rugby Player - Fergus Bourke Tina Ryan Athletics Excellence Trophy - Kourtney Gulliver Stevenson Cup for Best Female Swimmer - Toni-Leigh Cooke Stevenson Cup for Best Male Swimmer - Toby Smith

### Year 8 Awards

St Joseph's Öpunakē Trophy for Excellence in Sport - Toni-Leigh Cooke St Joseph's Ōpunakē Trophy for Excellence in Leadership - Olivia Lynskey Lawrence Joyce Memorial Trophy for Dedication to Agriculture - Mack Lynskey Academic Excellence Runner Up - Iviana Nicholls Quinnell Trophy Academic Excellence/Dux - John Marcello Asis

Alan & Maree Drought Shield Outstanding Character - Ariana Lawn Strong Cup for Best All Round Student - Olivia Lynskey



Farewell to our Year 8 students JM Asis, Frankie Campbell, Carla Capati, George Carr, Hunter-Rose Chong-Nee, Toni-Leigh Cooke, Erana Harrison, Ariana Lawn, Xavier Le Prou, Mack Romley, Toby Smith, Minka Stockhoff. You are forever part of the St Joseph's Opunake Whānau.



Integrity

2025 Best All **Round Student** Stronge Cup

Olivia Lynskey



starts back Mon 2 Feb 2026

rest whānau

# Nights under the stars tell Gaza's story of survival

Gaza City - One month into the latest ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, a fragile calm has brought longawaited relief for families who have endured unimaginable suffering and repeated displacement. For the third time in over two years, after previously collapsed ceasefires, there is a small space for hope – a renewed opportunity for survival, safety, and dignity for nearly 2 million Palestinians.

Thousands of families remain without a roof over their heads. For months on end, many have lain awake beneath the open sky. With homes destroyed and displacement repeating time and time again, the stars above have become both a comfort and a painful reminder of all that has been

Sabah, her husband Ahmad, and their seven children spent weeks sleeping in the open after losing their home. The pavement became their bed; the sky, their only blanket. "We fled from Shuja'iya to Rimal, then to the south - Rafah, Deir al-Balah, Nuseirat – and then back to Shuja'iya," Ahmad explains. "Every time we move, we lose more of what little we have."

Ahmad suffers from heart disease, with no access to medication. One of their children sustained a head injury and lost his memory. Another fell from the fifth floor during a strike. Another died of hepatitis.

"She passed away because I couldn't get her the medicine she needed," Sabah says. "I didn't even have food - not even a sprinkle of salt.'

Before the ceasefire, life had become a daily battle for survival. Families went days without food or clean



Sabah sits inside a temporary shelter after spending weeks without a safe place to sleep. Photo: IOM 2025.

water. "The hardest thing for a father," Ahmad says, "is to see your children thirsty, to have water, but not allow them to drink because it has to last for days."

As the weeks stretched on, the toll deepened. "The strain is heavy. Perhaps more than we can bear," adds Sabah. Families like theirs are not alone. According to the Shelter Cluster's assessments, 1.3 million Palestinians in Gaza are in need of emergency shelter assistance after a nearly six-month ban on all shelter materials.

Now, the ceasefire has created a fragile opportunity, and with it, a responsibility

Since the new ceasefire began on 10 October, families have continued to move across Gaza in search of

safe shelter, often finding their homes reduced to rubble. At the time of writing, site management partners have observed over 639,000 movements from the south to Gaza City, with many people heading further north toward Jabalya and Beit Hanun. Many are still taking shelter in tented or collective displacement sites, often in open areas with no protection or in damaged buildings that offer little safety.

A humanitarian scale-up following the ceasefire is now underway. With its global expertise in shelter and site management, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is part of this critical effort.

Over the past two months, IOM has dispatched more than 660,000 hygiene and shelter items through its Common Pipeline Programme, including over 11,000 tents. These items are distributed to displaced families by IOM Common Pipeline partners across Gaza. These supplies provide basic protection and offer a measure of dignity to families like Sabah's who have endured insecurity for so long.

For this fragile calm to lead to sustainable recovery, humanitarian access must improve. IOM and its partners call for the safe, rapid, and unimpeded movement of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip. Displaced people must also be able to move freely and return home voluntarily as soon as conditions allow. Humanitarian actors must have sustained access to reach people wherever they

# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM SCARPAS SHOES



by SCARPAS

**David Deacon** 

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fragile ceasefire to lead to meaningful recovery. Photo: IOM 2025.



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### PRINCPALS' ADDRESS

(presented at Junior Prizegiving 2025)

### **Andrea Hooper Carr**

And just like that, it is a wrap for 2025: our Centenary year! I couldn't have hoped for a better Junior School and whānau to have on board for such a historic milestone.

What a year it has been. From the splendid Centenary celebration in Term 1, where our juniors went above and beyond to help us celebrate, to the end-of-year Literacy Lounge. I have personally loved the latter, even if I suspect my group may have liked the chocolates slightly more than the reading!

As a very famous doctor (Dr. Seuss!) once said: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

We also navigated junior exams. While our juniors may not have "enjoyed" them, boy did they impress us with their efforts and the seriousness with which they approached them. As the saying goes, success is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration, and there was certainly a lot of sweating in those exams! Our Year 10s can now face NCEA or the CAA literacy/numeracy tests knowing they have the ability to study, focus, and achieve. And at least 40% of Year 10s have passed these common assessment tasks already.

OHS Junior Sportsperson of the Year (L-R):

give us the gift to be able to make reflective, responsive student centred decisions, always with an aim to create the best learning environment for our ākonga. Then there are our elves, the teachers, who share the magic of their craft, to support, encourage, excite and educate our tamariki. Finally there are the reindeers, the whānau, who get students to school each and every day ready to learn and grow into the good people of Aotearoa and be the change they want to see in the world. We thank you all, ngā mihi nui.

We look forward to seeing all our students back for our 101st year! And we are thankful to those parents and whānau who have made Ōpunakē High School their school of choice, the best kept secret in Aotearoa! We will continue to treasure your tamariki and ensure their learning experience at OHS supports and extends the individuals and taonga that they are. We are also thrilled to announce that thanks to a generous \$30,000 donation from the Toi Foundation, our 2026 Year 10s will get to do their TOPEC outdoor adventure camp at the end of Term 1 totally free. Thank you, Toi Foundation!

It is with such sweet sorrow we farewell our Darling Donna Aitken from our Admin team, our Persistent Pete Clement, and our Vibrant Vicki Wall. Together they have been with us for three quarters of a century, and have left their individual wairua and legacies. Donna has not only been incredibly efficient and accommodating in our front office, but also moved into the Kaimanaaki and teaching space, supporting our tamariki with a huge amount of energy and heart. Nothing was ever too difficult for Donna, and we shall miss her passion, drive and fabulous organisational skills.

Vicki has kept us all in check over the years with her amazing systems management skills. Vicki also moved into a kaiako position having the hardest challenge in the world; teaching teachers. Vicki ran our kapa korero morning professional development sessions to develop our understanding of tikanga maori and te reo maori. Vicki was also Hapu Leader of Āwhina and was wonderful at growing our tamariki in a caring, supportive environment where expectations were clear and fun, whilst learning, tikanga and tuakana teina were the order of the day.

Pete Clement, not only a PE and Graphics teacher, has been a huge mover and shaker in all things environmental. He really has put the 'S' for sustainability into our DREAMS values. Pete has been involved in the loop track, riparian planting, trapping, implementing recycling, the food garden, and exposing our students to environmental career pathways both here and overseas. However, he won't be a stranger as there are always more exciting projects around growing students to be kaitiaki of Aotearoa that he will continue to develop and lead.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a relaxing, revitalising holiday. Put down those phones, pick up a book, and chillax in the awesomeness of Aotearoa.

See you in 2026!

Arohanui



# JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING

Leah Martins (L)

Year 10 DREAMS Trophy, DREAMS Values in School & Extra Curricular

Jahzaia Waiwiri (C) -

Junior Character Aveling Family Cup & Award

Taavi Fraser (

Year 9 DREAMS Trophy, DREAMS Values in School & Extra Curricular

Cultural Award Winners (L-R):

Mya Baillie & Missy Kuriger - Jean Wasley Trophy, Junior Oratory

Austin Flintoff - He Whariki No Te Kohanga Reo o Te Namu Trophy, Manu Korero Speech Competition

Ngaru Adamson - Kui Pikitia Tito Trophy,

Manu Korero Intermediate Te Reo Speech Competition
Te Rawhiti Ihaka Trophy,

Manu Korero Speech Competition Junior Maori

# Players give feel good take on Christmas

Christmas is coming and the BBC have asked the parish of Dibley to put on a Nativity production.

Throw in a pregnancy and a clandestine tryst among the show's sub plots and you have the Vicar of Dibley Christmas, the latest production from Opunake Players.

The Vicar of Dibley Christmas is a stage adaptation bv Stella McCallum of the popular series and ran over eight performances November 21-29.

Players' productions have long enjoyed the support of their public, and this latest one was no exception. Tickets sold fast and very soon the only performance for which any seats were available was the Saturday

There is always a risk when taking on a production based on a much loved TV favourite where the audience are already familiar with the show's iconic characters. The Opunake Players and director Lynelle Kuriger



A Nativity production Dibley-style. Geraldine, the Vicar of Dibley (Sammie Allison), Frank Pickle (Lynelle Kuriger) and Leticia Cropley (Michelle Julian) ask nicely for donations for their Christmas show, while Owen Newitt (Terry Simpson) insists on it.

therefore deserve credit in the series' talented cast, taking this on.

Viewers and theatre-goers

including the legendary Dawn French, for whom are already familiar with New Zealand-born Richard Curtis created the series, as well as the likes of the late great Roger Lloyd Pack, Gary Waldhorn and Trevor Peacock, also sadly no longer with us, among others. These are hard acts to follow indeed.

Geraldine, As Allison deftly manages the transitions between the varied roles required of her character. She has to balance the conflicting personalities on the parish council, while maintaining her ongoing tryst with Simon (John McCarty). All the while she has to maintain the public face and gravitas required of the local vicar and being a torch bearer for female

Acting as a sounding board for Geraldine while managing her own domestic distractions is Alice, played by Kelsi Bailey.

Alistair Cook maintains the stern exterior of the parish council chairman David Horton, while also adding a vulnerability to the role.

Paul Andersen-Gardiner is a convincing Jim Trott, looking the part and getting the character's various idiosyncrasies off Terry Simpson is obviously relishing the role of Owen Newitt, as is Michelle Julian the role of Letitia Cropley.

As if there is a need to remind the audience that Christmas is coming there are the carolling cameos from Jock Mullan, Te Aio Laurence, Annaliese Celeste Langton and well as Langton, as Geraldine's pitch for the first Christmas being the greatest story ever told.

After the show finished there was much animated chatter as the audience made their way out of the Playhouse into a glorious Opunake afternoon. All in all it was an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment and a fitting addition to the buildup to Christmas.

Bryan Kirk.

# Slower speeds rolling out around Taranaki schools

NZ Transport Agency - for some schools that's up Waka Kotahi are installing variable speed limits (VSLs) outside more than 20 schools across the region.

This means that during pick-up and drop-off times, speed limits outside these schools will have variable speed limits installed.

Speeds for schools on state highways will drop to 30km/h or 60km/h, depending on the road. Outside those times, the usual speed limit applies to 100km/h. Electronic signs will make it clear when the lower limit is in effect.

NZTA Regional Manager of System Design, Lisa Faulknor says children are among our most vulnerable road users. Lower speeds reduce the risk and severity of crashes, giving drivers more time to react and making school zones safer for everyone.

This change is part of a

under the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024, which requires VSLs outside schools by 1 July 2026.

installation **VSLs** will be taking place this month, January and February. Minimal disruption with some short stop/go traffic management will be in place during those

As part of these works,

the permanent 50km speed limit on SH3 north of Stratford will be extended to accommodate the school VSL outside Taranaki Diocesan School. 70km/h permanent speed limit on SH3 at Kakaramea will also be extended further north to accommodate the Kakaramea School VSL.

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Electric cars no more likely to be involved in pedestrian accidents

Researchers from the UK suggest that electric vehicles are no more likely to be involved in collisions with pedestrians or to cause severe injuries compared to fuel-powered cars. The team looked into government road safety data from 2014

flooringdesign.co.nz

rates for accidents were statistically similar between both types of vehicles, and there was even a drop in electric and hybrid vehicle caused casualties when the Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System - a safety mechanism to audibly alert other road users of the

vehicle's presence during low-speed driving - was introduced in 2019.

Nature Communications





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# Tuia Taitonga Southlink

News from the South Taranaki District Council He karere tā te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki te Tonga

# Have a happy & safe festive season

As we near the end of 2025, the familiar end-of-year rush is upon us but what an exciting time it is! The 'must get this done before Christmas' lists, school and business wind-ups and the

joy of our town Christmas parades all create a vibrant

atmosphere that reminds us why our community is so special. We've certainly had a busy year at Council. I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made together and look forward to what's ahead. 2025 has been a year of significant achievement. At the South Taranaki Business Park, good progress continued with the installation of three waters infrastructure, electricity undergrounding and the gas main now completed, along with roading upgrades and extensions on Fitzgerald, Houston and Kerry

Our town centre revitalisation projects in Waverley, Eltham, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Manaia have also moved forward. Highlights include the decision on the site for Ōpunake's new green space, restoration of part of the old Wool Wharf in Pātea to create a fishing and viewing jetty, the brand-new 3x3 basketball court at Te Wā'iawa 'ūmārie o Mangaw'araw'ara/Soldier's Park in Eltham, and planning well advanced for Eltham's Stark Park. These projects are about

creating vibrant, welcoming spaces for our communities to enjoy. We also consulted with you on the future of water services as part of the Government's Local Water Done Well programme. After thorough engagement in May, over 90% of submitters supported an in-house delivery model. Council approved this approach in July, and our Water Services Delivery Plan has been accepted by the Department of Internal Affairs. We've also begun repairs on the Kaponga LibraryPlus, installed a UV disinfection unit at Pātea Water Treatment Plant, hosted South Taranaki's first NBL game and subsequently secured three more games next year and successfully planted 30,000 trees this season - an incredible achievement toward meeting our environmental and sustainability goals.

The recent announcement on proposed changes to local government structure, involving regional councils, signals big conversations ahead. There's more detail to come, and every one of us has the chance to share our views before February 20, 2026. I see this as an opportunity - not just to respond, but to help shape a future that works for our communities. Any changes must respect the value of local leadership and decisionmaking, because one size never fits all.

Have a great Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year and please stay Phil Nixon, Mayor of South Taranaki safe on the roads when travelling.

# Council's Christmas Hours

If your rubbish has been missed, a street light is not working, or a pot hole needs filling... we need to know! Contact us directly if you have a request, complaint or even a compliment. Please call Council on (06) 278 0555, or toll free on 0800 111 323 any time - or you can fill out an online form at www.southtaranaki.com or download our Antenno App.

Kerbside rubbish and recycling will be collected as normal - even on Public Holidays. Please ensure bins are on the kerbside by 7am.

### Council's Hāwera Administration Building Summer Community Pools

Closed from 1pm, Wednesday 24 December and re-opens Pools are open from 12noon – 7pm during school holidays Eltham Transfer Station January 2026.

### South Taranaki isite Visitor Information LibraryPlus Centres **Centre** (based at Te Ramanaui o Ruapūtahanga)

Wednesday 24 December	9am - 3pm
Thursday 25, Friday 26 December	Closed
Saturday 27, Sunday 28 December	10am - 3pm
Monday 29, Tuesday 30 December	9am - 5pm
Wednesday 31 December	9am - 3pm
Thursday 1, Friday 2 January 2026	Closed
Saturday 3, Sunday 4 January	10am - 3pm
Monday 5 January	9am - 5pm

### AA Services (based at the isite)

Wednesday 24 December	9am - 3pm
Thursday 25 - Sunday 28 December	Closed
Monday 29, Tuesday 30 December	9am - 4.15pm
Wednesday 31 December	9am - 3pm
Thursday 1 - Sunday 4 January 2026	Closed
Monday 5 January	9am - 4.15pm

### Hāwera Aquatic Centre

Wednesday 24 December	6am - 3pm
Thursday 25 December	Closed
Friday 26 - Sunday 28 December	9am - 6pm
Monday 29, Tuesday 30 December	6am - 7pm
Wednesday 31 December	6am - 5pm
Thursday 1 - Sunday 4 January 2026	9am - 6pm

8am, Monday 29 December. Closed from 3pm, Wednesday and weekends and from 12noon - 6pm on public holidays. 31 December and normal hours resume 8am, Monday 5 Please note that the pools close at 3pm on Christmas Eve, 5pm on New Year's Eve and are closed on Christmas Day.

### Hāwera LibraryPlus

nawera Eistary. ias	
Wednesday 24 December	9am - 3pm
Thursday 25, Friday 26 December	Closed
Saturday 27, Sunday 28 December	9am - 4pm
Monday 29, Tuesday 30 December	9am - 5pm
Wednesday 31 December	9am - 3pm
Thursday 1 and Friday 2 January 2026	Closed

### Eltham, Ōpunakē, Pātea, Manaia, Waverley LibraryPlus

Wednesday 24 December	closing at 1pm
Thursday 25 - Sunday 28 December	Closed
Monday 29, Tuesday 30 December	9am - 5pm
Wednesday 31 December	closing at 3pm
Thursday 1, Friday 2 January 2026	Closed

### Kaponga LibraryPlus

Wednesday 24 - Sunday 28 December	Closed
Monday 29, Tuesday 30 December	1pm - 5pm
Wednesday 31 December	1pm - 3pm
Thursday 1 - Sunday 4 January 2026	Closed

### Aotea Utanganui - South Taranaki Museum

Open Monday - Saturday, 10am - 4pm. m Closed Sundays and public holidays.

### **Transfer Station Hours**

Tuesdays	1pm - 2.30pm
Saturdays, Sundays	1pm - 4pm
Closed Christmas Day and New Years Day	

### **Hāwera Transfer Station**

Wednesday 24 December	8.30am - 5pm
Thursday 25 December	Closed
Friday 26 December	12.30pm - 5pm
Saturday 27 December	9.30am - 5pm
Sunday 28 December	12.30pm - 5pm
Monday 29 - Wednesday 31 December	8.30am - 5pm
Thursday 1 January 2026	Closed
Friday 2 January	12.30pm - 5pm

### Manaia / Pātea Transfer Station

Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays1pm - 4pm	days1pm - 4pm
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### **Öpunakē Transfer Station**

### Waitōtara Transfer Station

Traitotala fransici Station	
Wednesdays, Sundays	10am - 12noor

### **Waverley Transfer Station**

Wednesdays	12.30pm - 2.30pm
Sundays	12.30pm - 4.30pm

# There's nothing like a...



# FAMILY FUN

Saturday 10 January, 10am - 3pm, Soldier's Park, Eltham



# Eltham Family Fun Day

Join us at Soldiers Park, Eltham on Saturday 10 January for the Community Family Fun Day—a jam-packed event running from 10am to 3pm.

Bring a picnic and find a pozzi in the park or have a look at what some of our delicious food vendors have on offer, sit back and enjoy the sun with whānau and friends.

Council Events Coordinator Ella Tosland says pop in to see some local talent, find a bargain with some of our stall holders, enjoy an ice-cream to cool down, catch our local fire fighters in full demonstration, play a bit of 3x3 basketball, bring your togs to head to the swimming pool, or your wheels to enjoy the skate park - there is something for everyone. This free community event is proudly brought to you by South Taranaki District Council, with support from the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.



# Sounds on the Sand

Sounds on the Sand is back at Ōpunakē Beach! Council is excited to announce that this free community event will return on Saturday 17 January 2026, from 1pm to 6pm.

Bringing the heat to the coast this year is Party Patrol Duo, featuring Shaun Campbell (Campbell Vibe) and Karla Kimi. Expect high energy covers, feel-good anthems and a whole lot of fun by the sea.

"We know Party Patrol Duo will have everyone up on their feet dancing in the sun," says Council's events coordinator Ella Tosland.

Pack a picnic, bring your beach gear and join us for an unforgettable afternoon of music, sunshine, and seaside fun. This free community event is proudly brought to you by South Taranaki District Council.



# SOUNDS ON THE SAND

Party Patrol Duo Saturday 17 January, 1pm - 6pm, Ōpunakē Beach



# CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Cassie Henderson
Saturday 24 January,
4.30pm, King Edward
Park, Hāwera



On Saturday 24 January, King Edward Park will transform into the ultimate summer stage for an evening of music, sunshine and good vibes. Kicking things off at 4.30pm, local Party Patrol Duo (favourites Campbell Vibe and Karla Kimi) will warm up the crowd with high energy sing-along covers and feel good anthems you know and love. Then at 6pm, brace yourself for an unforgettable performance from one of New Zealand's brightest stars, Cassie Henderson.

Her hits "Whatever" and "Seconds to Midnight" dominated the charts and earned her Best Pop Artist at the Aotearoa Music Awards.

Concerts in the Park

with Cassie Henderson

South Taranaki District Council Events Coordinator Ella Tosland says Cassie lit up TV screens on *The Voice Australia* and is bringing her signature energy and powerhouse vocals to Hāwera for one night only. "We're thrilled to bring this incredible lineup to King Edward Park," says Ella. "It's the perfect chance for families and whānau to relax and enjoy world-class music right here in Hāwera. Pack a picnic or grab something from our food vendors and make a night

This free event is proudly brought to you by South Taranaki District Council and supported by Toi Foundation.

# TUE COLITA TADADANI DICTOIT COLIDICI

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Free Community Summer Pools

Council is proud to provide towns around the District with community pools, free of charge, that open during the summer months.

Head to Pātea, Manaia,
Rāwhitiroa, Kaponga, Waverley or Eltham to make the most of the pools over the hot days ahead!

Find out opening times and more at www.southtaranaki.com/summerpools



# Safe to Swim?

Before you pack the kids up in the car and head off for a swim, make sure you check whether it's safe first. Taranaki beaches, lakes and rivers are checked weekly by Taranaki Regional Council. You can find the results online at www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/swimming. you can also look for the signage at each spot

Avoid swimming for three days after heavy or prolonged rain, particularly in rivers or beaches close to where rivers flow into the ocean. If the water is smellier, cloudier or greener than it usually is, you might want to find another swimming snot



# Liquor Bans

This is a reminder to all residents and visitors that Temporary Liquor Bans come into effect over the festive season for Öpunakē (beach, clifftop and surrounds), Manaia (South Road/SH45 and surrounds) and Waiinu Beach. Existing permanent liquor bans in Eltham, Hāwera, Normanby, Öpunakē and Pātea will remain in place throughout the Christmas and New Year period. Find out more at

www.southtaranaki.com/liquorbans



He karere tā te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki te Tonga News from the South Taranaki District Council

**Conserve Water** over Summer

> On average, one New Zealand household uses about 500 litres of water every day. That's over 2,000 cups!

Your drinking water comes from streams or underground sources (aquifers) which we treat and distribute to your house through our pipe networks. The more water we all conserve, the less has to be taken from these sources, reducing our environmental impact.

Conserving water also means we save on treatment and reticulation costs. So conserving water helps the environment and saves money at the same time.

There are a number of things we can do to reduce the amount of water we use in and around the house.

- Take shorter showers.
- Wait until you have a full load before starting the washing machine or dishwasher.
- Wash your fruit and veges in a bowl, rather than the tap, and then reuse the water.
- Compost or worm farm your
- food scraps. Waste disposal units use 30 litres of water daily.
- Grow your lawn a little longer in summer.
- Water gardens in the early morning or in the evening once the heat of the day is

### **January 2026 Meetings**

Public are welcome to attend

**Etham-Kaponga Community Board** Monday 26 January, 10.30am Kaponga Town Hall, Victoria Street, Kaponga

Te Hāwera Community Board Monday 26 January, 4pm Normanby Hall, Ketemarae Road, Normanby

**Taranaki Coastal Community Board** Wednesday 28 January, 2.30pm Rahōtu Domain, Rāhotu Road, Rāhotu

**Pātea Community Board** 

Wednesday 28 January, 4pm Kākaramea Hall, 2192 Main South Road, Kākaramea



Scan the QR code with your cellphone to be taken to the Meetings Calendar on our website.

### eNewsletter Sign Up

Sign up to our fortnightly Southlink electronic newsletter to get Council news and updates sent directly to your inbox. Sign up by simply emailing southlink@stdc.govt.nz or head to www.southtaranaki.com/publications to sign up online.



SLOW THE FLOW OF

# There's still time to sign up to Summer Blast

Registrations are still open for the South Taranaki LibraryPlus' Summer Reading Programme, Summer Blast. It's free to join and perfect for kids aged 5 - 12. All they have to do is read for 15 minutes a day, check in to your local LibraryPlus three times during the six-week programme and they get a book and an invite to the finale party. Register in person before Christmas by popping in to your local LibraryPlus. Numbers are limited.

# We want to know what you think



### **PĀTEA SOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

A proposal to close a section of Cambridge Street in Pātea, to create a safer, more vibrant pedestrian space at the town's southern gateway.



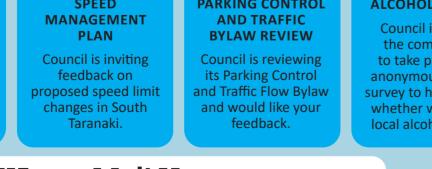


### **PARKING CONTROL AND TRAFFIC**



### **ALCOHOL SURVEY**

Council is asking the community to take part in an anonymous alcohol survey to help decide whether we need a local alcohol policy.





### Kōrero Mai! Have your say

Pick up hard copy consultation and submission forms from the Administration Building or your local LibraryPlus, or tell us what you think online at www.southtaranaki.com/ consultations. All consultations close early 2026.



# Reeling in the years

Reeling in the years After a 12-year break Brian Wafer was back in Hawera. Brian runs record fairs around the country selling records, CDs and tapes and invites other vendors to join him. He says the last time he ran a fair in Hawera was 12 years ago and it was based in a local pub. On December 6 he ran a record fair at the Senior Citizens Hall. Shortly after the fair opened a line of punters were poring the merchandise with many commenting on how glad they were to see him back in Hawera. Brian says he is always on the lookout for possible venues and he liked the look of the Senior Citizens Hall on Victoria Street. "I drove up that street 10 weeks ago and I thought that hall would be perfect and there was a contact number as well," said Brian. He has run record fairs in other parts of Taranaki, including a popular one at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake two years ago. "I did get somebody asking

when we were coming



A customer seeking a bargain from the huge selection of records, CDs and audiotapes.

back to Opunake," he says. Also selling records there was local man Stewart O'Reilly. "I've got a very eclectic collection and now I'm trying to make some room at home," he said. "I've been going to a few of Brian's record fairs around the country and it's good to have him back in Hawera. "You will notice two generations of people here. The younger generation

are just getting interested in vinyl. The older generation are buying to replace what they've burned out." He says there are people who come to record fairs with lists of what they want like the buyer from Wellington he had come across who was at a recent record fair in New Plymouth. Greg Hook had picked up records of Sharon O'Neill and Dance Exponents but said he was always on the

lookout for anything from Selena Quintanilla, the Mexican singer tragically gunned down aged 23 after she confronted the president of her fan club about stealing from her fans. "I listen to her music on YouTube," says Greg. Her music had been very popular in Mexico and she was due to release an English language album at the time of her death, he said. Carl Fairweather said he was pleased to see Brian back in Hawera. "It would be good if we could have these more often," he says. describes his music tastes as being "all over the place." "I'm just starting to get back into it and build the

collection up," he says. One woman who didn't want to be named was waiting to pay for a handful of CDs. She said she was "more of an 80s-90s girl," and was into the likes of Eric Clapton, Cat Stevens and Tina Turner. "CDs wear out and it's good to replace them," she said.

### On this month in history was the first ascent of Aoraki/Mount Cook

On December 25, 1894 the first ascent of Aoraki/ Mount Cook was achieved after ten earlier failures.

The three successful

climbers were Tom Fyfe, Jack Clarke and George Graham. Part of the motivation was to ensure the mountain (3,754 metres) was climbed by New Zealanders.

They were aware that an Anglo-American climber, with a Swiss guide Mattias Zurbriggen, were planning make the ascent.



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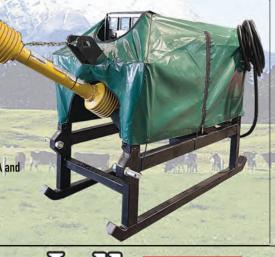


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# Summer weather favours Okato Christmas parade

A sunny afternoon favoured the huge turnout of people at the Okato Christmas parade, which was held on Sunday 7 December.

At 6.30pm sharp the parade set off from the corner of Carthew and Gosling Streets heading north, headed by a decorated (mostly festooned with balloons) police vehicle with lights flashing, accompanied by a Highland band in close consort to the strains of Scotland the Brave. There were six bagpipers and three drummers. The Okato Fire Brigade were certainly prominent.

Okato was well represented by about 20 floats and there were others from beyond the township as well, such as the New Plymouth Rodders Club.

One float had a nativity scene with the message Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

Some of the floats included Coastal Farmers, Okato Vets, The Garage, Okato Swimming Club, Stent Road, Hill Building, Coastal Taranaki School, Life Education Trust (with Harold), FBT, Okato Lions, to mention just a few.

The floats were judged (there were three judges) for seasonal theme, creativity and effort. The winner was the Saint Patrick's Church float. Congratulations to all those who participated in the creation of this outstanding one.

A huge amount of work went into all the floats ensuring excellence, and another one which looked stunning was the Stent Road one with a huge model of Taranaki Maunga with a sign reading Surf Mountain.

One family group enjoying the spectacle was the Horton family of Mat, Chloe with their children Violet (6) and



The Stent Road float was certainly impressive.





Daniel Crowley 027 215 3609 COASTAL/NORTH TARANAKI Tim Hurley 027 414 6756 COASTAL TARANAKI The cars coming through drew a lot of interest.

Alice (3). The family have lived in Okata of about 8 years. Mat said, "The parade was really good. We come to see it every year."

Well done to the Okato Community Church who are the organisers of this great event. Also deserving of thanks are the Maori Wardens, Okato Lions and Coastal Taranaki School



Enjoying the spectacle were Mat Horton, Chloe Horton and their children Violet (6) and Alice (3).

whose gym was used for the afternoon tea after the actual parade, where there was a barbecue, ice blocks and

celebratory good cheer.

Nicola Moffit, one of the organisers commented,

"The quality of the floats

was excellent this year and we really appreciate support from the community."



67 High Street, Hawera 06 2785058



# Another successful parade at Eltham

The Christmas Parade in Eltham has proven to be a big hit with locals. Sponsored by the Eltham Business Association and organised by the Eltham Lions Club, businesses, schools and clubs as well as the general public are only too happy to get involved.

This year's Eltham Christmas Parade held on Friday (December 12) was no exception. The weather also came to the party turning on a sunny summer evening.

Every year the parade has a different theme, this year it was bling.

The floats were lined up on Stanners Street waiting to be judged before they moved into Bridge Street and the start of the parade.

The Eltham Pony Club are one of the parade regulars. The club has 53 children involved, "at least 20" were

"These are celebrities with a bit of bling," said teacher Carol Henderson. "We have about 50 children here tonight and that's about half our school."

Leading the parade was a pipe band made up of members from local bands, followed by a banner reminding everyone of the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships to be held in Taranaki in March next year. Their repertoire began with the usual Scottish patriotic staples but as the march went on this changed to favourites associated with Christmas.

One feature of this year's parade was the lack of tractors, as contractors were being kept busy with work commitments.

Making a return to this year's parade was the vintage Eltham Fire Truck which usually carries Santa. Last year it was being repaired,



The Eltham Pony Club and their winning float.



The Mangatoki WI.

in the parade, nine mounted and the rest with the float.

Sarah Whitehead from Stratford was there with her two daughters Carly and Ella. The two sisters were mounted, riding "two brothers," Ethan and Delme. Among the schools out in force was Ngaere School, whose float had a disco theme. but this year it was back, with South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon, as well as a couple of well-known Eltham Lions members hitching a lift.

This year's float winner was the Eltham Pony Club followed by the mobility scooter riders and the Mangatoki Women's Institute.

As always the parade attracted a large crowd lining Bridge Street, with many happy to linger after the parade was over.

Eltham Lions member Llew Eynon said he was pleased with the way everything had gone.

"Yet another successful parade and the best thing is there are still a lot of locals



Sarah Whitehead with her daughters and pony club members Carly and Ella riding Ethan and Delme.

hanging around," he said.
"There are quite a few more
than last year and they are
all enjoying it. The weather

has come to the party as it always does. Eltham being the size it is, it let's the local businesses get involved. This year the theme was bling and the public got involved as well."



At the Hawera Parade Christmas Festival members of the Hawera Brass Band entertained passers-by with Christmas music, conducted by Jody Thomas.



The Cat in the Hat interacts with the crowd at the Hawera Christmas Parade.

# Service station to close after 75 years

After 75 years BP Oakura (Heydon Priest Ltd) is to close and be replaced by a self -service petrol station. The business was founded in the late 1940s by Ashley Heydon and his wife Nona with just two pumps and a two bay workshop, says daughter Irene who gives a fascinating account of the long history of the business. Her father Ashley, was

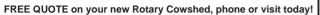
30

an A grade automotive mechanic who trained under Charlie Maxwell in Okato alongside Ray Rook and Merv Putt in the garage premises now occupied by Sinclair Electrical - previously Coastal Motors owned Ray Rook. There were many changes over the years to the business which in 1952 became a

registered company known as Heydon Priest Limited. The pumps were initially in front of the relatively humble premises in which the business started out. In later years the pumps were moved to the side. In the 1960s a full hardware shop was added to the

premises which also sold an extensive range of magazines, gifts and cards. In the 1970s a canopy was another addition to the forecourt and was later further extended. Aside from their successful garage Ash and Nona went on to own various businesses over the years.
This included a school bus service.
They also got involved in logging carting logs from the bush.
They also over the years bought out various trucking companies including WR Robinson, Geo Duke, Hogan

Bros, Roebuck Carriers and Coastal Transport and at one stage owned the biggest trucking company in Taranaki. Furniture removal and haymaking were other business interests. They sold the cartage business in 1981 and then started a skip bin business.







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Ash with his inventive nature and following the sad loss of Nona, introduced two unique businesses to the town which were to prove decided tourist attractions. In 1988 he shifted the deconsecrated Warea Church – built on land given by Mr and Mrs Wells in memory of two of their sons who perished in WW1 - to Oakura siting it alongside Heydon Priest Garage. The former St Mark's Anglican Church in a deteriorating condition was refurbished

side of the main building.

and for many years was run by Denise Hutchings as a gift and craft Shop called The Crafty Fox selling quality New Zealand Arts and Crafts. The Crafty Fox won a commendation in the New Zealand Tourism National Awards in 1990. "He wanted to attract tourists to Taranaki," said Irene of her father adding he was also "very interested in preserving history." The next of Ash's ideas was to move a railway carriage to Oakura. Irene remembers he set about finding a suitable railway carriage which after moving it to Oakura and siting it next to the former church he completely refurbished later adding for authenticity, old items like hat boxes, fur stoles and old suitcases in the carriage rack. Entering it was truly a step back in time. Not long after, Ash added an actual station, the original Te Wera railway station which sits behind railway carriage. Several restaurants have successively

of the iconic carriage over the years. Ash also added miniature train nearby for children to play on. Recalls Irene "He got the idea for the miniature train from an image on a tea towel" and then set about constructing the miniature train from scratch. It's very popular among children. another Yet unique tourist attraction the seaside town. Sadly, Ash passed away

Heydon Priest in early days. The pumps were initially in front of the building. In later years they were moved to the

legacy lives on in these extraordinary initiatives. The church is now leased as a café. The Carriage meanwhile is looking for a new tenant come February, the Serial Griller café run from there having closed recently. There is a kitchen associated with the carriage. As for the garage alas, it is to be demolished. The site, still owned by the Heydon family, is being leased to NPD who will develop a 24



Ash and Nona Heydon.



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Whoops. One of their trucks taking the scenic route.

# 75 years of honest service to Coastal Taranaki

hour self- serve fuel station. NPD is known for being price competitive and will offer 91, 95, Diesel and NPD's 100 Plus High Octane fuel. The last day of trading as BP Oakura will be on January 29 2026. There will be some sadness at the loss of the long standing business to Oakura. Over the years hundreds of people have been employed at Heydon Priest Ltd. "We have been blessed with many loyal and long serving employees," says Irene. The garage holds many memories. All three siblings worked in the business

as children in the school holidays, says Irene who remembers at just 4 years old being at the service station. She remembers some hair raising experiences in the 70s when the service station was targeted by burglars. The burglar alarm would go off at their house across the road but would not be heard by the burglars who would sometimes be caught red handed. Reflecting that cars used to break down more but "modern cars are more reliable", she adds there's "way more traffic" these days. And Oakura has

expanded, she says adding that her father very much supported local business and community groups.

Since their father died she said she and her sister Catherine had "nursed" the garage along. "It was Dad's dream," said Irene but "times changed now." Her father would start a 5am, and work 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Irene quips with a laugh they hadn't been able to find anyone else in the family who wanted to work 12 hour days, 7 days a week for the next 70 years.



Okato's 150th jubilee - 70 years of honest service to Coastal Taranaki.



The former Warea Church in transit to Oakura. It had to be cut in half.



The iconic carriage.



BP Oakura today with the 1938 Dodge which is still in the family.

TThe car which is still driven by Ash's daughter Irene. "It was my mother's grandmother's car and is still going strong," says Irene. She said, the car was imported brand new by her great grandmother who hadn't driven before. Her husband had recently died and she decided she needed to learn to drive, said Irene. The vehicle was later bought by Irene's parents and became the family car which she drives these days. The Dodge was also used to pick up children from Ahu Ahu Road to Oakura School in the days when her parents also ran a school bus service, recalls Irene. "There'd be 6 children in the back and 4 in the front, seat belts not required...'

In later years the car was restoring the car," said left in a shed for many Irene. He put a new motor years and "rusted out". 1992 Dad started is still in use

in the car and the vehicle





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# I want to go home

This entry by Celia Gribble (Stratford High School) was the winner of the Lysaght Watt Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary competition - Secondary Schools Short Story section. The honour of first place is accompanied by a prize of \$500.

"Here we are." The office lady speaks slowly to me like she thinks I'm too dumb to understand her. My anger flares, my English may not be that great, but it also isn't that bad. I fight to swallow my pointed retort; I must make this work. For my parents. For my brother. So instead of snapping at the white lady who hasn't gone through half the stuff I have, yet still has the nerve to treat me like I'm stupid, I take a breath, nod, then push the crimson door that we stand in front of open. Instantly, thirty odd heads snap in my direction, badly disguised whispers snake through the air, eyes rove over me,





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came first, but also second and highly commended. The judge Tania Roxborogh is reading Celia's winning story.

judge me. My skin crawls. a single glare, "we have a I hate this already. I want to new student with us today.

Celia Gribble of Stratford High School (seated) not only

I hate this already. I want to go home. I want my parents back. I want my life back. No. I. Have. To. Make. This. Work. Think. Of. Your.

Brother. Basma.

A tall lady with her hair pulled back into a severe bun that looks like it's ripping the hair out of her head, smiles at me, beckoning me over to her. She introduces herself as Ms. Gwenyth - once again speaking painfully slowly.

"Alright class," she calls, silencing the whispers with

a single glare, "we have a new student with us today. Her name is Basma, and she's come a long way to be here with us, so let's make her feel welcome, okay?" Judging by their responding raised eyebrows, I'm not welcome. "Basma, why don't you go sit with Willow and Piper down the back?" I walk down the middle of the class feeling the sharp

the class, feeling the sharp stares dig into my back, and whispers pinch at my ears. I hold my head up high. Refuse to look weak. Refuse to be weak. I am strong. I can get through this day. I must get through this day. So, I sit with these people that don't want me here, and don't say a single word.

"Basma! Ali! Grab your stuff! Quick! We must move! They're coming!" The fear in my Ammis' voice as she drags me out of bed makes me do what she asked without question. My little brother, however, has no such restraint.

"Ammi, what's happening? Who are they? Why are we leaving? I don't want to leave!"

Ammi grabs him and shakes him violently, shouting at him. "Do as I say Ali! Now! Hurry up! Only pack what you need. We have to be fast!" My brother quickly starts packing, shut into a terrified silence.

Only a few minutes later we hurry down the stairs to meet Ammi and Abbu in the kitchen, bags in hand.

Abbu snatches up my brother and Ammi grabs my hand and together they drag us out of the house, sprinting down the dirt road, towards the outline of the truck. I do nothing, but watch as our home fades to nothing but a shadow, before being swallowed up by the horizon.

The electronic sound of the bell rings out across the classroom. I pack my things up quietly and follow my new so-called 'classmates' out the door, and into the cafeteria. Everyone is already seated at various tables, chatting to their friends, laughing. A carefully structured, impenetrable network that I stand no chance of piercing. Sighing softly, I walk to where the trays are stacked and begin to load the tray up with unfamiliar, strange food, yet another reminder of just how far from home I am. Fighting back the sob that bubbles in the back of my throat, I finish loading up my tray and turn to find a place to sit.

"Oi you, refugee girl." I look for the source of the noise, finding it easily. A girl with a nose ring, and huge fake eyelashes stands in front of me, nonchalantly chewing gum creating a sickly minty aroma that washes over me. "Yeah, I'm talking to you refugee girl, like, like, ugh, how come your in our country?

Like, did your parents die or something?" She drawls, laughing breezily. Laughing like the words don't knock the breath out of me. Constrict my chest till I swear my lungs pop. Laughing like the words weren't like a knife stabbing deeply into my

heart. Twisting as it stabs in, ripping my heart from chest in all its bloody glory.

Did your parents die or something.

The boat is docked at the wharf, our lifeline, our escape. Right there. Yet it might as well be a continent away. Pirates stand in front of it, bear-like people, holding guns ready to shoot anyone who crosses them. We've already talked to them, begged them; but we know the price. Two of us will journey to a different country and start a new life. The other two will be left behind. I stand to the side as my parents quietly argue, anguish carved into their faces. I hold onto my brother, holding him as we both fight back tears. I don't know if he knows the true weight of what is happening, but I know he knows that something is wrong. Something bad is about to happen. Again.

"Come here my darlings," Ammi calls, tears shining in her eyes, "we have come to a decision. We have decided that we want you two to take the spots. We want you to have a life. We've already had our chance, and now it's your turn." She caresses my brother's face, and smiles at him, voice wobbling.

"Grow up to be big and strong for me Ali, okay?" My brother yells and throws himself at her, burying himself in her arms, sobbing. "No Ammi! No! Don't leave me! Please! Stay! Please Ammi!"

Ammi breathes in shakily, "I can't Ali. Please. You must let me go." I watch the whole exchange silently, numbness spreading throughout my body. I knew that escaping the country was going to come at a cost, but I didn't realize just how high the cost would be. "Ammi. Abbu," I whisper, voice breaking.

My parents wrap me in a hug, "Look after your brother, okay? Please." I nod, tears staining my

cheeks, "With my life."
Abbu nods, "Go then, go live your life."

Everything becomes hazy with tears, disbelief and underlining it all pure fear as I drag my brother onboard the boat, only minutes before it leaves the port. Leaving my life behind. Leaving my country behind. Leaving my parents behind. We lose sight of them after a while. But we can still hear the gunshots as they ring out across the still ocean.

Crack. Crack.

"Oi refugee girl? Can you still hear me? They said you could speak English." The girl laughs in my face.
Hatred and pain bubble

inside me, I drop my head, refusing to let her see me

Continued next page.





# I want to go home

Continued from previous page.

cry. Refusing to look weak in front of these privileged people who do not know pain. I hurry past her, tray in my hands. She sticks her foot out, and I trip falling face first into the food, leaving smelly bits of some sort of noodle stuck to the side of my face. "Go home refugee girl, go home." The girl leaves with her friends laughing, slapping each other's backs. Go home, ha, how I wish I could. A brunette girl with a concerned look on her face holds a tentative hand out to me to try to help me up, but I shove it away. I don't need or want these people's help. I pull myself up and onto my feet and run. Out of the cafeteria. Out of the building.

Out of the gates. I hate that school. I hate this town. I hate this new unfamiliar country that I've been forced to. I hate these people who are so, so ignorant in their privilege. I want to go home. I want to go home with every piece of my heart. But I cannot. For my brother, I must stay. For my brother, I must be strong, even if I feel like screaming and crying. For my parents, I must stay. For them, I must uphold the promise I made them. I must adapt to this new, painful

So, I stop running, I stop moving entirely, and slowly

I lower myself down onto the curb of the road I find myself on and focus on breathing. In, out, in, out.

Over and over. Again and again.

I must have completely lost track of time, because as I gingerly walk back through the school gates, people are already starting to leave. People rush past me eager to be free for the afternoon, yelling at their friends to 'wait up'. I'm so caught up in watching the chaos in front of me, that it takes me a good couple seconds to register that someone called my name. Turning towards the sound, I come face to face with the girl from the cafeteria, the one who tried to help me up before I rejected her.

"Basma?" She asks again, "wait I am saying it right, right?" I stare at her, so confused about as to why she is bothering to talk to me that I just stand there staring at her, for moments too long, before I hastily reply, "Yes, yes you are......do you need me for something?"

She shakes her head, "Nah, I just brought you the English homework, because as it turns out, you're in my class. I figured you wouldn't be back after Tills' display in the cafeteria. I'm so sorry about that, by the way. I only saw the end of it, but from what I heard she said some incredibly out of line stuff, so I'm very, very sorry you had to deal with that. Oh, and I was wondering if you wanted to sit with me

tomorrow when we have English? I mean you don't have to, but I'm still pretty new here - I only got here at the end of last term, so like, I kinda know how it feels? Obviously not too the same extent, I mean you've come from Iraq to little old Taranaki, but, like, just know the offer's there, okay?"

She speaks in an outrageously quick outpouring of words, (honestly why do Kiwis feel the need to speak

so ridiculously fast), but her demeanour radiates a charismatic pull that makes me trust her almost instantly. I smile at her, "I'd like that". Her answering grin is radiant, "Okay in that case let me give you a quick overview of this school based on what I've learnt in the short time I've been here.... oh, and my name is Sam by the way- probably shoulda started with that," she says slightly sheepishly, before launching into a hilariously dramatic commentary about the teachers and students alike, that has me in tears of laughter in no time

As I walk home later, a small flicker of hope flares in my chest. Maybe, maybe this won't be so bad.

Celia Gribble, Stratford High School

# Monarch butterflies under threat

A reader, Ian McAlpine has concerns appearing in the media regarding Monarch Butterflies (Danaus plexippus) in their gardens becoming rarer.

But they are around.

There could be an issue however with the Australian wasp which attracts them and stings the caterpillars. Ian suggests every school should plant swan plants to help the colourful butterflies, which live just 6-8 weeks.

There are four stages of their life cycle: egg, lava (caterpillar), pupa (chrsalis) and butterfly.

The Opunake Lions have planted some swan plants on the Opunake Walkway in the Opunake Lake section.



Monarch butterflies young or pupae (caterpillars) enjoying a feed of Swan plant leaves.

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prevention policies play an

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### WHO recommends Ozempic-style weight loss drugs for obesity

GLP-1 medications (like Wegovy and Ozempic) are recommended as long-term treatments for obesity, according to new guidelines released by the World Health Organization (WHO). They also recommend behavioural therapies like counselling and goal setting for exercise and diet changes, along with the medications to maximise and sustain their benefits.

They note that the guidelines cannot tackle the worldwide

GLP-1 medications (like are conditional for now, as Vegovy and Ozempic) more is still being learned as long-about these medications.

However, the World Health Organisation emphasised that governments and healthcare systems must make sure that GLP-1 medications are affordable for those who need them and that obese patients do not face discrimination. They also said that medication alone cannot tackle the worldwide

problem of obesity, and important part.

rtant part.

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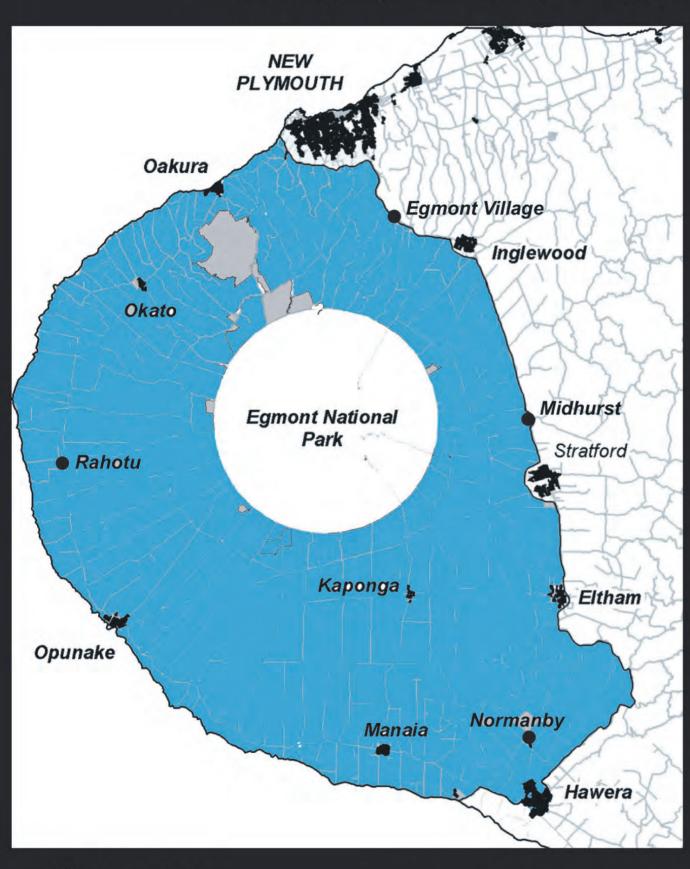


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# COP30 underscored need for balanced climate policy

Last month, Beef + Lamb New Zealand's director UK & EU Macaulay Jones attended COP30 in Belém, Brazil, as part of the World Farmers' Organisation delegation.

At COP30, countries agreed on a set of indicators

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to measure progress towards global climate adaption goals, called the Belém Adaptation Indicators.

These indicators focus on a range of voluntary measures and practical outcomes such as climate-resilient farming practices, food security, and biodiversity - ensuring climate policies strengthen communities and food systems rather than weaken them.

"These indicators are designed to help countries ask the tough question: are our climate mitigation policies actually helping communities become more resilient or making them more vulnerable to climate change?" says Jones.

The Government's move to limit forestry offsets by restricting whole farm conversions that can be entered into the ETS is welcomed.

However, our forestry offsetting regime - and its impact on climate adaptation - continues to be an outlier and out of step with these Belém conversations as it will still allow some farms to be converted into forestry for carbon credits, he says.

"Recent European research shows EU forest carbon absorption is already declining due to climate impacts and poor adaptation policies, highlighting the risks of leaning too heavily on forestry to meet our climate goals.

"We're not against forestry, but we support strategic productive land-use, not the blanket planting of whole farms into single-species carbon sinks."

The Belém conversations around adaptation indicators underscores the importance of getting both climate adaptation and mitigation policies right to avoid unintended consequences.

"The move to more sciencebased biogenic methane targets based on the principle of 'no additional warming' shows we can act on the latest science and evidence.

"The updated methane targets will also ease the pressure to rely on unsustainable blanket forestry offsets to meet unscientific climate goals."

New Zealand remains a global leader as one of the few UNFCCC parties with clear mitigation ambitions for agriculture, including quantified, timebound agricultural methane reduction targets. Unlike many others, we also have concrete plans to achieve

these targets and are making good progress.

The recent Global Methane Status Report 2025, released during COP30, endorsed New Zealand's domestic split-gas approach with recommendations urging all countries to adopt specificity for biogenic methane in their Nationally Determined Contributions and Methane Action Plans.

This aligns with B+LNZ's call, alongside 39 other agricultural organisations across 16 countries, for a split-gas approach for emissions reporting. Strong backing from developing countries demonstrates that the issue is one that unites

farmers across the world.

"Whilst I was in Belém, agricultural organisations from Italy, Uganda, Bulgaria, and Argentina signed onto the joint statement on this matter with many more interested," says Jones.

"Given New Zealand's leadership in this area and unique emissions profile, there continues be interest in our approach. The New Zealand Government needs to do a better job of telling this story, highlighting the latest science, and encouraging others to follow our lead. We have a good story to tell and in Belém other countries were eager to hear it about."



### Kiwis aurora shots named among world's best

Kiwis punching above their weight as three aurora shots named among world's best Three New Zealand-based photographers are being lauded after their stunning aurora pictures were named among the world's best. Among them was Daniel Mickleson from Taranaki's Guardians of the Aurora, who captured a rare aurora event which lit the west coast of New Zealand's North Island in vivid curtains of pink and green. Spectacular!





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Christmas and a safe and happy New Year

# Profit still on table but margin gap tightens

DairyNZ's latest Econ Tracker update shows most farms will still finish the season in a positive position, although the gap has narrowed compared with early season expectations.

Despite the Fonterra forecast farmgate milk price easing to a midpoint of \$9.50/kgMS, the overall outlook remains positive with a forecast breakeven milk price of \$8.50/kgMS.

DairyNZ Head Economics, Mark Storey, says the sector remains optimistic, but farms should continue to monitor costs heading into the new year, as increased global milk supply has put downward pressure on dairy commodity prices. "It's not a case of being the Grinch who stole Christmas,



DairyNZ Chair Tracy Brown.

but we do need to be sensible in terms of on-farm spending to maintain profitability over the remainder of the season," he says.

"Demand is steady but not strong enough to absorb the additional milk at previous price levels. At the same time, we're seeing a seasonal increase in farm working

expenses – up 16c to \$5.83/ kgMS, which consequently influences breakeven costs and cash surplus.

"Even with a softer outlook, the sector remains in a strong position by historical standards: demand is stable, export volumes are firm, and New Zealand maintains a competitive edge in global markets."

National milk production to date is up 3.4% on last season. The South Island is leading the charge, posting a 5.7% lift in October, predominantly driven by extra feed.

It remains to be seen whether damage to irrigators and pasture from the storms in October will influence South Island production for the remainder of the season.

DairyNZ Chair Brown says that farmers are keeping a close eye on interest rates, and any further reductions will be welcomed by the sector.

"As many of my fellow farmers would agree, anything that helps ease the cost pressures is always appreciated. This update indicates that interest payments are expected to reduce to \$1.11/kgMS for 2025-26, which is 35c lower than last season. Farms that reduce debt during highpayout years are better placed as margins tighten," she says.





06 278 4578 027 381 7748 hrl21ltd@gmail.com 30 Regent Street, Hawera



# Council asset management failures see higher water costs Responding to the news Prime Minister claimed last month that half of all

that all councils' Local Water Done Well service delivery plans have now been assessed by the Department of Internal Affairs, Taxpayers' Union spokesman James Ross said:

"Councils undervaluing the cost of water investment by roughly \$4,500 per household over the next decade shows they never had a proper grasp of the assets they owned or what it would take to fix them. If you're trying to explain why water services are in such poor shape, look no further."

"This is classic public sector behaviour, and the problem isn't limited to government.

government agencies don't have asset management plans at all, which hardly sets a robust example for councils to follow."

"With most councils

now setting up new water entities, this has to be a chance for a full reset. You can't manage what you don't properly measure, and ratepayers cannot afford decades more of the same poor governance."





# On this month In history

# **Ernest Rutherford**

On August 30 1871 Ernest Rutherford was born near Nelson at Brightwater. He was the fourth of 12 children. His mother was a teacher and mill owner. After a drowning tragedy involving two of his brothers the family shifted to Taranaki. They had a farm near Pungarehu and had flax mills at Opunake, Warea and Pungarehu.

Although he was primarily a physicist Rutherford won a Nobel prize in Chemistry. Much of his scientific work was conducted at Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge. However, he also carried out important work in Christchurch at the old site of Canterbury University (Now an arts centre)

He was acclaimed as NZ's greatest person. He was made Lord Rutherford of Nelson and received many honours.



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# National lamb crop edges higher as ewe performance improves

New Zealand's national lamb crop for the 2025-26 season is estimated at 19.66 million head, a lift of one percent (or 188,000 more lambs) on last season, driven by stronger ewe performance in most regions, according to Beef + Lamb New Zealand's (B+LNZ) latest Lamb Crop report.

The national ewe lambing percentage increased to 131.1 percent, up 3.7 percentage points on last

The improved lambing outcome more than offset earlier expectations of fewer lambs tailed, following a 1.9 percent reduction in the number of breeding ewes.

All regions reported higher

lambing percentages except the northern North Island, where dry summer-autumn conditions affected feed levels and ewe condition.

Kate Acland, chair of B+LNZ, says the lift in the national lamb crop is a positive sign following two challenging seasons.

"Despite tough weather conditions in parts of the country, farmers have achieved a strong lambing performance, which is a great result.

"More saleable lambs than previously forecast will provide a good boost to farm revenue, particularly with global demand for lamb holding firm.

"However, the overall



Beef + Lamb New Zealand's latest Lamb Crop report.

number of lambs processed in the 2025-26 season is forecast to be around 17.07 million head, about the same as in 2024-25, when the number processed was down just over a million head. So, supply is likely to remain relatively tight.

Part of the reason processing is forecast to be the same is we are anticipating some of the lambs born to be retained to rebuild ewe numbers in parts of the country that were affected by drought and poor weather in recent seasons.

Farmers indicated strong first-quarter processing intentions, with more lambs expected to be sent to processors between October and December across most regions.

Global lamb supply remains constrained, supported by an expected 5.8 per cent reduction in Australian export lamb availability and continued low New Zealand supply.

This tightness, combined with sustained demand for sheepmeat, continues to keep New Zealand farmgate prices at historically high levels.

"The remains sector cautiously optimistic," says Acland.

"Prices are holding, demand

is strong and farmers have sensibly focused on areas they can control.

"However, we're not blind to the wider pressures. Seasonal uncertainty, landuse change and regulatory headwinds continue to shape many on-farm decisions.

"Many farmers keeping stocking policies flexible while exploring ways to lift performance, maintain resilience and build long-term business sustainability."

Seasonal conditions over summer will remain an important factor.

NIWA's outlook indicates a moderate La Niña, with a risk of dry spells through late December and January alongside the potential for heavy rainfall events.

"We encourage farmers to prepare feed and water strategies for both dry conditions and potentially heavy rain events," says Acland.

"Farmers know how quickly things can change."

The Lamb Crop Report draws on data from more than 500 commercial sheep and beef farms nationwide, forming a statistically representative picture of the





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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

# New environment law cuts red tape for farmers

Environment Bill Planning Bill to replace the Resource Management Act is a red letter day for the agricultural sector, Federated Farmers says.

"The RMA is the single biggest handbrake growing agricultural productivity and rural economies. It's great to see its end come one step closer," Federated Farmers resource management spokesperson Mark Hooper says.

"When farmers complain about expensive resource consents, unachievable freshwater targets, Te Mana o te Wai, and outstanding natural landscape overlays, these are all things that sit under the RMA legislation.

"Investment, farmer confidence and productivity have been strangled in red and green tape for far too long.

The Government today released two new bills that, once passed into law, will replace the RMA.

"There is lots of good news in this package of law,' Hooper says.

"First of all, under the new law most farmers won't need a resource consent. Simply by having a certified Farm Plan they will be viewed as compliant with environmental regulations.

"This makes sense. Farm Plans can achieve much of the same environmental outcomes as a resource consent, without the need to



Mark Hooper. Rural News Group.

fork out tens of thousands of dollars on expensive planners and lawyers.'

Government The estimated their new laws will nearly halve the current number of consents on the nation's farms.

"Secondly, where a farmer does need a resource consent, there will be a much, much higher bar for these to be notified, which means they're opened up for submissions from others.

"When a consent is notified, farmers have to pay for the expensive hearing. This notification cost is what drives consent costs from the tens of thousands of dollars into the hundreds of thousands."

In addition, there should be far fewer instances of when consultation with iwi on individual resource consents is needed.

Cultural impacts will assessed when environmental limits are set, meaning the need to assess cultural impacts on every resource consent sometimes from multiple iwi and hapū - should be a thing of the past.

"The days of farmers effectively having large chunks of their farm confiscated in the form of an SNA - Significant Natural Area, ONL - Outstanding Natural Landscape, or SASM - Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori, are also likely to be severely curtailed."

Where a council effectively confiscates a large part of a farm, there is a requirement to compensate the landowner. This will mean this practice is much rarer, and when it does happen, farmers are fairly compensated, Hooper

"Federated Farmers will take time to read through the 700 odd pages of legislation and there will be a few areas where we think further work is needed.

"This is partly what Select Committee is for - to iron out inconsistencies and problem clauses.

"We think the increase in fines and the restrictions on the use of insurance to cover for a breach of resource management rules haven't struck the right balance in the draft legislation.

"This needs to have more nuance so that when harm is done accidentally, for

example an effluent system fails due to poor engineering, this is recognised in the regime.

"Restrictions on fines and insurance should only apply where farmers are wilfully negligent.

Federated Farmers is also worried about proposals to allow trading of natural resources, such as nutrient loss or even freshwater.

"It's near impossible to measure the nitrogen coming off a farm and the Overseer model in particular has been thoroughly criticised for its use in regulation.

"When you can't even accurately measure nitrogen it's very hard to trade it.

The difficulties involved in creating a property right for freshwater are well-known,

Hooper says. "Freshwater falls from the sky and isn't able to be

owned or sold. "On balance, we think these two bills are a major step forward for New Zealand will dramatically improve the productivity of farming in New Zealand.

"We will work with the Government over coming months to address any concerns we have in the laws and look forward to the day the RMA is consigned to the dust bin."



# Fire extinguished before it did any damage

The local fire service was called out to a grass fire on the side of the main highway just south of Manaia.

It was a searingly hot day on Monday and the fire seemed to have started from nowhere. The conflagration was extinguished before it got out of hand thanks to the prompt action of the local fire service.

The scene of the grass fire just south of Manaia on Monday.



**Merry Christmas and** Happy New Year from Grant and the team.

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Christmas at Speedway

There was more than just racing on offer at Five Star Liquor Stratford Speedway night. With the event being the last race meeting before Christmas, the Taranaki Stockcar club was able to run competitions in the form of a Christmas themed dress up comp, and a colouring competition before Santa took to the track for the Santa Prade. Speedway After these formalities were sorted, racing was able to get underway with a number of trophies up for grabs.

A near full field of Stockcars graced the track for the Heritage Shield. Shane Denham was the man to beat, producing fast lap times and always finding his way to the front or near the front of the field. Denham placed second in race one from a grid seventeen start, won race two and then placed fourth in race three to win the event overall by a huge ten-point margin. Codey Wilton was second and Ben Wilson third while Palmerston North contracted driver Caleb Coxhead was in the hunt for a podium finish but a decisive hit by Nathan Alexander at the start of race three saw him rolled out of contention.

A small but quality field of Modifieds raced for the Plant & Fabrication Services Taranaki Champs. Newton Gordge was in hot form all night and won the first race before coming home third in

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Michelle Elsmore - Junior Surf & Oceans

Claire Hunn - Senior Sands

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Catch the action at Stratford Speedway December 26.

Images from Cookies Motorsport Photography.

race two and second in race three to win the title by one point from Aiden Crawford. while Jason Kalin was third. The class also raced for the Ginge Hayward Memorial which was a one race deal, the starting order the reverse of the finishing order of the Taranaki Champs. Ricky Paul won this race ahead of Kalin and Gordge.

Saloons raced for their City of New Plymouth Classic. Races were won by Bradley Korff, Craig Korff and Thomas Korff but it was Bradley who was once again too fast for the other competitors and won the event after winning race one and placing second in races two and three. Craig Korff was second and Thomas Korff third.

A large field of fifty-four Youth Ministocks were on hand to race for their City of New Plymouth Classic with

most tracks in the North Island being represented. Drivers were divided into two qualifying groups with the top thirteen on points moving through to the finals. Local driver Blake Luscombe successfully defended his title that he had won last season after winning the first final heat and placing second in the other. Hawkes Bay driver Vincent MacGregor was Wellington second and driver Jesse McPhee third.

Minsiprints and Adult Ministocks also raced on the night with Minsiprint races being won by Bronson Pierce, Cameron Hurley and Erin Uhlenberg while Adult Ministock victories were taken by Jack Beynon (Palmerston North), Miller Andrews (Whanganui) and Jono Mouldey (Palmerston North).

The next event at speedway is the Sharpe Engineering Solutions sponsored Boxing Night event on December 26 and will feature the Repco Taranaki Superstock Champs, The Zodiac Signs Taranaki Minisprint Champs and a Ramp Demolition Derby.

Jarrod MacBeth.



The next event at speedway is the December 26 and will feature the Repco Taranaki Superstock Champs, The Zodiac Signs Taranaki Minisprint Champs and a Ramp **Demolition Derby.** 

# **Opunake Surf Life Saving Club welcomes summer**

The Opunake Surf Life Saving Club is ready for another season, continuing a proud tradition of community service that started in 1923. Our dedicated team of volunteer lifeguards, along with a supportive committee, is prepared for a safe and enjoyable summer at the beach. Our junior surf programme is also in full swing, teaching u14 and rookie lifeguards valuable water, sport and beach safety skills.

Where to swim? Between the flags, always

From December through the end of January, our regional guards will be on duty Monday to Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Many of these lifeguards are familiar faces—long-time volunteers who care deeply about the and community.

On weekends, our trusted police. They can contact volunteer team will be on patrol from 11:30 a.m. to If there's someone nearby, 4:30 p.m., so be sure to say hello when you see them! Swimming outside patrol

If you're planning to swim outside of patrol hours,

remember that safety comes first. Here are a few tips: Swim safely - Try to swim in front of the clubrooms, as

this area typically has fewer rips. You can also use the two large Norfolk pines behind the clubrooms on the hill as a visual guide and avoid the beach's south end.

Don't swim alone – Always swim with a friend, and let someone know when you expect to return.

You're in trouble, Remember the three Rs.

Relax - Don't fight the current, as it will tire you quickly.

Raise your hand – Signal for help; often, there's someone nearby watching.

Ride the rip – Let the rip carry you until it releases, then swim toward the shore. If you see someone in trouble Call 111 and ask for the our rescue squad directly. such as a surfer with a

board, they might be able to assist in keeping the person afloat—safely.



Opunake IRB teams are training hard and winning most of their competitions.

Thank you to our Sponsors, Players and Supporters We look forward to seeing you all next season





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# From out of the blue gallery

Welcome to all the holiday community and the visitors who are choosing Ōpunakē

as a place to spend some of the summertime in. We wish you all the best of weather

# from out of the blue studio gallery

18 Halse Place, Opunake

Ph 021 407 424

We have special hours over the holiday season.

18th - 24th December 1-5 pm - note open extra days.

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One of Anne Daniel's Harakeke masterpieces.

and relaxation while you are here. 'from out of the blue

studio gallery' is hosting Anne Daniel - Harakeke Artist until January 5th. Anne has filled the gallery with a wonderful range sculptural Harakeke weavings supported by works created with other from her garden. This garden is home to over 30 varieties of Harakeke which Anne uses in ways - highlighting the variations and beauties of each variety. Upstairs in the studio space there is an exciting range of smaller items if you are looking for a special present for someone on your list. Anne will be in the gallery from 27th December through to the 5th January do come and meet her and hear her making stories - they are fascinating.

Our address is on the Ōpunakē Loop Trail if you are enjoying that. 18 Halse Place. Ōpunakē.



About 18 months ago a male cat started hanging around our Okato home. It took off like crazy whenever it saw us. It looked a bit sad and bedraggled, so we started putting out food for it and

gradually it became a bit more tame. We assumed it was stray because it was almost always on our property - even at nighttime. We would often see it curled up asleep in our garden. Eventually it could be patted, although remained somewhat wary.

Recently, we noticed it had a nasty wound on its shoulder and a few days later the injury showed no sign of healing. We were especially concerned about the risk of infection.

Using a trap loaned by Okato Vets we caught it and

continued on next page





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# Sandersons' garden boosts Lions fundraising

Elaine and John Sanderson generously allowed Opunake Lions Club members to sell plants in their Kaupokonui garden and it yielded a \$2,750 bonus for Foodbank.

The garden is located haldway between Hawera and Opunake at 1961 South Road, Kaupokonui.

This is the third year that the Sandersons invited the Opunake Lions Club members to hold a Garden Treasures stall during the Centuria Taranaki Garden Festival, which ran from October 31 to November 9,



Kaye Mourie (left) and Rachel Norgate set up a display of handcrafts at the Garden Treasure stall in the Sandersons garden.

"We are very grateful to the Sandersons for giving us space in their potting shed as they had a lot of visitors during the festival," said Kathy Stanley, an Opunake Lions Club organiser.

A team of Opunake Lions Club members potted plants and donated handcrafts, which appealed to a wide range of customers. Lions Club partners and friends also created items for sale.

This is the second year the Opunake Foodbank has been donated money from the Opunake Lions Club.



# Get your pets microchipped

made an appointment to see the vet who cleaned the wound up and gave us some antibiotics for Rocky – as we named the cat.

But was it possible Rocky had been microchipped by its original owner? - whoever that was. Eureka! It had been microchipped, we were told.

The Privacy Laws meant we could not be told the original owner's name or address, but the vets gave our

**Under 5's FREE** 

continued from previous page details to the original owner who phoned us immediately.

> The original owner, it turns out, lives in New Plymouth, but two years ago was unable to keep Rocky (it was given a different name) and gave it to someone in Okato. The good news is that later this week the original owner will call by to pick up what was a muchbeloved pet, which they'd missed, who loved sitting on the laps of family members.

Early this year a kitten

(maybe six months old) appeared on our property and took off at the sight of us. However, this one became tame quite quickly and the day after our beloved 17-year-old cat Fifi died, decided to move in. However, it wasn't microchipped, which we discovered when we took her to Okato Vets for attention over some ailment.

Twiggy, so-named because she was so skinny when we first saw her (she certainly is

not skinny now!), may well have been a much-beloved pet who is greatly missed. But, no microchip means, unlike *Rocky*, there has been no chance tracking down the original owner.

The message is crystal clear; if you have acquired a puppy or kitten (even older pets for that matter), don't delay, go and make an appointment to get your new pet microchipped.





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## **OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

# Raising funds for Hospice Taranaki



On a sunny Tuesday morning on November 18 a group of enthusiastic walkers set off around the Opunake Loop Trail. The walk was organised by the Pihama Women's Institute in conjunction with the Opunake walking Group.

The aim was to raise funds for Hospice Taranaki.

Hospice Taranaki Community Partnerships lead Rose Whitaker says

"We are proud to have sent \$2085.0 to Hospice for their ongoing support to families in our region. Once again thanks to you all.

"This donation of over \$2000 will make a meaningful difference — helping us provide 24/7 nursing and medical care, support for whānau, essential equipment and care at home, and care at Te Rangimarie. These contributions help ensure our services remain free for the 254 patients we are currently caring for."



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# Great places to go Golfing



Pungarehu Golf Club.



Manaia Golf Course.



Opunake Golf Club.

The Opunake Golf Club is located 2.5km up Namu Road just north of Opunake. 18-hole, 5309m course is surrounded by Pohutukawa and pine trees with spectacular views of

the mountain and sea. From mid-November till March, golf gets a lot more social with Twilight Golf every Friday from 4.30pm. This is a casual 9-hole competition open to non-golfers and golfers, and it's become a popular family friendly event. On January 18th the club will be hosting the Opunake Open Tournament, now a very popular event that golfers come from far and wide to enjoy (see advertisement). Opunake Golf Club Men's and

Ladies Club Days continue

through the summer as social golf, with tee times between 9:30 - 10.30am on Sundays and Tuesdays respectively.

New members are always welcome, and summer is a great time to give golf a go. The course is open to the

public throughout the year and is a fun, low-cost outing for those enjoying the holidays in Opunake.

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From our whanau to yours, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We at CG Fleming Ltd want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our clients, partners and community. We look forward to continuing our mahi with you in 2026. Nga mihi o te kihimete me te Tau Hau.

Phone: 027 201 2925 Crockett Fleming **SERVICING SOUTH TARANAKI** 

# **Pungarehu Golf Club**

6199 Main South Road, Pungarehu

Green Fees \$20 - 18 Hole Course Subs: Full Member \$280, Students \$75

> Call Susan 027 448 9140 email: crowleyxfive@xtra.co.nz



# Manaia Golf Club

Green fees on our historic course \$30 - 18 Holes / \$20 - 9 Holes Boxing Day Tournament \$10 entry Turn up on the day from 9.30am Ambrose non-golfers welcome New members welcome Contact Greg 027 249 2220



Hawera Golf Club, dating back to 1908, is a cracker. it is also called Fairfield Links by those in the know. The location is stunning, with majestic coastal views and (of course) an expansive look at Mount Taranaki on a good



# **HAWERA** GOLF CLUB

Green Fees: \$30, \$20 on Sundays Golf Carts available Easy walking links course with stunning views Ph O6 278 5828

# OPUNAKE GOLF CLUB

**Opunake Open Tournament** 

Sunday 18th January 2026

Entry Fee \$50 includes Meal, Two's, Nearest to the pins. Free Halfway house.

Five divisions Nett/Stableford & a Field Gross Tee Times: 6am to 2pm

Contact Callum Roach: 027 212 7115 or Karl Stanley: 027 330 1875



# **TWILIGHT GOLF**

Starts Wednesday 7th January 2026

Time: From 4.30pm

**Cost:** \$5

Tee Off between 4.30 to 6.30pm Teams of 4 (golfers and non-golfers) If you require players or are available to play

contact the Golf Club on 06 761 8070 See Opunake Golf Club Facebook Page

**Everyday Play Available** 

\$20 Green Fees - Affiliated Golfers \$30 for Non Affiliated

Students \$10

# **Opunake Beach Carnival 2026**

The 2026 Opunake Beach Carnival will be a great day for the whole family with more than 40 craft and food stalls, and a range of activities for the kids. The event is on Saturday January 10 from 10am - 3pm at Opunake Beach. Entry is free of charge. The action will begin right at 10am with the babies and toddlers kicking off the run of pageants. Babies 0-2 years, 3-5,-6-8,9-10,11-12, \$3 entry and Mighty Muscles

under 7- 8-11 years \$3 entry and 12+ Years \$10 entry.

Miss Opunake (13 years +). \$10 entry. There are fantastic prizes to win, kindly donated by local businesses.

Please register at the Marquee at the right of the stage please register early as some categories fill up fast. always popular Opunake Lions Big Dig, where children dig in the sand for winning popsicle sticks will once again be a highlight. All prizes are

**CLOSED 12pm DECEMBER 24** 

**RE-OPEN JANUARY 5TH 2026** 

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Lincoln, Tina,

and the Agrimec team

**38 IHAIA ROAD, OPUNAKE** 

06 761 8999

FOR ALL EMERGENCY CALL OUTS PLEASE PHONE LINCOLN 0273546017

kindly sponsored by The Opunake Beach Carnival Committee and Campbell Contracting. The Big Dig is scheduled for 11am, Please register at the Lions tent by the stage before the dig.

All day activities include, Laughing Clowns and a shooting gallery and Bouncy castle. Carnivalgoers will be spoilt for choice with food options aplenty, including Thai and Turkish food, ice-cream, coffee, hot dogs and chips to



Muscles for miles.





Sunblock Assassins.



Rusty Campbell with a Big Dig winner.

name a few. Back by popular demand is the hourly raffle. Proceeds made on the day help fund projects for the improvement of the beach and the funding of future Opunake Beach Carnivals. . Please be tidy Kiwis - we encourage you to take your rubbish home.

Thank you to the local businesses and the South Taranaki District Council for making this event possible Games Galore

Lollies or the Bag, Apple bobbing, pie eating, Limbo and other great activities

It's free entry and prizes will be given, but really it's just a bit of fun, take that as given. The Beach Road will be closed. The Pickering Shuttle will be available - \$2

Koha donation.

Parking for Disabled vehicles only, all other parking on the cliff-top.

All vehicles to be removed from the public car parks at the beach by 6am, as they may be towed.



# **OPUNAKĒ BEACH CARNIVAL**

**SATURDAY 10th JANUARY** 

# **10AM START - FREE ADMISSION**

HOURLY RAFFLES: 11am-3pm - Eftpos available

Pageant - 10 am start: On Dell Stage - Babies 0-2, Tots 3-5 \$3 (Cash only)

11am: Opunake Lions BIG DIG \$3 - Eftpos available

Please register from 9.30am at the Lions tent stage left - 3 sections: Everyone gets a prize. 3 major prizes sponsored by Campbell Contracting.

Then: Pageant continues - \$3 Under 13, \$10 Over 13 (Cash only)

Muscles (Under 7, 8-11, 12+) - \$3 Under 12, \$10 Over 12 (Cash only)

Great activities: Pie Eating Contest 14-16 & 17+, Sunblock Assassins, Lollies or the Bag, Apple Bobbing, Limbo

2.30pm: MISS OPUNAKE - 13 years + \$10

All day fun for all ages activities: Laughing Clowns, Shooting gallery, Bouncy Castle

Carnival-goers will be spoilt for choice with food trucks including Kebabs, German Sausage, Japanese curry, Ice-cream, coffee, hot dogs and chips, Hearty as Dumplings

The Beach Road will be closed. The Pickering Shuttle will be available - \$2 or Koha donation.

Parking for Disabled vehicles only, all other parking on the cliff-top. All vehicles to be removed from the public car parks at the beach by 6am, as they





Leigh and Patrice and families would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year. We would like to thank you all for your loyalty during the year We will be continuing our traditions of friendly pressure free shopping and free gift

wrapping.

Still the Best Little Gift Shop On The Coast 80 Tasman St. Opunake - Ph 06 761 8171

# Opunake Beach Carnival 2026



St John Ambulance there to help and educate the visitors.



Lollies or the bag.



Pie Eating this year the Categories are 14-16 and 17 plus.



Opunake Beach Carnival Big Dig.

**f** You Tube



Proud to Sponsor the  $m{Big}$   $m{Dig}$  since 2010







Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the team at Campbell Contracting

Rusty 027 280 0743

Nadia 0275552038



# **CALL OUR FRIENDLY SALES TEAM AT THE** OPUNAKE & COASTAL



See how our high readership rate can work for you

# BACK DOOR Distillery

# **OPENING** SOON

Boutique Gin & Rum distilled at 88 Tasman Street, Opunake



# Dalroy **MARTINBOROUGH FAIR** 6 – 8 February \$600 Experience the fun of the fair with 400+ stalls Get a group together for a fun weekend away **FORGOTTEN WORLD RAIL CARTS** 1 - 2 March \$810 Experience Whangamomona to Taumarunui by rail **MARCH GETAWAY** 9 - 12 March \$1330 Explore the Cambridge & Taupo areas Including Zealong Tea, Siberian Huskys & Waiouru Museum **18 DAY SOUTH ISLAND TOUR** 9 - 26 April \$5450 Visit Mt Cook, Milford Sound, Queenstown, The West Coast, rich autumn colours, spectacular mountain peaks, beautiful reflective lakes + so much **MURRAY RIVER CRUISE** 13 - 22 June \$6235 Enjoy a relaxing cruise on the Proud Mary on the famous Murray River in South Australia with spectacular scenery Ph now on 06 754 6206

# New art gallery studio



Polly Cleverley in her new gallery and art studio.

A new art gallery has just opened in the main street of Opunake as of last Saturday December 13.

We were still in the process of finishing the studio at the end of last week in preparation for opening when someone wandered in and bought a painting said Polly Cleverley who is exhibiting all her own work in the gallery/studio. "It was a good omen" she said.

Polly, originally from Oamaru, describes herself as "passionate" about art and comments

paints from her "intuition" using diverse styles.

She has created a large, inviting space in which to work and exhibit her art in what was the former sports shop in Tasman Street Opunake. It includes an enormous chaise.

The intention was to create a space that was inviting not austere or intimidating, she says, her creative side very much in evidence. "It's inviting and its interesting and its unique," she says. It certainly is.

She will be painting a on the premises so people can see her painting.

"When I'm not painting I'll be on my chaise," she adds.

It was serendipitous, she says of her arrival in Opunake.

She visited Arty Tarts and Liquorice - two Opunake shops - on the lookout to rent space somewhere.

says and she immediately felt welcome. "Everyone whose popped

It was a wet Monday she

in the door is very welcoming she said. "It's the kindest community

I've ever fell into."

Polly Cleverley Art is at 78 Tasman Street, Opunake.

# A day of community fun in Eltham

Make the most of Summer with a day of fun, food and family at Soldiers Park, Eltham on Saturday 10 January for the Community Family Fun Day—a jampacked event running from 10am to 3pm.

Bring a picnic and find a place in the park or have a look at what some delicious food vendors have on offer, sit back and enjoy the sun with whanau and friends.

South Taranaki District Council Events Coordinator Ella Tosland says you can

Purveyors of All Borts

WARM WISHES FOR A SAFE

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS** 

& A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

WITH THOSE YOU LOVE

Thank you for your ongoing support.

We appreciate you shopping local and look

forward to seeing you over the summer holidays

027 733 7931

pop in to see some local talent, find a bargain with some of our stall holders, enjoy an ice-cream to cool down and catch the local fire fighters in full demonstration and much more. There is something for all. Bring your togs to head to the swimming pool, or your wheels to enjoy the skate park. There is literally something for everyone.

"This event is such an exciting opportunity for families and whānau to come together and enjoy a truly special day in Eltham," says Ella. "It's not just about relaxing in our beautiful parks and making the most of the fantastic facilities Eltham has to offer-it's about celebrating the incredible community spirit that South Taranaki is famous for. Add to that the thrill of a fast-paced 3x3 basketball showdown in partnership with Basketball New Zealand, and you've got an afternoon packed with energy, connection, and fun for all ages. We can't wait to see everyone there."

This free community event is proudly brought to you by South Taranaki District Council, with

from the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

Community Family Fun Day in Eltham - Saturday 10 January, 10am - 3pm, Soldiers Park, Eltham



#### **PUNGAREHU POOL UPDATE**

Kia ora tātou,

In celebration of our 75th year we are very happy to announce our community pool is currently being painted by Grays South Taranaki. Made possible with very generous funding support from the Toi Foundation and the Taranaki Coastal Community Board. Absolute legends - THANK YOU.

As such we open a little later than usual our summer swimming season will begin

- 31st December 2025
- Keys will be available with the awesome team at the Rahotu Challenge from next week.
- -The season family key is still \$60.

With another huge THANK YOU to the amazing generosity of both Creative Communities Scheme and the Taranaki Foundation, further summer upgrades will include

- New murals by Artist Chris fuller co-designed with the
- And an Elco Canvas sunshade sail installed over the toddler

See you at the pools soon! Pungarehu Community Society Incorporated 2025

# Wonderland about bringing joy to others



**CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR SALE** Bargain CDs at \$5 each or 5 for \$20 From ABBA to Zappa

Classical \* Jazz \* Country \* Rock \* Soul \* Blues Collectable Music Books & VINYL! Phone or text Garry on 027 412 8377 to arrange a convenient time to visit.

Issue 1 2026 January 29 Please email us editorial @opunakecoastalnews.co.nz ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz



# **Manaia Community Church services** in Gibson Hall

December 21st: Carols at 6.30pm **December 25th:** Christmas Day service at 9am

One of several displays to be seen at the Christmas Wonderland.

As the Eltham Christmas Parade was coming to a close on Friday things were just starting up for the yuletide season at the Christmas Wonderland.

Tucked away in a shed by the Eltham Christian Harvest Centre Community Church on Stanners Street this is the third year the Wonderland has been running. Beginning with the day of the parade, it runs every day from 2pm-5pm up until Christmas Eve with the odd late night thrown in.

Inside displays are covering the first Christmas at Bethlehem, as well as Christmas in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres and a Christmas Village scene complete with model railway.

Decked out as Santa and Mrs Claus are Wayne and Colleen Annand. Wayne says the Eltham Christian Harvest Centre Community Church is involved in the community and hold a carnival at Easter and run a Light Party in October, so having something for Christmas seemed a good fit.

"Our motto is we don't do church, we do life," says Wayne. "This is about bringing life into families'

The aim is to have something that's affordable for families, so entry is by donation.

Colleen says the Christmas Wonderland is different every year with new features continually being added.

Before the Wonderland, Wayne and Colleen would dress up as Mr and Mrs Claus and take presents to needy people in their van. They felt that they wanted to have something where people could come to, so the idea of the Wonderland was born. In the time it has been going it has attracted visitors from as far afield as Stratford, Waverley and Opunake. Colleen says they have welcomed groups like rest homes, kindergarten and day care centres.

Christmas is something that resonates with Wayne and Colleen.

"You've got to like Christmas to do it," says Wayne. "Some people say why have Santa when you're a church, but it's about bringing joy to others."

Our next issue comes out on January 29 2026.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

# CHRISTMAS on the CORNER

@ St. James Church, Oakura Cnr Donnelly Street & South Road

Sunday, 7 December Advent 2 Worship Service @ 10.00am

Saturday, 13 December Advent Quiet Morning A quiet time for prayerful reflection @ 9.30m - 1.00pm

Sunday, 14 December Advent 3 Communion Service @ 10.00am

Thursday, 18 December Carols at the Carriage Community Event @ 6.00pm

Sunday, 21 December Advent 4 Reflective Christmas Service @ 10.00am

Wednesday, 24 December Christmas Crafts, Games & Interactive Christmas Story @ 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Wednesday, 24 December Christmas Eve Candles, Carols & Communion @ 8.00pm

Thursday, 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY Family Service @ 9.30am

Sunday, 28 December Christmas 1 Summer Celebrations Service @ 10.00am in the Hall

Sunday, 4 January Christmas 2 Summer Celebrations Service @ 10.00am in the Hall

Sunday, 11 January Epiphany 1 Communion Service @ 10.00am

Sunday, 18 January Epiphany 2 Worship Service @ 10.00am

Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:11

MERRY CHRISTMAS: MERRI KIRIHIMETE



# Opunake Combined Churches

Christmas Eve Service at St Barnabas 9pm. Christmas Day Service at St Paul's at 9.30am. Christmas Day Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea

January Combined Churches Services all at 10 am.

4th - St Pauls Our Lady Star of the Sea.

11th - The Wave.

18th - St Barnabas

25th - Our Lady Star of the Sea.

The Cancer Society
Taranaki relies on the
generous support of
our community through
donations, bequests, and
fundraising events to
continue providing vital
services for local Taranaki
cancer clients and their

whānau

Relay For Life is one of our biggest fundraising events, helping people right here in our community through the Cancer Society's support services, cancer prevention programmes, and life-saving research.

Everyone and anyone can be involved. If you've been touched by cancer whether personally, through a loved one, or simply by wanting to make a difference Relay For Life is for you.

This inspirational event brings people from all walks

of life together for a common cause. The day begins with an opening ceremony, where cancer survivors and carers lead the first lap of the event, a moment filled with courage and hope. From there, team members take to the track. Most walk, while others jog or run. Every step makes a difference.

As night falls, personally inscribed candle bags are placed around the track, creating a warm, glowing tribute to those affected by cancer. During the Candlelight Ceremony, we come together to remember loved ones lost to cancer. The event concludes with an

uplifting closing ceremony, uniting all teams in reflection and hope.

Teams are made up of friends, family, co-workers, schools, clubs, and community groups anyone who wants to take part. Each team brings its own special energy and spirit to the event, making it both meaningful and fun.

Globally, more than five million people participate in a Relay For Life event every year now it's your turn to join the movement.

Relay For Life is a 12-hour community event for all ages and fitness levels. Together, we will: celebrate with

ones lost, fight back against cancer.

Throughout the day and night, team members take turns walking, running, or skipping around the track in relay style all while enjoying a carnival atmosphere with music, entertainment, food stalls, and fantastic community spirit.

So, are you ready to Relay? Anyone can do it - just do it.

Relay For Life Taranaki 2026. TET Stadium and Events Centre, Inglewood. Saturday, 28 March 2026. 10.00 AM – 10.00 PM



We wish our customers a safe and happy Christmas.

We thank you for the support you have given us.

683 Egmont Rd, NP | 027 447 0708

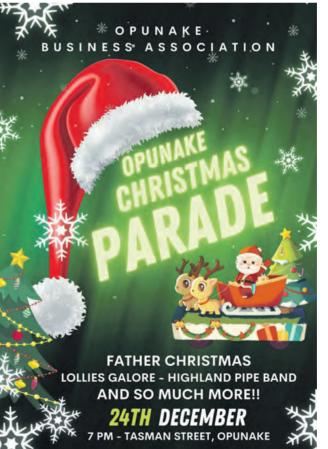


Put a team together for Relay for Life.

# Greener world would boost economies Tackling climate change

Tackling climate change and investing in nature would save lives while also boosting economies and reducing poverty, according to the UN Environment Programme's seventh Global Environment Outlook report. The report presents two pathways global economies could follow to reduce consumption, decarbonise energy supply, shift to healthier, more sustainable improve diets and biodiversity. The report predicts that these pathways could provide economic benefits of US\$20 trillion a year by 2050, growing to US\$100 trillion by 2070.





20 Dec 2025 - 24 Jan 2026

36 NIGHTS OF FREE LIGHTS AND ENTERTAINMENT!

Festivaloflights.nz

Pukekura Park, New Plymout



TARANAKI

# The coffee shop that's as buzzy as

For the past year things have been buzzing on the corner of Tasman and Napier Streets in Opunake. The man behind this is Joshua Rennison Reeves Guttenbeil-Smith who runs Buzzy Bean Coffee Shop.

He is coming up to his first year at Buzzy Bean, dispensing coffee made with beans from popular New Plymouth coffee roasting business Proof & Stock.

"Many people love them, and it's drawn a decent amount of customers to our store," says Joshua. "I have regulars from Rahotu, Manaia and from wherever people are passing through,







Joshua dispensing coffee at Buzzy Bean.

and from local tradies and mothers here in Opunake as well."

He had trained as a barista with Proof & Stock and then worked at the Tikka restaurant in Hawera before deciding he wanted to work for himself.

The premises he works from had once been his parents' garage.

"My Mum and Dad used to own the Surf 45 Lodge so I've always been into coffee and hospitality.'

"I opened up without a name to begin with. Going into winter was a bit of a challenge, but thanks to local support I made it through to the other end. Hopefully things are getting better."

His brother Blake stepped in to give Joshua the benefit of his 20 years hospitality and barista experience.

So where did the name come from?

"Whenever my mates would say something outrageous I'd say it's as

buzzy as," says Joshua. "People drink coffee because it buzzes you out. Why not add buzzy and bean together?"

He is open every day, serving mainly Proof & Stock, although he has recently added energy fruit shots to his repertoire.

The corner on which he runs his business is familiar to travellers passing through Opunake.

Diagonally across the road is the town's Peter Snell statue and the planned site for the new town square. As the square takes shape there is extra reason for people

travelling through town to stop, linger and maybe have a coffee.

# **SECOND WIND SECOND HAND SHOP**

Selling clean quality items at reasonable prices. **NOW BUYING!** 

Open Tues - Sat 10am-2pm Motorua Shopping Centre | Text 022 184 3796



# **MANAIA** DISTRICT **RSA**

# CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

Join us for a special Military Vehicle Parade in conjunction with the Manaia Christmas Parade.

20th December at 11am

With funding support from Taranaki Community Board



Opunake And District Business Association

Presents

Opunake Christmas Parade 2025

Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>, gather from 6.15pm onwards for 7pm Start Tasman Street Opunake

Welcome to our celebration. Please complete and return the bottom portion of this official entry form by 20th December to guarantee your position in the parade lineup

All entries who pay the entry of \$10 will be judged this year and prizes will be awarded.

FIRST PRIZE \$2000 **SECOND PRIZE \$1000** THIRD PRIZE \$500

A special thanks to our amazing sponsors **Opunake Rahotu Veterinary Trust 1st** Scott Tenbroek - Coastal Sprayers 2nd Viv Scott and Tara Gibson - Mc Donald Real Estate 3rd

Please review the parade safety rules and guidelines on the back of this page Keep this portion for your records Return the bottom portion to Agrimec 38 Ihaia Rd or email – agrimecauto2022@gmail.com

Name of Entry
Type of vehicleLength of entry (mtr)
No of adultsNo of children
Responsible personDaytime Phone
Email address
2025 DADADE ENTRY FORM

My printed name or signature below is my bond that I understand the rules and guidelines for the 2025 Opunake Santa Parade and warrant that my/our entry will fully comply.

Signature

Safety Rules and Guidelines

Special Note the Parade begins at 7 pm on 24th December

- 1. Parade officials will inspect all entries and reserve the right to eliminate any entry that is in violation of these rules
- 2. The 2025 parade will start at Tasman Street and Ihaia Road corner and end again at that
- 3. Once your entry has started along the parade route, no one may board your float.
- 4. Cover all open wheels for safety so marchers cannot snag clothing or be pulled under
- 5. Your entry may not exit the parade before the end of the parade.
- 6. No alcohol is allowed.
- 7. For public safety, nothing may be thrown from your entry.
- 8. All motorized fleets must have wheel watchers on both sides.
- 9. All entries must have clear identification signage.
- 10. Changes in the parade line-up the day of the parade will be made at the sole discretion of the parade officials.
- 11. A representative of your entry must make themselves known to the officials upon arrival.

Keep this portion for your records.



Entries must be received by 20th December.

Please email your completed entry to <a href="mailto:agrimecauto2022@gmail.com">agrimecauto2022@gmail.com</a> Or drop it into Agrimec Auto.



1103 Opunake Road, Mahoe, Stratford (25 mins from Opunake) - Ph: 06 764 6133

**Christmas Hours:** Closed 25th, 26th, 27th, & 28th Dec, then open 10am-2pm. **New Year Hours:** Closed 1st, 2nd, 3rd & \$th January, then open 10am-2pm

Email: pennie@envirofur.co.nz website: www.envirofur.co.nz

The next issue is due out January 29. Call us to be in it.



78 Courtney Street | 06 759 9052

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Sounds on the Sand returns to Opunakē this summer

Get ready to soak up the sun and enjoy the sounds of summer-Sounds on the Sand is back at Ōpunakē Beach! South Taranaki District Council is excited to announce that this free community event will return on Saturday 17 January 2026, from 1pm to 6pm.

Bringing the heat to the coast this year is Party Patrol Duo, featuring Shaun Campbell (Campbell Vibe)

and Karla Kimi. Expect high energy covers, feel-good anthems and a whole lot of fun by the sea.

"We know Party Patrol Duo will have everyone up on their feet dancing in the sun," says Council's events coordinator Ella Tosland.

"Whether you're a local or visiting for the day, Sounds on the Sand is the perfect way to celebrate summer

with friends and whānau". Pack a picnic, bring your beach gear and join us for

an unforgettable afternoon of music, sunshine, and seaside fun.



Come to Opunake Beach for Sounds on the Sand.



# **OPUNAKE SPORTS TRUST & SINCLAIR EVENTS** CENTRE

KEEN TO GET ACTIVE AND CONNECT WITH YOUR WHANAU AND COMMUNITY? THE ÕPUNAKĒ SPORTS TRUST OFFERS A VARIETY OF INDOOR COURT SPORTS OPTIONS FOR DAYTIME OR EVENING ENJOYMENT

> **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL** All ages welcome however under 7's parent/guadian MUST be present

WHETHER YOU'RE A TOTAL NEWBIE OR A SEASONED PRO, WE'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

FOR MORE INFO: 027 289 1844 OR 0272491620

24<sup>th</sup> Dec screening 1pm – Zootopia 2 – Santa will visit after the movie with a special treat.





# EVERYBODY'S THEATRE

72 Tasman Street, Opunake | www.everybodystheatre.co.nz

#### The SpongeBob Movie: Search for **SquarePants**

1hr 36mins | PG Thu 01 Jan 1PM | Fri 09 Jan 7PM

# Wicked: For Good

2hr 17mins | PG Fri 02 Jan 7PM | Sat 10 Jan 7PM

#### Anaconda

1hr 39mins | M Sat 03 Jan 7PM | Sun 11 Jan 7PM

# **Grand Prix of Europe**

1hr 38mins | G Thu 08 Jan 1PM | Sat 10 Jan 1PM

# Zootopia 2

1hr 48mins | PG Fri 02 Jan 1PM | Sun 04 Jan 7PM

#### The Pout-Pout Fish

1hr 32mins | G Sat 03 Jan 1PM | Fri 09 Jan 1PM | Thu 15 Jan 1PM

## Five Nights at Freddy's 2

1hr 44mins | M Sun 04 Jan 1PM

#### Pets on a Train

1hr 27mins | PG Sun 11 Jan 1PM

# EVERYBODY'S THEATRE ŌPUNAKĒ

72 Tasman Street, Opunake | www.everybodystheatre.co.nz

# The Pout-Pout Fish

1hr 32mins | G Thu 15 Jan 1PM | Fri 23 Jan 1PM

# **Avatar: Fire and Ash**

3hr 17mins | M Fri 16 Jan 7PM | Sun 18 Jan 1PM | Sat 24 Jan 7PM

#### **Rental Family**

1hr 50mins | M Sat 17 Jan 7PM | Fri 23 Jan 7PM | Sun 25 Jan 7PM

#### Zootopia 2

1hr 48mins | PG Thu 22 Jan 1PM

# **Grand Prix of Europe**

1hr 38mins | G Fri 16 Jan 1PM | Sun 25 Jan 1PM

# Wicked: For Good

2hr 17mins | PG Sat 17 Jan 1PM

#### The SpongeBob Movie: Search for **SquarePants**

1hr 36mins | PG Sun 18 Jan 7PM | Sat 24

Jan 1PM



The SpongeBob Movie: Search for **SquarePants** Violence | 1hr 36mins | Thu 01 Jan 1PM



Zootopia 2 Violence | 1hr 48mins | Rated: PG Fri 02 Jan 1PM



The Pout-Pout Fish 1hr 32mins | Rated: G Thu 15 Jan 1PM



Grand Prix of Europe 1hr 38mins | Rated: G Fri 16 Jan 1PM

53

# Free bus travel across Taranaki on December 23-24



Reduce Christmas stress and take the bus.



**RESIDENTIAL** • INDUSTRIAL **COMMERCIAL** • RURAL **DATA & COMMUNICATIONS SOLAR** • AIR CON & HEAT PUMPS

HEL Rimu will be closed 24 December - 6 January 2026. Our 24/7 emergency call-out service will remain available. Best wishes for the year ahead from the HEL Rimu team.

0800 200 210

helrimu.co.nz



Taranaki Regional Council is making it easier for people to get their last-minute Christmas shopping done with free bus travel across all services on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 December.

With the busiest shopping days of the year approaching, carparks filling up, and traffic increasing, the initiative aims to reduce Christmas stress and give the community an affordable, convenient way to around.

No Bee Card or cash is needed - all services will be completely free.

Council Transport Engagement Manager, Cheryl Gazley, says the free travel is designed to give people a simple alternative to driving during the festive

"We know the days leading up to Christmas can be hectic. Offering free buses means people can get into without worrying about parking or extra costs, especially when budgets are tight at this time of year.

"It's also a opportunity for those who rarely or never use public transport to give it a go - if your shopping is all done, why not relax and go for a ride somewhere new.

All Citylink, Connector and Southlink routes will be included.



When it comes to protecting your assets and family, you can't buy better than a Dominator garage door.

SERVICE | REPAIRS | INSTALLATIONS | AUTOMATION

CONTACT US FOR A FREE MEASURE & QUOTE

**DOMINATOR GARAGE DOORS TARANAKI** contact@dominatornp.co.nz 06 758 3981

\*Terms & conditions apply.



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Horse treatment, kids and adults riding lessons and arena hire.

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or Phone: Lisa Deane 027 318 1253

CoastalCare

Haumaru ki Tai Health and Community Centre

Delivering essential community health and social



CoastalCare would like to wish everyone a safe & happy Christmas!

# **Holiday Hours**

**OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE:** 

Closed December 24th - Open January 5th 2026

**OPUNAKE PHARMACY:** 

Closed 25th - 28th December - . Open with shorter hours on 29th, 30th &31st December 9am-3pm-Closed 1st - 4th January 2026. Open 5th January 8.30am-5pm normal Hours

# NZ POST/NZTA & COASTAL PRINTERS:

Closed o25-28th December - Open shorter hours on 29th,30th &31st December 9am-3pm Closed 1st & 2nd January 2026 Open 5th January 8.30am-5pm Normal Hours

# TARANAKI DENTAL:

Closed December 19th - Back on January 8th 2026

TARANAKI PODIATRY

Closed December 11th - Back on 11th Feburary 2026

**TARANAKI CHIROPRACTIC:** 

Closed December 25th - Back on January 14th 2026

LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY:

Closed December 19th- Back on January 14th 2026

**MATTHEWS OPTOMETRIST** 

Closed - 6th December -Back on March 5th 2026

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS** 

Closed - 17th December -Back on January 6th 2026

**ACTIVE PLUS PHYSIOTHERAPY** 

Closed from 19th December - Back on 8th January 2026

**PLUNKET** 

Closed 23rd December until 14th January 2026 Contact Plunket line 0800 933 922

For opening dates for our other service providers, please contact them directly.



72 Tasman Street, Opunake | www.everybodystheatre.co.nz

#### **Pike River**

2hr 11mins | M Thu 18 Dec 7PM

#### **Nuremberg**

2hr 28mins | M Sat 20 Dec 7PM

Five Nights at Freddy's 2 1hr 44mins | M Sun 21 Dec 7PM

# **Anaconda**

1hr 39mins | M Fri 26 Dec 7PM | Sun 28 Dec 7PM

# **Christmas Karma**

1hr 50mins | PG Fri 19 Dec 7PM | Sat 20 Dec 1PM

#### Zootopia 2

1hr 48mins | PG Sun 21 Dec 1PM | Wed 24 Dec 1PM | Sun 28 Dec 1PM

#### The SpongeBob Movie: Search for **SquarePants**

1hr 36mins | PG Fri 26 Dec 1PM | Sat 27 Dec 7PM | Thu 01 Jan 1PM

#### Pets on a Train

1hr 27mins | PG Sat 27 Dec 1PM



#### Pike River Offensive Language | 2hr 11mins | Rated: M Thu 18 Dec 7PM



Christmas Karma Violence & coarse language 1hr 50mins | Rated: PG Fri 19 Dec 7PM



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

#### Opunake Co-operating Parish

Havelock Street, Opunake - St Pauls - every Sunday 9am: Coffee prior to service 9.30am: Service Rahotu - Wesley - 11am first Sunday of the month

#### Okato Co-operating Parish

St. James, Oakura — Sunday Service every Sunday, 10.00am

St. Paul's, Okato – 1st and 2nd Sundays –Worship Service; 3rd Sunday – Communion Service and 4th Sunday at 7.00pm

St. Paul's, Okato – Open church for silent reflection, Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4.30pm-5.30pm

#### Opunake Catholic Church

St Martin's, Pungarehu: No Masses.
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake:
Christmas Mass: 25 December 2025 - 9.00am at Our Lady
Star of the Sea, Opunake
New Years Mass: 1 January 2026 - 10.00am at Our Lady

New Years Mass: 1 January 2026 - 10.00am at Our Lad Star of the Sea, Opunake January 2026 - Sunday Mass Times

4 January 2026 - 9.00am at Our Lady Star of the Sea,

Opunake 11 January 2026 - 9.00am at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake

18 January 2026 - 9.00am at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake

25 January 2026 - 10.00am at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake

#### Other areas

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

# St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

Sunday Mass 8.45am.
Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).
St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

#### The Wave

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

#### St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

#### **Okato Community Church**

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome

## St John's Community Church. Kaponga

Cnr West and Egmont Streets.
Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea

# Manaia Union Fellowship

Terou St. Manaia.

Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion

# Friend & Fellowhip Group

Thursdays @ Manaia
Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer

and Bible study

Encouraging interactive discussion and Praise
All are welcome

We would love it if you could come Rodney & Val 274 8550 or 0272384187

#### St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 90 Regan St., Stratford,

9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study
10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together
Worship Service"

Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford.

Contact Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799

# Methodist Church Hawera

Regent Street 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

#### Manaia Community Church part of the Global Anglicans Robert Gibson Hall , Manaia

1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays at 10 am
3rd Sunday Family Service at 4pm with shared meal to follow

Contact: Rev Phil Woodmass 027 424 8318

# What's On Listings

# ONGOING

# **Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake:**

Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning: St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman

Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.

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

#### **TUESDAYS**

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

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

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

#### WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

Free singing experience with Taranaki Harmony
Chorus: Meet every Wednesday at Inglewood

Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm Phone Helen 021 296 0700.

#### **THURSDAYS**

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

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

# FRIDAYS

# Kirihimete Closures All Tui Ora services will be closed from 5.00pm Tuesday 23 December 2025 until 8.30am Monday 5 January 2026. This includes Hauora ă-Whānau Whaitara, Hauora ā-Whānau Ngāmotu and the pharmacy. If you require medical attention while we are closed, please call: Healthline for free health advice: 0800 611 116 Practice Plus for online consultations: 0800 772 2758 MediCross for in person appointments: 06 759 8915

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

**Beginners Social Dance Classes:** Oakura Hall, 6.15pm..

Hawera Country & Variety Music Club: Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided. Ph 021 2622 166.

#### NOVEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 20

**Spring Into Summer exhibition by Veronica Tee:** Village Gallery, Eltham.

#### NOVEMBER 26 TO DECEMBER 13

**The Jailhouse Frocks:** A production by NP Little Theatre

#### **ON NOW**

**Hawera Elf Hunt:** On now. Grab an entry form from Te W'anake - the Foundry or from a participating business. Find at least 20 elves, write down their numbers and vote for your favourite elf window.

Entry forms available from and entries to: Te W'anake – The Foundry before noon on Monday, 22 December.

DECEMBER 20 TO JANUARY 24, 2026

**TSB Festival of Lights:** Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.

# DECEMBER 20

Manaia & District RSA Military Vehicle Parade: 11am, Manaia.

# **DECEMBER 24**

Opunake & District Business Association Christmas Parade, 2025: Opunake. From 6pm onwards. See this issue for entry forms and details.

#### **DECEMBER 31**

**Te Kiri Community 125 Year Celebration:** Te Kiri Hall, from 1pm. See this issue for more details.

JANUARY 4 TO FEBRUARY 8, 2026:

**The Chair Affair:** Lysaght Watt Gallery.

#### JANUARY 10

**Eltham Community Fun Day:** Soldiers Park, Eltham, Hawera, 4.30pm.

#### JANUARY 17

Sounds on the Sand - Party Patrol Duo: Opunake Beach. 1-6pm.

#### **JANUARY 18**

Summer at the Trots with Hawera Harness Racing Club: 12 noon start.

#### **JANUARY 4**

**Concerts in the Park - Cassie Henderson:** King Edward Park, Hawera, 4.30pm.



Christmas 10am - 4pm

15 LIVINGSTON ROAD, HAWERA
Ph 027 278 5074
hello@brandysbotanicals.co.nz

55

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### **TE KIRI COMMUNITY** 125 YEARS SINCE SCHOOL OPENED

31 December 2025 at Te Kiri Hall Ipm onwards: View old photos & documents, share stories. Cuppa available.

6.30pm: Meal - Pig on Spit. Burger Night. BYO drinks – to be booked by 22 Dec \$12.50 / adult, \$30 family.

Book and pay via tekirihall@gmail.com or 021 262 0269 8pm: Lift time capsule buried 31 December 1999. Prepare new time capsule - bring your family's items along any time the hall is open.

Light supper served later for those who want to see 2026 in. Raffles on sale.

Applications are open for 2026 Te Kiri Scholarships Sports, cultural, academics, trades. Closes Feb 20th 2026 For forms & information contact Mike Starsmore, Ph 027 522 2242

#### **OKATO DATES TO REMEMBER**

Come to celebrate Christmas with your local community Church. All Welcome.

# ST PAULS, OKATO

7th DEC @ 10am.ADVENT 2- LOVE 6.30 Community Christmas Parade 14th DEC @ 10am. ADVENT 3 - JOY 21st DEC @ 10am. ADVENT 4 - PEACE Christmas Communion with

Rev. Helene Young

7pm Community Carols and Candles social celebration

**24th DEC** @ 7pm **CHRISTMAS EVE** Family Service

music by Alpine Connection

# **WANTED TO BUY**

# **Stevenson Calf Rearing**

**Merry Christmas** and Happy New Year to our friends, family and suppliers

Ph. Mark or Trish on 0800 350 340 or txt 027 495 2897 E: markstevo@xtra.co.nz Troy Stevenson 027 469 7636 E: troystevo@gmail.com

# KANE BARRETT LIVESTOCK

# **CALF MILK WANTED**

Any volumes - 24/7

027 4036469 | kanebarrettlivestock@outlook.com

#### TO LET



# Office Rooms/ Board Room available

Long term, short term or casual basis Building has kitchen facilities, wheelchair access, cleaning services and plenty of parking on Napier Street or at rear of building on King Street.

Inquiries to Clare Moss - Ph 06 278 4169 clare.moss@hughson.co.nz

This newspaper is subject to NZ Press Coucil procedures. A complaint must first be directed in writing within one month of publication to the Opunake & Coastal News email address. If not satisfied with the response, the complaint may be referred to the Press Council, PO Box 10879, The Terrace, Wellington 6143. Or use the online complaint form at www.presscouncil. org.nz. Please include copies of the article and all correspondence with the publication.



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL

# **Publication Dates for 2026**

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# **TRADES & SERVICES**

# **HEADSTONES**

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CARPETS second hand, selection large After Disaster Ltd 223 Devon St West, NP. Phone (06) 769 9265

# **PUBLIC NOTICES**

A superb exhibition of cross stitching is currently running from Dec 13 to Jan 4.

Gail Thompson is featured.

The Chair Affair will run from January 4 till Feb 26 2026. Each chair exhibit tells its own whimsical individual story

Lysaght Watt Gallery

Te Ruaputahanga

**HAWERA** 

# **SITUATIONS VACANT**

# OPUNAKE & COASTAL

# **DRIVER NEEDED FOR 2026 DELIVERY**

We are seeking energetic people with a van (or similar) to help with the delivery (rural and urban) of our fortnightly community newspaper.



The job would entail uplifting labelled bundles from a location in New Plymouth and offloading them to

the specific urban and rural addresses of our delivery people (on foot in urban areas, or RD Drivers).

The job will commence in late January 2026 when our first issue has been published. Interested? Please phone 06 761 7016 or email bernice@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on Jan 28, 2026.

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# 2010 Mazda 3 GSX NZ NEW Stability Control, Alloy Wheels, Electric Mirrors, Tiptronic Auto, 2.0, Petrol,175kms



2021 Kia Picanto X-LINE Alloy Wheels, Driving Lights, Auto Headlights, eyless Entry & Ignition, Tinted Windows, Parking Sensors, 1.2, Petrol, Auto, 28kms

\$17,995

2015 Nissan Elgrand HIGHWAY STAR LUXURY 7 SEATER Auto Headlights, FWD, Tinted Windows, 360 Degree Cameras, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Alloy Wheels Rear Ventilation, 2.5, Petrol, CVT, 178kms \$15,995

2017 Toyota RAV4 GXL SUV NZ NEW 4WD

Auto Headlights & Wipers, Reversing Camera,
Sports Mode, Tinted Windows, Roof Rails, VVT-i,
2.5, Petrol, Auto, 162kms \$22,995

2014 Toyota CAMRY 2.5 HYBRID ECVT **NZ NEW HYBRID** 

Auto Headlights, Reversing Camera, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Remote Boot Release, 2.5, Hybrid, CVT, **224kms** 



\$11,995

2018 Nissan X-Trail TI HI SPEC NZ NEW 4x4 Keyless Entry & Ignition, Auto Headlights & Wipers, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Roof Rails, Sunroof, Tow Bar, Petrol, 2.5, CVT, 141kms



**JESUS IS THE** 

NZ NEW i-Stop, Stability Control, Tow Bar, Driving Lights, Reversing Camera, Parking Sensors, Roof Rails, 2.5, Petrol, Auto, 159kms

2013 Mazda 6 GSX



**REASON FOR** 

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2017 Mazda BT 50 GSX LOW KMs NZ NEW, DOUBLECAB Hard Cover, Ciesel Turbo, Rear Diff Lock, Tow Bar, Driving Lights, Side Skirts, 3.2, Disel, Auto, 102kms



2013 Holden COMMODORE VE STUNNING VF COMMODORE SV6 Half Leather Seats, RWD, Tow Bar, Spoiler, Tinted Windows, Alloy Wheels, Daytime Running Lights, NZ New, 3.6, Petrol, Auto, 175kms



2007 Toyota Vitz THRIFTY HATCH ns, Tinted Windows, VVT-i, Alloy Wheels, Dual Airbags, 1.3, Petrol, Auto, 127kms



2014 HYUNDAI Santa Fe DM ELITE

**NZ NEW 7 SEATER 4WD** Auto Headlights & Wipers, Bonnett Protector, Nudge bar, Roof Rack, Tow Bar, Turbo, 2.2, Diesel, Auto, 146kms



2014 Holden BARINA CD

**LOW KMs NZ NEW** Alloy Wheels, Auto Headlights, Cruise Control. 1.6, Petrol, Auto, 44kms



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