



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Vol.33 No.24, December 12, 2024
www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Published every
Thursday Fortnight
Phone and Fax 761-7016
A/H 761-8206
for Advertising and Editorial
ISSN 2324-2337, ISSN 2324-2345

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Merry Christmas everyone

Father Christmas on the new swing bridge up the mountain near the Stratford Plateau on December 6.

People came over, kids among them, keen to meet Father Christmas, he said. This included two lots of

Germans and they were "really tickled by it". In Germany December 6 is St Nicholas Day when people

put out a shoe in the evening for Mr Nicholas to fill up. It was a beautiful day, a lovely day, bright and clear,

said Santa adding that people were surprised seeing Santa Claus coming down the track all stopping to take a picture.

Going solar attracts curious crowd

A presentation explaining everything you wanted to know about going solar held at Stratford Memorial Hall recently was attended by a curious lot all keen to learn more about how to use the power of the sun to generate power.

The Stratford Power Station is hoping to partially power Stratford using solar energy in the future and the information session was organised by Contact Energy in partnership with Lightsource bp to explain it all to interested people.

Among those present were farmers keen to learn more about the increasingly popular idea of solar farms.

There were also people who own properties adjacent to the 1000 acre property who might be affected by the project should it go ahead.

The solar panels, sit raised a little on farmland angled at around 30 degrees to the horizontal.

It is possible to graze sheep, chickens and geese on the land but not cows



A map indicating where solar power is proposed for the Stratford region.

because they would be likely to damage the panels.

The complete process was explained to all who attended one of two information sessions on Monday December 2 and Tuesday December 3.

Contact Energy who own the Stratford Power Station would finance the construction of the panels on farmland using the company Lightsource who undertake the groundworks to get the

site ready. The frames for the panels are then mounted on piles which are driven into the ground with "minimal ground disturbance." Trenches for the cables are then dug so the electrical wires are safely protected underground.

The panels are then fitted to the frames which are laid out in evenly spaced rows. Generally wide grassy avenues between 3 metres and 7 metres are left between

the rows of solar panels to reduce shading and optimise the amount of sunlight each row of panels receives. Typically around 70% of the solar farm is open grassland.

Foundations are then further prepared for the electrical components required some of which are built onsite. Ultimately once everything is in place and tested the solar farm is

connected to the grid.

In the case of the Stratford Power Station the project will connect to the Transpower network via the existing infrastructure used by the Stratford Power Station.

Once operational little maintenance is required.

Continued page 5.



Merry Christmas

To Good Health and Best Wishes for 2025 From David, Ann & Ben

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Letters to the Editor

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 Thursday 19th December.

We are open again at 9am on Wednesday 8th January, 2024.

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



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Our Opunake and Coastal News

It's always delightful to read the different opinions in The Opunake and Coastal News. We read differing and controversial opinions about politics, wars, education, social issues and our maunga that enriches our farming community. Then there's the arts, religion, landmark life celebrations, police reports, mental health, community workers, quirky cartoons and different farming approaches so vital to Taranaki rural life.

In light of the recent announcements of community newspaper closings, let's appreciate and continue to support our paper and businesses. Everyone is enriched by the real life stories, connections and financial support our paper affords our community. Compared to other smaller papers in Taranaki, ours is unique in its range of interests, coverage and heart and soul.

In the age of artificial intelligence development in the mass media it's predicted that within the next two years it will be extremely difficult to tell the difference between real and artificial images and deceptive disinformation. Today no one is exempt from receiving a bombardment of information, misinformation or disinformation on our android phones. A local community "hands on" newspaper keeps us connected with real people, grounded and down to earth.

Just a huge thank you to the editors, the awesome staff of our paper and supportive advertisers. Our paper deserves an award. And have

a blessed Christmas break.

An appreciative reader

The Treaty

From 1978 until 2020 I did not live in the country of my birth and had only sporadic visits. I always worked in media and in Sydney I ended my career interpreting news out of Australia and Oceania mainly for European, African and Sub-Continental Asian consumption. The organisation I worked for was exceptionally fixated on style and truth and fairness. During visits home to New Zealand RNZ was my go-to for reliable and authentic reporting on New Zealand. During the four years since my return I have found it now impossible to listen. Similarly with Stuff, NZ Herald, TVNZ etc.

These organisations have become impossibly infected with a kind of "Maori Wonderfulness". We all know that many Maori feel the same way as we reflect on the ridiculous and nationally embarrassing War Dance charade put on by Te Pati Maori in Parliament recently. Winston Peters said in Parliament "The Hikoi was incorporated in September by the wife of Rawiri Waitati and daughter of Maori party president John Tamihere. It was a total Commercial Jack-Up". Debbie Ngwera-Packer said in a television interview she had more rights than the rest of us white-fellas.... Really? Legions away from real Maori culture which has strength and integrity without all that show pony nonsense. One of the great strengths of Maori culture that was passed on to New Zealanders in general was

they always had a keen sense of bullshit. Te Pati defies those notions. They are a party not unlike The Greens of Shonks, Shysters and Charlatans representing those who would fill their pockets with the public purse.

I saw a few interviews with people attending the Hikoi in Wellington and none of them really knew why they were there. Things like "I'm here because Seymour is a fascist or a racist." They were there protesting something that wasn't going to happen? No, they were there as part of a recruitment drive for Te Pati Maori and alongside them stood many ignorant white people too. Public servants and worst of all and hidden behind this whole charade 42 KCs and no doubt large numbers in the legal profession who see any attempt at defining the "Principles of the Treaty" as a direct threat to their own considerable pecuniary interests. Publicly and handsomely rewarded by us all to spend their lives interpreting and re-interpreting the "Principles". An Australian Professor of Law I saw described them accurately as "legal bludgers" who have usurped our rights as citizens of this nation to have our representatives in Parliament decide these things.

So, I'm afraid Mary Moore's defence of the Treaty does not hold any strength for me. It is a Treaty of the past and has redundant values and as I heard Bob Jones comment this week, If Maori want to live in the past, they will stay in the past. Asians are coming and taking over everything despite considerable handicaps while Maori are

doing Hakas all day long.....

David Hancock
Eltham.

Thank you

Many thanks for your support of our Taranaki Floral Art DOY 2024 event - we very much appreciated the coverage in your wonderful community newspaper Opunake and Coastal News, especially given the coverage area.

Our event was a huge success, on many levels - so thanks for spreading the word, especially prior to the event.

Best wishes to all your team - you all do a great job, I'm so impressed with your 'real news' newspaper!

Judy

What is the difference?

Life is full of perspective. Who wears it, what for, who believes in it, or who talks the talk? What is the difference?

Bike gang members wearing patches, others wearing tattoos, those believing in different religions and knocking door to door.

Question. What is the difference, this, or the intent? What is the difference between arresting bike gang members for wearing their gang patches which other groups/gangs/iwi wearing theirs, just like Greenpeace and the iwi protesters confronting with the threat of intimidation, confronting the seabed mining shareholders wearing their patches on their clothing and disrupting and confronting them from

Continued page 4.

ADELPHOS

Haiku One

The wandering wise
Guided by that wondrous star
Bearing kingly gifts

Christmas Haikus

Haiku Two

Heaven's bread now born
Mary's unspeakable joy
With angels singing

Haiku Three

Herod's crafty plot
Outfoxed by the wise ones' ploy
The babe safe and sound

Haiku Five

Heaven's living water
Now quenches at Jacob's well
Cleansing all who seek

Adelphos

Haiku Four

Burning love aglow
Brightening up the darkness
Bringing His life light

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Seafood ban extended

A temporary ban on collecting seafood between Paritutu and Opunake has been extended for another two years.

Taranaki Iwi Rahui group has welcomed the decision, but says the message needs to get out there that the ban applies for another two years.

The ban, which the

days to the end of the ban. There had also been a closer division in the submissions on whether to extend the ban than there had been when the ban was first placed. Mahara says that in making the decision the minister had been assisted by officials from MPI, who he says, they had always found to be helpful and approachable.

providing the lore behind the ban, while the s186(a) MPI ban has added the force of the law.

He says that "while there are still burglars out there," he hopes to get the rest of the community on board.

"We see this as a totally community issue which requires a total community effort," he says. "It's not a Maori issue. It's an issue of raising the consciousness



The area covered by the Section 186 (a) ban.

Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) had made in December 2022 under Section 186(a) of the Fisheries Act was due to end on Monday (December 16). It will now continue until December 2026.

"Summer's coming up and we know there are going to be great crowds out there who may not know it has been extended."

He says Oceans and Fisheries minister Shane Jones had agreed to the extension and formally notified his decision in the middle of last week.

Mahara says there had been some concern as to which way the minister would decide with only a few



Mahara Okeroa.

kilometre past the mean high tide mark, where previously it had extended to two kilometres.

Mahara says that while some have said the evidence for depletion of seafood stocks is anecdotal, much of it has come from those who have been regularly out diving in these areas.

One area of concern has been the decline in breeding stock.

Mahara says that while it takes seven years for crayfish to mature, the Asian market has a preference for younger specimens, so that the younger crayfish "far exceed the value" of the larger ones which make up the breeding stock.

He sees the rahui as

of our community around sustainability and the impact on the ecosystem.

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"We come at a time right on the cusp that there can be a positive outcome in our relationship with the environment."

"The law under Maori customary fishing rights allows under a permit system for Maori to access shellfish for specific reasons but we've decided as a community group not to exercise that right. The considerations are serious enough for all hapu to consider the non-issue of permits."

"We are making sacrifices. We were brought up on this food. In our rugged colonial process the sea was a source of food as our land had been taken."

"We are running an educational process around the whole question of sustainability, whether it's

land-based or sea-based."

Mahara sees the next step as being some permanent protection by way of setting up a mataitai reserve. This is distinct from a marine reserve and there are already a number of them operating in different parts of the country. It would still allow taking seafood under certain circumstances, allowing where, when and how much can be taken.

"It has now become an urgent reality which will operate to a set of criteria agreed to at the policy as well as at the community level," he says. "It's going to require a hell of a lot of work and strategic planning. It's a logical extension to the extension."

We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support in 2024.

We will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day and 2nd January, 2025.

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

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STDC MAYOR'S MESSAGE

A Merry Christmas from the Mayor

Where has the year gone? I know it's such a cliché, but it seems like only yesterday that I was writing my Christmas message for 2023. As we come towards the end of the year it's timely to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past 12 months.

In South Taranaki we completed many projects including the Nukumaru Station Road extension (Te Ranganuku Road), the new Waimate West reservoir, the 5km multi-use Loop Track in Pātea and, most recently, Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, the district's

new Library, Arts and I-site Visitor Information Centre in Hāwera.

In addition, good progress has been made on Stage 2 of the South Taranaki Business Park, as well as planning, design, and public consultation work in support of the town centre revitalisation projects for Waverley, Eltham, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Manaia. Planning and design of Ōpunakē's proposed green space was completed as well as a new pump track. Planning and design are well advanced for Stark Park and traffic calming/pedestrian refuge measures have been completed along the main highway in Eltham. Elements including signage and wayfinding had been implemented in Pātea. Behind the scenes work on project Tūkau, (a possible shared Iwi/community multi-purpose space in Manaia) is progressing with the Council committed to

undertaking work on both the Manaia Town Hall and Sports Complex.

Meanwhile, the Council's town revitalisation efforts in Waverley have not only transformed the town's public spaces but also provided a significant boost to the local economy. Thanks to lead contractor Waina View Civil Ltd, employing local subcontractors, has created both economic and social benefits for the town. This has also fostered a strong sense of community ownership and pride in the revitalisation initiatives. Waverley residents can now enjoy enhanced public spaces, from safer pedestrian crossings and a vibrant café deck on the main street to scenic pathways and green spaces at the Waverley Domain. These improvements have not only beautified the town but also made it more accessible and inviting for residents and visitors alike.



PHIL NIXON
MAYOR STDC

district for the great work you have done for our community over the last year, and those of you who have welcomed me to your meetings, events and special occasions. The opportunity to get out and meet you all is one of the great privileges I get in my role.

Christmas is a great time for catching up with family and friends, but it can be a stressful and lonely time for many. Please remember to treat each other with kindness and respect. Finally, if you're driving over the holiday season, take care on the roads, stay calm, take plenty of breaks and please don't allow any distractions while driving.

Have a great Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year and I look forward to seeing and working with you in 2025.

Phil Nixon

Mayor

South Taranaki District.

Looking ahead to 2025 there are plenty of projects and challenges we face (such as how we progress management of our 3 waters infrastructure, adapt to the impacts of climate change and fund our infrastructure while keeping rates affordable) but I am very excited about our district's future.

Thank you to the many clubs, organisations, schools and individuals across the

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Phil Nixon
Mayor, South Taranaki

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I would like to wish all readers of the Ōpunakē and Coastal News a safe and happy festive season and all the best for next year.

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2.

doing their business. Beliefs and often just hearsay are often without facts, just talked about and are often just skin deep.

I guess there are people going to protest soon about the cruise ships coming into our waters and port and holding out their hands for passengers to enter Taranaki land, entry fee.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth

Mayday

Re: Mark Chapman Intent Shining Bright in Methane science and target review

There was once this question for a Sunday School teacher: "Why is the world beastly?"

The teacher suggested that we first ask merely about a part of the world, namely gravity. The question can

then be answered with a reference to a tree and a tree feller. Gravity will procure the tree to fall upon the feller, to kill him or make his life miserable, if he doesn't look out when he advances with his chainsaw humming.

The clever tree feller may make a clever plan for cutting down tree but later the wind's direction can change and undo his plan. (The teacher suggested to consider the bright side and therefore to ask also whether there is anything lovable about gravity, to muse whether lovability and beastliness might go hand in hand.)

Sometimes a tree feller may advance upon a tree like Mark Chapman advanced upon John Lennon, with mind in a tremendous twist; the beloved singer and songwriter to be murdered, come what may. This tree feller should especially beware.

Mr Chapman could not look after he'd worked through to a steeled mind.

He testified as much. Now with the recent publication of the Methane science and target review it has become clear the Ministry for the Environment (and the government more broadly) cannot look. The signs of an irretrievably steeled mind are redolent in the report so one must ask whether this is for good or bad.

The terrible truth is that the greenhouse effect is completely untenable as a theory. It marks a genre of lower-order science like nothing else before it. At the same time, a peerless and credible theory of global warming is available, all worked out in the technical details. I have been asking the government to look at this, because a solution is probably available. For a number of years my letters have been received and classified as inconvenient. I hoped the review panel would be ready for some melting of the steeled will and I got my submission to the panel away early in the

review period to give them good time with it. Alas they appear not to have been able to hear any argument about the cause of global warming.

As you may be aware, the threat of the actual warming continues to rear its head in real life tragedy.

It seems increasingly likely that the fourth estate in some way will need to frame my case for general consumption and help to shine a light. To their credit, the government has signalled an interest in reviving some issues that were to the fore when resource consent management was invented. They can be pictured salivating before the giant brain of the fourth estate. They are lost for words themselves but possibly would let you put some words in their mouths whereas for a theory that is largely diplomatic bag, the bag history and the history of resource consent management probably go back to a common origin.

Continued on page 5

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Going solar attracts curious crowd

Continued from page 1

When the farmland is no longer required as a solar farm everything is removed and the site restored to what it was previously.

The solar panels are orientated so they capture maximum sun ie with some facing east to capture the morning sun and others facing west to get the afternoon sun.

Solar panels provide ideal weather protection for livestock which can shelter beneath the panels from either the cold or sun. Contact currently owns and operates two power stations in Taranaki and has done so for 20 years. They are fired by natural gas piped across Taranaki.

One plant supplies power to Stratford. The second plant is used only during times when demand for power is at a peak.

Both are gas fired? It is intended that the former will be ultimately decommissioned in several years ie., is to be replaced by Solar power.

To this end 450 hectares of existing dairy farmland beside the Stratford Power Station is to be utilised (bought?) with construction to start mid 2026. Sheep will be also grazed on the site. It



Among those at the information session.

is anticipated up to 200 jobs will be created during construction.

When finished the Stratford Solar farm will power 40,000 homes. In carbon emission terms, equivalent to 18,900 cars off the road.

The Stratford Solar Farm and solar farms in general are designed to be in operation for at least 35 years.

Contact Energy
Contact Energy delivers 20% of the electricity gen-

eration in New Zealand.

This includes geothermal power (taps the earth's natural heat flow from the hot mantle (at around 1000oC) up into the cooler crust, hydroelectric power (uses the natural flow of moving water to generate electricity as in Clyde and Roxburgh), thermal power (Stratford) and solar.

Lightsource bp
Lightsource bp and Contact Energy formed a 50:50

joint venture to deliver solar power for New Zealand. The partnership is committed to sourcing, developing, and constructing solar farms that contribute to New Zealand's clean energy future. The aim is to support New Zealand's transition to renewable energy while contributing to the country's decarbonisation.

Lightsource bp was fully acquired by bp in 2024.

Reaction mixed

Reaction among those attending one of two information sessions on the prospective Stratford solar farm power was mixed.

A sheep and beef farmer from the Stratford area who did not want to be named described it as "interesting." He'd come along because he was curious and added "To be fair I think we need to diversify a bit."

Another, also keen to not be named however was not so happy commenting it was

"very good dairy land that's disappearing."

Another person who had a lifestyle block near the proposed solar farm thought the prospect of solar panels "spoils the outlook of the farmland." She'd however "come to learn."

A beef and dairy farmer from Toko, was concerned that the panels could affect the temperature of the land and mentioned global warming. Had they measured the temperature before the

panels had been installed, and after, he queried.

Another person who had been "65 years farming" said he was "not keen".

Another was enthusiastic about the project. Had he been younger he would have been very interested he said adding "hell yes". His son in Wellington has got solar power he said.

"It's silly to be using all this oil and gas when we've got free energy from the sun."

On this month in history - the Tangiwai disaster

On December 24, 1953 at 10.21pm the Tangiwai disaster occurred. When the railway bridge over the Whangaehu River was hit by a flood of volcanic lahar

(boulders, water, silt and debris) it collapsed as the express train crossed it. Six carriages fell down; of the 285 passengers 151 died. Some bodies were never re-

covered. Only three carriages and two goods vans did not fall.

The tragedy was caused by a volcano-related build up from the crater lake at Ruapehu.

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 4

The science of my submission resides largely in what some would call the crowning achievement of 19th century physics. After the second world war, the spirit of the Marshall Plan loomed large all over the world and, for many years, calculus and mathematics education were so happily married that it would not

have been wacky to aver that calculus lessons started at the age of five, in New Zealand as in Japan. Presumably the object was to give all matriculating students a good general knowledge of weights and measures, with knowledge of all the common quantities and properties like temperature and energy to be included.

This is the spirit and the knowledge that the world has lost or shunned.

The not-looking of those who want to treat the carbon emission reduction targets like injunctions from high above is in my opinion a great threat to the globe. The Methane science and target review is available from the government now and contains assertions that are both false and critical to the findings.

Russell Z Christensen
Eltham.

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Opunake Fire Brigade News



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With Christmas and the end of year just around the corner this is an appropriate time to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the year. There are too many to name, and with fear of missing someone out I will thank everyone. No matter how big or small, your generous donations, support and gratitude go a long way in helping us in the service we perform. A big thank you also to our grounds keeper who, as usual keeps our lawns and garden well-manicured.

Year to date, we have attended 51 callouts, which is slightly down on last year. Medicals, MVAs and alarm activations made up the majority of these. The members of the Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade spend countless hours at trainings, callouts and community events, their dedication to protecting the Opunake community is truly outstanding. Although we have an open fire season at the moment, that could easily change as we get into January. Hawke's Bay and parts of the South Island are currently experiencing drier than normal conditions for this time of year. If you

The Opunake Fire Brigade's callouts this year.

are thinking about putting a match to that pile of rubbish on the farm, a good website to go to is www.checkitsalright.nz. This site tells you the type of fire season we are in and what you can and cannot do. It also has a link to get a fire permit if it is required.

through January, we take a five week break from our Monday night trainings, but you will still see us at the Christmas Parade and at the Opunake Beach Carnival. At the Carnival we will be demonstrating an oil fire with a purpose build kitchen fire trailer. We can show the correct way to extinguish an

oil fire and what can happen when water is used on oil. Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. If you haven't been thinking of joining the fire brigade, then make that your New Years resolution and we'll see you in 2025.

Andrew Pentelow (CFO)

Turn Heads

Phone 06 761 7466
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Rhonda would like to thank all her clients for their support.

"I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year."

Getting into the spirit of Christmas at Eltham



This year the Eltham Volunteer Fire Brigade have lit up the station for Christmas. A trolley has been decorated and placed on the roof with lights and a mannequin of Santa. Worth a look if you're passing through Eltham at night between now and Christmas. Photo supplied by the Eltham Fire Brigade.

Opunake Medical

Christmas Hours

Closed from 2pm Tuesday 24th December

Open from 8.30am Monday 6th January

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Notice of fee increase from 1st January 2025

Dear Valued Patients - Opunake We would like to inform you of upcoming changes to our services. Due to ongoing financial pressures and insufficient government funding, Opunake Medical Centre will be exiting the very-low-cost VLCA funding model, effective 1 January 2025.

This means we will be adjusting our fee structure to help ensure we can continue providing high-quality care to our community and support our dedicated healthcare team.

Community Service Card (CSC) holders will continue to pay \$19.50 for consultations. For all others, fees will increase to help cover the rising costs.

These changes will help us continue to provide the high-quality care you've come to expect from us and will also help us support and retain the amazing healthcare professionals who are so dedicated to your wellbeing. We understand these changes may affect some patients, and we are here to support you. If you have concerns or need assistance with payment options or financial support, please reach out to our reception team, or Practice Manager. We are committed to working with you during this transition.

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Seabed mining and wind farms never been mixed anywhere

It was perhaps inevitable that a competitor for seabed space would make its unseen presence felt at a meeting to discuss environmental issues facing a proposed offshore wind project.

The public information session held in Hawera was the last of four dealing with issues surrounding a proposed wind farm in the South Taranaki Bight backed by the Taranaki Offshore Partnership, a Joint Venture of the New Zealand Super Fund and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners.

Copenhagen is not the only windfarm developer to have expressed interest in setting up an offshore energy project in the South Taranaki Bight. Blue Float Energy, which like Copenhagen has set up projects in different parts of the world had been looking to set up here as well. Earlier this year, however they announced they would not go ahead after the government's announcement of fast track legislation breathed new life into a proposal by Trans-Tasman Resources (TTR) to mine ironsands off the South Taranaki coast. This proposal had previously been considered dead in the water following successful court action by opponents. Blue Float had said that



Dr Alison Lane makes a point.

while they could work alongside competitors like Copenhagen, ironsand mining would be incompatible with what they wanted to do.

Giacomo Caleffi of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners says that while they are sorry to see Blue Float pull out it is up to every company to make its own assessment of any risks involved. A structural engineer, he has worked on offshore wind energy projects in the United Kingdom and Germany. Other places Copenhagen are currently working include Taiwan.

“We’re currently building our third offshore wind farm there. It’s a small country but there’s a lot of sea so it’s a perfect opportunity for offshore wind energy.” He and marine biologist Dr Alison Lane were speaking at last week’s meeting in Hawera, the fourth and last in the Turning to the Future series of public information sessions on the project. Previous sessions had dealt with introducing what they wanted to do, the electricity sector and training and job opportunities. The latest meeting dealt with environmental issues.

Giacomo says they are

hoping to set up 12 nautical miles offshore in an area that can be viewed from Hawera to Opunake. By the end of next year they are hoping to be able to apply for a feasibility licence. They are looking to make the final investment decision in 2030 and have everything up and running in 2035.

He acknowledges that a lot of work goes into deciding whether a project is feasible and it’s something of a gamble. At the meeting he was asked how many of their investigations lead to successful wind farms.

“If we’ve been looking at it for 3-4 years, then there’s probably a 75% chance it will be a project,” he said. There are four factors which could stop a project from going ahead. These are environmental factors, the lack of a port, no transmission grid and the project not being commercially viable.

He was asked how it could fit in with seabed mining. “I mentioned four risks earlier. That’s number five,” he said.

There has never been anywhere in the world where offshore wind energy and seabed mining have co-existed, so they are entering into uncharted territory.

There are three possible

scenarios, he said. TTR could fail to get a consent. TTR could get the consent but not start work, “because few people know how big a project it is.” Finally they could get the consent and start work.

Alison Lane spoke about the environmental factors to be considered.

“The environment is not just about birds, whales and reefs, but it’s also about human uses,” she said.

The area has unique species of seabirds, as well as larger pelagic birds that are not so common in the northern hemisphere.

Alison said they had been working to find out where the gaps in their knowledge are and what further research needs to be done. They had been working with various groups and organisations including Iwi, the Taranaki Regional Council and DOC, as well as local fisher folk.

“They have got a huge amount of information in their heads which isn’t documented,” she said.

In August they deployed three underwater microphones on the seabed in the South Taranaki Bight for a year, which will record ambient noise to monitor the presence and migration patterns of marine mammals. She was asked if they had considered the environmental effects on the land where the power would be brought ashore. She said a consent would be needed to do this and any issues that needed to be addressed would come up then.

Giacomo says South Taranaki’s shallow water makes it well suited for offshore wind energy.

He was asked if they would consider setting up off the Waikato coast. He said both Taranaki and Waikato had their plus points.

“The wind speed in Taranaki is so much better,” he said.



Giacomo Caleffi.



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What a year

As we near the end of what has undoubtedly been the busiest year of my decade in politics, I want to express my gratitude for your support. I wish you all a joyful Christmas, an excellent holiday if you are taking one, and, of course, a successful and prosperous New Year.

Looking back at 2024, it has been a year of productivity and delivery, decisive action and significant achievements for the new coalition government—particularly

for the farming sector. In our first year, we aggressively cut red tape, enabling the farming sector to thrive without unnecessary burdens. We restored common sense to the rules governing intensive winter grazing and stock exclusion, paused the rollout of Freshwater Farm Plans, and implemented practical guidelines for on-farm water storage. These actions are equipping our rural communities for success. We took bold steps by

removing agriculture from the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and disbanding the ineffective He Waka Eke Noa partnership. We significantly ramped up funding for AgriZeroNZ to develop essential emissions reduction technologies—and we are actively reforming gene technology regulations to foster innovation. Furthermore, we raised the cap on the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme and increased investments in Rural Support Trusts and local catchment groups to strengthen rural

resilience. We relentlessly pursued enhanced trade relationships to secure superior returns for our farmers. This year, we expanded opportunities for New Zealand’s primary exports by securing major trade agreements with the UAE and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), allowing for 51 percent tariff-free entry from day one. We successfully eradicated \$733 million in non-tariff barriers and reinstated log exports to India. But I suppose on a more personal level for me, the



BARBARA KURIGER
MP TARANAKI - KING
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stand-out achievement is the restored recognition by the new government

of the importance of the rural sector to the New Zealand economy. This government stands firm in its commitment to, and confidence in, the primary sector’s ability to deliver for New Zealand. We will continue to partner with the sector to ensure rural communities are supported and we continue to all move forward together.

Barbara Kuriger
MP for Taranaki-King Country.

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Greenpeace welcomes Greens’ Emissions Reduction Plan

Greenpeace is applauding the Green Party for promising bold action on dairy sector climate pollution with the launch of the party’s He Ara Anamata. However, Greenpeace warns that the party will need to have the tenacity to push these policies through as bottom lines in future coalition negotiations. “The intensive dairy industry, led by Fonterra, is New Zealand’s worst climate

polluter, belching out vast amounts of superheating methane gas,” says Greenpeace spokesperson Amanda Larsson. “There are simply too many dairy cows in New Zealand. These massive herd sizes are only possible because huge amounts of palm kernel and synthetic nitrogen fertiliser are used to feed them. It’s great to see the Greens committing to phase out these enablers, bring agriculture into the Emissions Trading Scheme and support farmers to transition to ecological practices that work in harmony with nature.” Livestock is the single biggest source of methane emissions - a superheating greenhouse gas that is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period. Reducing methane associated with meat and dairy is a critical lever that will influence how quickly or slowly the world heats up in the near term. “At a time when the Luxon-led government is caving to polluting industry lobbyists and undermining climate action across all fronts, it is refreshing to see an alternative pathway,” says Larsson.

“Farmers must be supported to transition to more plant-based and ecological farming methods that use fewer inputs and sustain smaller herds. This way of farming is better for people, cows, the rivers, and the climate. It’s also increasingly what customers, both here in Aotearoa and overseas, want and expect from food producers.” Larsson says that it is one thing to promise bold action two years out from an election but another thing entirely to put those promises into action if elected. “The Greens will need to show real tenacity to push through these policies if elected into Government. For more than twenty years, successive Governments have failed to hold the dairy industry to account for its outsized climate pollution. That includes the previous Government where a Green climate change minister failed to bring agriculture into the Emissions Trading Scheme despite six years in office.”

The world experienced record-breaking temperatures in 2024, making this year the hottest year on record. Scientists are now warning that the 1.5 degree target - set as a benchmark for avoiding the worst impacts of climate change - is becoming increasingly unattainable. Greenpeace says this means it’s more important than ever to tackle global livestock emissions, including in Aotearoa. “Climate change is like a raging housefire, and the meat and dairy industry’s methane pollution is a stream of petrol pouring onto the flames. That fire is burning up our only home, and our kids are inside,” says Larsson. “The decisions we make today will make or break our future. Now is the time to be courageous and steadfast. We know how to cut emissions - we have all the technology and tools to do so. What’s needed is political will to put these tools into action.”

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News will be coming out on January 30 2025.

Season greetings. Your Taranaki MPs are here to help you.

Barbara Kuriger
MP for Taranaki-King Country

barbara.kurigermp@parliament.govt.nz
barbarakuriger.national.org.nz/

David MacLeod
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david.macleodmp@parliament.govt.nz
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Carl Bates
MP for Whanganui

carl.batesmp@parliament.govt.nz
www.national.org.nz/carlbates

David MacLeod
MP for New Plymouth

Season's Greetings!

On behalf of my family and office, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Our office is closed from: Mon 23 Dec 2024
Reopening on: Mon 13 Jan 2025

david.macleodmp@parliament.govt.nz
37 Gill Street, New Plymouth.
Ph: 06 759 2580

Authorised by David MacLeod, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

A demanding job I'm loving

One year and one month since becoming a member of Parliament, Carl Bates says he is loving it, love the work, love getting round the electorate.

"The job of an electorate MP is what you make of it," says Carl "getting out and about" and meeting his constituents.

Last Monday the Member of Parliament for Whanganui had had a busy day beginning at 4:30 am to attend the dawn blessing of Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, Hawera's new library, I-site Visitor Information Centre and art gallery. Then it was onto Eltham for a 'Carl's connect' to meet some Eltham constituents who had concerns about waiting lists in hospitals and an issue with a local councillor that he "needed to take up with Mayor Phil". Next it was back to his electorate office in Hawera before returning to the formal opening of the new building in Hawera at 9:30am. After delivering a 100 year old birthday card at Eltham there was a 12 noon meeting at Te Kiri with farmers then onto Opunake and Manaia visiting the vet clinics before heading home to Whanganui to visit his



Carl Bates out and about.

grandmother in hospital in the evening.

Being an MP was, Carl acknowledged "very demanding".

Asked what he found the most difficult aspect of being an MP he said it was the realisation that "There's always more that you can do, another event you could attend." He also hadn't anticipated the size of the electorate. "It's a huge

electorate," he says adding he didn't give enough consideration to its size. Also, that as New Plymouth is the main centre for some of his constituents it meant spending more time in New Plymouth.

One of his achievements he's notched up in his first year is getting a commitment from One New Zealand to build a cell phone tower in and around Patea. He

also currently has a Private Members Bill before Parliament increasing the age of excusal for jury service. "Once you turn 65 you can ask for temporary or permanent exclusion" to serve on juries. He wants to extend the age to 72 which, apart from the wisdom older people bring to the job, also means "We've got a larger pool of people to serve on juries."

The chartered accountant cites pushing the farming sector and "spending money efficiently and effectively" as two of his main thrusts in standing for Parliament and absolutely "approves of the way we're going".

He's been visiting a lot of local businesses and says their mood was "cautious optimism". Asked about the fact that a number of newspapers are threatened with closure including the local Stratford Press and that advertising revenue was going offshore and not in the government coffers as in the case of all local businesses which pay tax, he added that he didn't see any solution though said the situation was "being reviewed". They were however supportive of the local newspapers by way of advertising, he

added. He also spoke on the rural doctor situation when asked and said the Government was promoting the rural inversion scheme in which trainee doctors are given free accommodation as an incentive to come to rural communities in the hope that they will return to rural practices when fully qualified. Another medical school in Waikato which focussed on rural and provincial health was being considered.

The approachable MP who prior to returning to New Zealand spent 12 years in South Africa returning with his South African wife who is a vet said he'd like to thank everyone who has supported him over the year. "I'm absolutely focussed on being able to advocate for my community," said Carl.

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Cart that brought Lizzie Bell bodies to shore now in Lizzie Bell Cemetery

Of all the vessels lost on the Taranaki coast, the Lizzie Bell remains one of the most well-known.

Wrecked off Oeo with the loss of 12 of her 18 crew on the night of July 24 1901, the cemetery at Pihama where the dead are buried now bears its name.

The morning after the wreck, a family cart owned by local farmer John Pettigrew was used to carry the bodies of the dead sailors from the beach to the Oeo Hotel.

The cart can now be seen behind glass in a purpose-built building at the cemetery on permanent loan from the Pettigrew family to the Pihama Cemetery Board. Even before the Lizzie Bell was wrecked, the cart had already played a leading role on the Taranaki coast. William and Susan Pettigrew had brought it with them to Opunake from Auckland in 1882. William and his brother-in-law Adam Laybourne set up one of the first shops in Opunake at a time when the only way into town was by ships which would anchor in the

Opunake bay. Goods and passengers would be rowed out and loaded on to drays in the surf, like the one the Pettigrews owned and then taken into town. There were lidded bins on each side to keep the flour and sugar dry and clean. The cart was also used to deliver goods around the district. When William's oldest son John bought the Jerseydale farm at Pihama it was used for farm work and later taking the milk to the dairy factory.

Years after the Lizzie Bell was wrecked, John's son Doug continued to use the cart on the farm.

"He preferred to use it in the winter as it didn't mark the paddocks as bad as the new Fergie 24 tractor," his daughter Joy Dorn told the Taranaki Coastal Community Board in 2022.

Joy and her brother Gordon Pettigrew were at the community board meeting supporting the Cemetery Board's application.

"I can remember feeding out in it with my Dad in the 1950s," Gordon recalled. He says over the years the cart's



The Pettigrew family cart led the parade at the Pihama School Centenary in 1987. The driver was Jim Symes with Maree, Craig, Joanne and Bryan Dorn, great great grandchildren of William Pettigrew.

condition has deteriorated. "It was stored in a shed on the farm, and it was open to the south."

As years went on the cart

has played a major part in local celebrations like the Pihama School 75th jubilee, and its centenary in 1987. On that occasion the cart led the

celebration with William's great great grandchildren Maree, Craig, Joanne and Bryan Dorn riding in it. The cart also put in an

appearance at a ceremony at the cemetery organised by the Merchant Navy Association in 2019.

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Bristol Stool Chart

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Type 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on the surface
Type 4		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7		Watery, no solid pieces. Entirely Liquid

Your Guide to healthy bowels

1 - indicates constipation. We recommend an increase in fibre, hydration and magnesium.

3 - indicates ideal stools which are easier to pass.

5 - shows loose stools. Indicative of an irritated gastrointestinal tract. We recommend digestive enzymes, an increase in fibre and avoiding wheat.

Eltham gets it together for Christmas parade

On Friday afternoon the streets of Eltham were buzzing as the countdown to the town's annual Christmas Parade got underway.

The Eltham Lions Club has been running the parade every year since Lions Club member Geoff Harris pushed for it to be resurrected more than 20 years ago. Club president Huia Brown was looking forward to the evening.

"Hopefully we'll have eight market stands. They're always great, and there's a good turnout with the floats and lots of schools taking part," she said, noting some of the local groups who would be having stands along the parade route.

"There's the netball club and the marching girls who are going to be in the parade as well. They're going to the North Island championships next week. The Lions have got a barbecue going up the road." This year Santa would be coming on a sleigh, she



Ngaere School celebrate being named the best float.

taking part in the parade they had a Santa-themed trolley sitting atop the Fire Station. Kevin Barry of the Eltham Fire Brigade said that the trolley was about 10 years old and had been used in trolley derbies. They had placed a Santa mannequin in the trolley as well as adding lights.

"It's worth having a look at a night," Kevin says. "The

he said. There wouldn't be many Christmas parades that could say they had the Minister of Finance judging the floats, but Nicola Willis was doing just that. She was there with Whanganui MP Carl Bates and she said this was the first time she had ever judged a Christmas Parade.

made stops in Waverley and Hawera. She said she was impressed with the sense of community in Eltham, as seen by the Lions Club able to call on the help of 40 volunteers, and by the support for local schools. She was also impressed by how well known Carl appeared to be in the local community.

As well as the whirr of motorised vehicles, the clop clop of mounted members of the Eltham Pony Club is another of the traditional sounds associated with the Eltham Parade. Club president Desiree Bond said they have 57 members. Nineteen of these are children and all of them were there that day. Those who weren't mounted were in the accompanying trailer.

"The tree they decorated by themselves, and when the children were asked what they wanted to be they decided they wanted to be elves."

The Pony Club were judged

put the float together. There were 45 students on the truck, including all the Year 8 students.

"Thirty kids gave up all their lunch times and morning teas. As soon as they got

to school they wanted to do their painting," said Penny. And what did the guest judge think of all this?

"It's such a joyful, wonderful thing to be part of," said Nicola.



Finance minister Nicola Willis came to Eltham with Whanganui MP Carl Bates and ended up judging the floats.

said. The vintage fire truck he had arrived on last year was being repaired.

At the Eltham Fire Station the Fire Brigade were getting in on the act. As well as

lights automatically come on when it gets dark."

The trolley had been put up the previous Monday and would be coming down some time after Christmas,



The Eltham Pony Club was there in force.

So what was she looking for?

"Creativity, originality and execution, and I'm always partial to a bit of humour," she said. She and Carl had spent the day in the electorate, beginning with Whanganui where they had a look at the Sargent Gallery and

third, with Nature's Wonders second and Ngaere School first.

Ngaere School deputy principal Penny Andrews said parents had pitched in to

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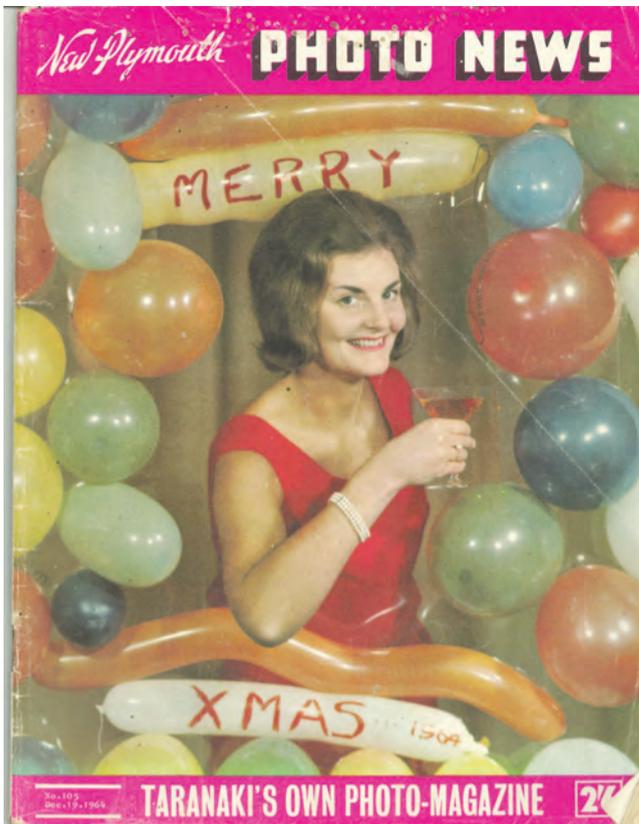


A glimpse at Opunake's beloved beach 60 years ago

In this issue the Opunake and Coastal News wishes its readers a Merry Christmas. Sixty years ago, back on December 19 1964 another Taranaki publication The New Plymouth Photo News was doing the same.

The monthly publication which retailed for the princely sum of 2/6 lasted from 1957 to 1966. It's December 1964 issue included news of two recent additions to Opunake Beach.

One of these, the Surf Club building is still familiar to visitors to the beach. The other, the wartime aircraft is less familiar today, although it was enjoyed by a previous generation who played on it during the summer months.



A reader recently came into the office to show this issue of a paper from a time when newspapers with a local flavour were more common than they are today.

He had also been able to come up with some information about the aircraft.

It was a 1943 Grumman Avenger torpedo bomber acquired from the Gisborne Aircraft Preservation Society.

From Opunake it moved to the Silverstream Transport Museum. He understands it was later rebuilt in Tauranga. Grumman Avengers were used by the Royal New Zealand Air Force during the Pacific campaign.

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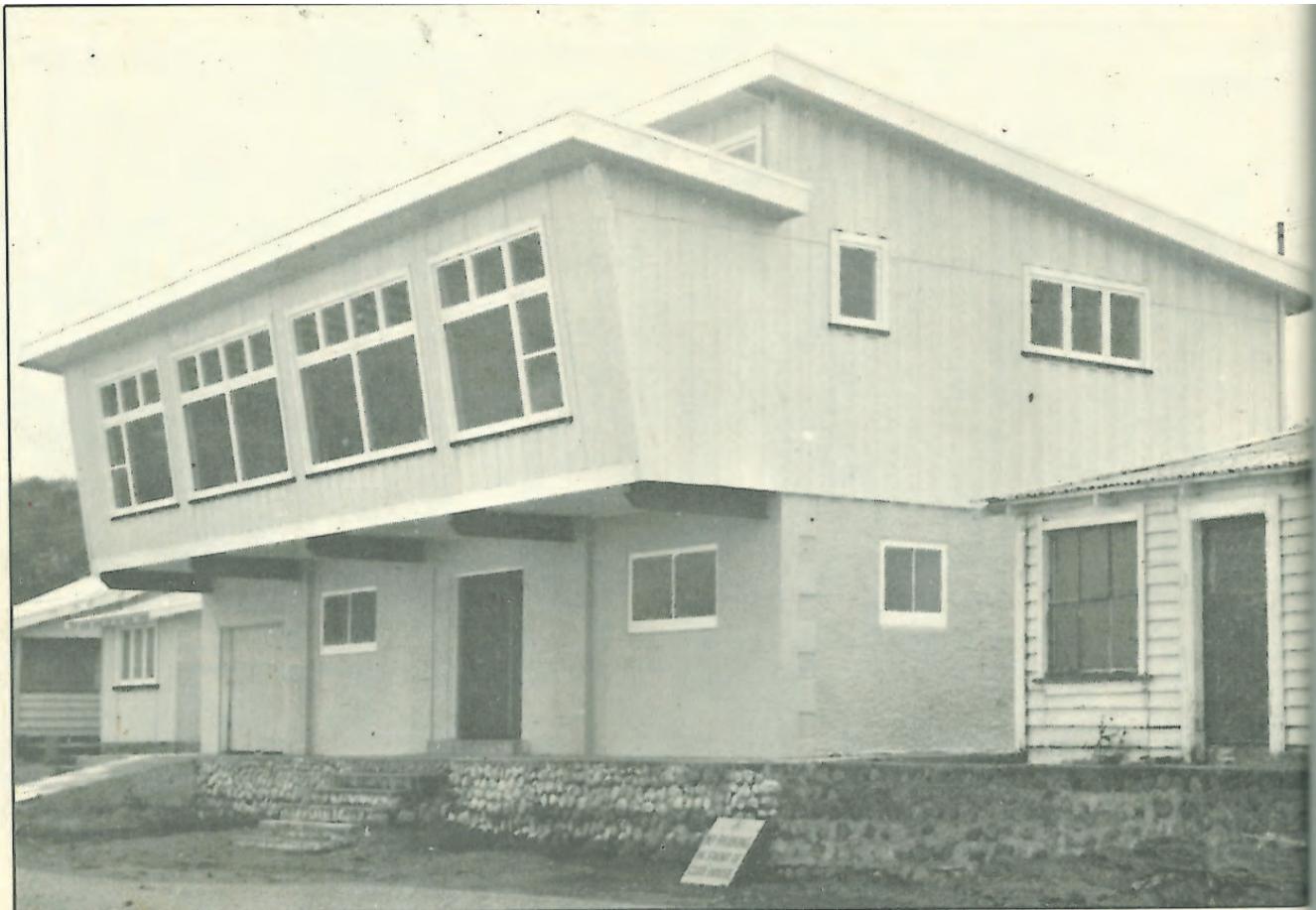


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A glimpse at Opunake's beloved beach 60 years ago



New Amenities At Opunake Beach

More amenities have been added to the beach area at Opunake, and they will be made full use of in the coming holiday season. The new Surf Club pavilion, above, only needs a small amount of work to complete. This building plays an important part in the safety of the beach at Opunake, and is a much-needed amenity at the beach. A thrill awaits visiting children when they find that there is a plane down at the beach. This ex-American fighter, below, will be the focal point for a lot of the younger fry during the coming holiday season.



18

The article from The New Plymouth Photo News Dec 19, 1964.

"Mike and Dee wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and thanks for your continued support during the year"



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Fostering the joys of reading



Raymond Buckland of Te Hawera Community Board and their just completed book box project.

Last week Te Hawera Community Board member Raymond Buckland was adding the final touches to the board's book box project.

It turns out that while the South Taranaki District Council were getting ready to open the new Hawera Library the Community Board

had been busy with their own book drop-off project.

Barely a hop step and jump away from Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga the Community Board had been working on their book box in Campbell Lane.

Located on the left side of the lane heading towards Cornish's carpark a converted fridge/freezer donated by board chair Liz Watson is a place where people can drop off books and others can pick them up. Raymond

and his mate Wayne put together the wooden casing and installed a plaque.

"We've put it on this side so that when people walk out of town they'll notice it," says Raymond. "We did this so that everyone gets an opportunity to read a book."

He says he hopes it's something that other places notice and decide to take up.

Hawera is however not the first place in South Taranaki to have somewhere where people can drop off books for others to pick them up. Since 2018 a converted mailbox has served this purpose at the Cliff Top Garden in Opunake. The Clifftop Library was the brainchild of Janine Mullin, whose mother Margaret is one of the garden's volunteers.

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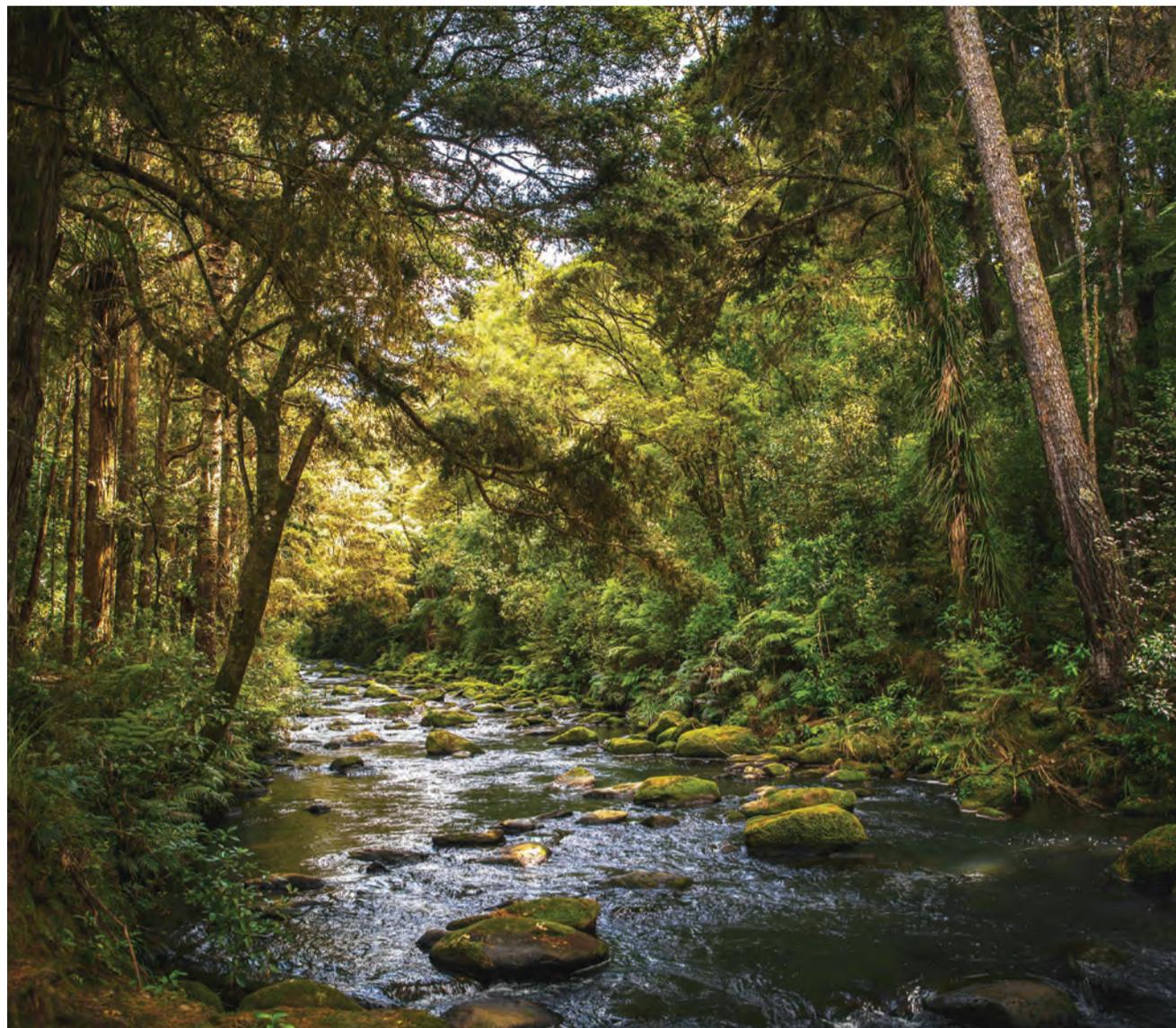
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New Zealand and Australian species are among the most vulnerable to extinction in a warming world, according to a global analysis of 30 years of research. The author finds that under a projected 2.7°C rise above preindustrial levels, 1 in 20 species will be at risk of extinction globally. Amphibians; species from mountain, island, and freshwater ecosystems; and species inhabiting South America, Australia, and New Zealand face the greatest threats.

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Look after your health this summer

Oral health tips for a tooth-friendly Christmas. From chocolates to candy canes, sweet desserts and sugary drinks, Christmas is full of festive treats we love to indulge in. But remember, all those sugary foods can be harmful to our teeth, especially the younger members of our family/whānau.

Parents play an important role in keeping children healthy and looking after your child's teeth over the festive season is very important.

With so much going on at Christmas time it can be easy to forget to brush your teeth day and night, so remember to keep up your good oral health routine and be aware of overindulging in too much sugar. Try to cut back as much as possible. And if you're travelling away, make sure you don't

leave your toothbrush and toothpaste behind.

Healthy teeth = a healthy smile. Follow these steps at home this Christmas and protect your child's smile.

- Brush teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste
- Lift the lip every month to check for signs of tooth decay (holes)
- Choose healthy snacks that are low in sugar
- Drink water or milk

If you have any dental queries or concerns this festive season, please contact your nearest clinic or phone 0800 TALK TEETH (0800 825 583).

Telehealth services available across the motu this summer

With the Christmas holidays only a few weeks away, Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora is reminding New Zealanders of the

excellent clinical telehealth providers available throughout the country.

Although many GPs across the motu will be either closed or operating limited hours over the Christmas and New Year period, many will have a telehealth provider available for their communities to ensure safe access to primary care.

Many common summer conditions can be safely managed by telehealth clinicians, including providing prescriptions where needed, and all from the comfort of your home or holiday destination.

Ka Ora Telecare is our national telehealth provider focussed on our rural populations. If you live rurally or you are visiting rurally, then you are able to access Ka Ora services by phoning 0800 2 KA ORA (0800 252 672) or book online at kaora.co.nz

You can book an appointment directly online, or phone to speak to a nurse who can help guide you through triage and seeing a doctor or nurse practitioner to address your needs. If you are a rural resident visiting the city you can still use Ka Ora, so remember to store their number on your phone, just in case. See your pharmacist

for health advice. Your local pharmacy is a great place to go for health advice, and they can treat common minor ailments such as eye infections and inflammation, pain and fever, scabies, urinary tract infection, head lice, eczema or dermatitis, and minor skin infections – all without the need for a prescription from your GP.

Pharmacies outside the main centres may have limited stock of some medicines so if you or a whānau member is running low on prescription medication, please prepare for the holiday break and contact your local GP or healthcare provider now to arrange a repeat or book an appointment.

Summer health check list:

- If you need prescription medication over the summer break, contact your local GP or healthcare provider early to stock up.
- Visit www.healthpoint.co.nz for up-to-date information on your local GP and pharmacy opening hours.
- Rural people, and people holidaying in rural areas can access Ka Ora rural telecare by calling 0800 2 KA ORA (0800 252 672) or book online at kaora.co.nz directly or via referral from their rural

healthcare provider. The service runs from 5pm to 8am on weekdays and 24 hours a day at weekends and on public holidays.

Remember if you get sick whether you're at home or away, call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for free medical advice 24/7 – interpreter support is available. Healthline can also advise what services are open wherever you are in the country.

Pertussis epidemic. Following the rise in confirmed pertussis (whooping cough) cases across the country, the National Public Health Service (NPHS) has declared a national epidemic.

Pertussis is highly contagious and can cause serious harm to babies, especially those who are too young to be vaccinated. Pertussis causes breathing difficulties and severe coughing fits. It can be spread easily between people, usually by coughing and sneezing.

The best protection against pertussis is to get vaccinated. This is particularly important for pregnant people, pēpi, tamariki and older adults who are at higher risk. encouraging antenatal immunisations and on-time infant vaccinations are more important than ever. Getting

immunised when a person is pregnant, will protect pēpi until they can have their first immunisations when they are 6 weeks old. Immunity will pass from the pregnant person to their pēpi through the placenta.

Shingles vaccine recommended for anyone aged 50 and over. The shingles vaccine is recommended for anyone aged 50 and over. It is free for the 12 months after your 65th birthday. It is also free to some people aged 18 and older in some situations. There is a cost for the shingles vaccine outside this time.

Anyone who has had chickenpox is at risk of developing shingles later in life. One in three people will get shingles during their lifetime.

Shingles is a painful rash that develops on one side of the face, body or head. Before the rash develops, people often have pain, itching, or tingling in the area where the rash will develop.

The most serious complications are nerve pain that can last for months or years, and eye problems that can result in loss of vision.

The best protection against shingles is vaccination. Shingles vaccines can be given by your nurse, doctor, healthcare provider and some pharmacies.



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Te Whatu Ora

Regional Action Plan officially launched at sold out event

The Tapuae Roa 2025/26 Action Plan was officially launched at a sold out event in New Plymouth with over 250 locals attending. Facilitated by Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki, the regional development agency, and developed through collaboration between Taranaki mayors, iwi, and sector leaders, the updated Action Plan outlines key priorities for the region, focusing on driving innovation, investment, and sustainable growth.

The plan prioritises pragmatic projects and initiatives that will help Taranaki leverage its strengths. "Adapt or perish" is the strong message from the region's Mayors.

Stratford Mayor and current chair of the Mayoral Forum, Neil Volzke said, "While Taranaki has strengths in some sectors, such as energy and food, we cannot ignore that the global economy is changing. The world is grappling with the need to reduce emissions while maintaining economic security, and we must position ourselves to grow sustainably in the face of these challenges."

"We are committed to working together to make Taranaki the best place to do business, driving smart, sustainable growth, and ensuring that our children and grandchildren inherit a region full of opportunity. This Action Plan reflects our collective determination to unlock investment, remove barriers to sustainable development, and drive high-value opportunities



The launch of the Regional Action Plan.

across our key sectors."

The Action Plan builds on the long-term regional strategies of Tapuae Roa - Make Way for Taranaki, originally launched in 2017, and Taranaki 2050, which have been shaped through years of collaboration and consultation with local leaders, iwi, businesses, and the wider community. It highlights specific priority areas including energy, food and fibre, tourism, Māori economic development, and fostering innovation through new industries and investment.

"This is a plan for everyone in Taranaki and it celebrates our unity going forward to adapt in the face of change," said Kelvin Wright, Chief Executive of Venture Taranaki, the regional development agency.

"As a region we're known for our strong Team Taranaki collaborative

approach, which has enabled Taranaki to be a leader and future-focused region that doesn't shy away from challenges, but rather looks at how we can turn them into opportunities. We encourage our community to read it, engage with it, and be part of the journey as we work together to create a strong and sustainable future."

The launch event at the Devon Hotel in New Plymouth saw leaders from across the region come together to present the updated plan and reaffirm their commitment to working collaboratively.

The event featured talks from regional and sector leaders highlighting the importance of continued partnership to achieve shared goals. Among others, speakers included Mayor Neil Holdon (NPDC), Ross Dingle (Port Taranaki), Danielle Gibas (Wild for Taranaki), Jo James (Juno Gin), and 10-year-old Miller Joyce-Flutey (Ōmata School), who represented the youth of Taranaki.

The Tapuae Roa 2025/26 Action Plan introduces several forward-focused initiatives aimed at fostering investment and supporting emerging industries. Some of these include:

- Māori Economy Development Strategy: Developing a strategy to align Māori economic growth with regional opportunities, enabling collective investment and innovation.
- Economic Innovation Zone (EIZ): A proposal to create a designated area to stimulate economic growth, attract investment, and foster collaboration between businesses, research institutions, and governments.
- Taranaki Maunga Tourism Opportunities: Understanding current visitor data, and developing sustainable visitor products centred around Taranaki Maunga, including new trails and upgraded visitor facilities.
- Driving renewables and innovation: Continuing to catalyse offshore wind opportunities and supporting projects that convert renewable energy

into sustainable fuels (Power-to-X), like green hydrogen and methanol.

- Strengthening Engineering Supply Chain: Strategies to retain and develop the region's skilled workforce, while positioning the region as a national and international hub for energy and industrial supply chain expertise.
- Land Diversification Initiatives: Expanding initiatives like Branching Out to explore new crops and value chains, ensuring resilience and sustainability for the region's agricultural sector.

The Tapuae Roa 2025/26 Action Plan will be reviewed annually and updated every three years to remain responsive to changing regional and global dynamics. Future updates will align with local councils' Long-Term Planning processes to ensure the plan's initiatives are fully supported and resourced.



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A YEAR AT RAHOTU SCHOOL

The Hauora Leaders of Rahotu School are a group of Year 7 and 8 students who organise whanau days, fundraisers, school events and help to build school spirit. During the year we organised events such as 'Pink Day' to promote anti-bullying, "Daffodil Day" to raise money for the Cancer Society and held our annual 'Mud Day'



Room 3 dressed all in pink for Pink Day



Mahi Ngahere.

In Mahi Ngahere we integrate Science, Te Ao Māori, Numeracy and our FLAME values while working with Taranaki Iwi, Te Ara Taiao, real scientists Mr Thom Adams and Dr Emily Roberts and our community with the goal to restore a neglected part of our kura into a ngahere full of natives.

Students have the opportunity to work together, learn and embrace community gardening and involvement at Parihaka in the māra. We are lucky to take all we learn at Parihaka back to our kura where we apply this new knowledge to our own school māra



Students enjoying Mud Day

Our school production 'In Our Hands' was a huge hit. The teachers and students put many hours of practice each day of term 2 to make sure that the show was amazing! Many thanks to Raeleen Luckin who came in to teach all the dances and spent many more hours to make sure we were show ready!



'In Our Hands' Production 2024.



Students performing in this year's production.



Room 1 performing in the production.



Students from Room 4 planting at Parihaka.



Year 7/8 Camp



Kapa Haka Puanga 2024.



Calf & Lamb Day 2024

See us online at www.rahotu.school.nz

Rain doesn't dampen spirits at Christmas parade

The Okato Christmas parade on Sunday evening attracted an enthusiastic crowd of determined spectators despite the fact that it was pouring with rain. The procession of floats went down the main street to the roundabout then returned as excited children scrambled for lollies thrown out to them. With umbrellas much in evidence both among the spectators and those in the floats, it was certainly a float parade with a difference, but the weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of all involved in the annual event. After the parade the bedraggled crowd of spectators and others enjoyed a sumptuous free supper at the Coastal Taranaki gymnasium of hamburgers, sausages, ice blocks and slices. Commented Joy Burmeister from the Okato Community Church which organised the Okato Christmas parade with help from other members of the community, "We were just amazed at how the people braved the weather and turned up and had an amazing time together." She said she would like to thank the groups who helped organise the event. The parade was judged by Marian Richardson, Julie Knowles and Emily Rajasingh. The winning float was Okato Vets, second was Coastal Taranaki School, 3rd Stepping Sones, 4th Tumahu Hall and 5th Coastal Young Farmers.



The winning float, Okato Vets.



ABOVE: Coastal Young Farmers.



LEFT: Tumahu Hall

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2024 @ St Joseph's School Ōpunakē ...What a year and what a team!

Our school roll is on the up and we have confirmed our new Principal - Mr Brook Murfitt and Deputy Principal - Mrs Anna Charlie. We have been able to enjoy adventures like leadership trips to Wellington, camps at Vertical Horizon and TOPEC, AG Day, Book Fair and an 80's Disco. On Thursday 5 December we welcomed Tall Blacks Captain, Corey Webster and Tall Fern, Brooke Locke (pictured left) as part of our official 'Hoops in Schools' launch event. Basketball NZ, Basketball Taranaki and Sports Taranaki were also there to congratulate our commitment to basketball and celebrate our new school hoops and training sessions to come; funded by NZCT. Our school community has worked together incredibly this year with fundraisers like the Pihama MX Flat Track Event. 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 Closed Thursday 12 December 2024, 1pm

School Office Open

Thursday 23 January 2024, 9am

For all enquiries email office@stjo.school.nz or leave a message when you call 06 761 8388. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

2024 Prizegiving Results

Diligence Awards

for students showing the most dedication to their learning

Year 0 Ethan Green / Charlotte Gopperth

Year 1 Rémy Le Prou / Charlotte Taylor / Asher Cripps / Ryleigh Raaymakers

Year 2 Monty Julian / Maggie McKenzie

Year 3 William Lawn / Harper Mellow

Year 4 Maddox Romley / Aria Arora / Sylvie Dorn

Year 5 Michael Zhang / Isla Brown / Anneliese Langton

Year 6 Fergus Bourke / Lucia Gorgievski

Year 7 Spencer Stevenson / Frankie Campbell

Year 8 Zion Aldridge / Amy Gulliver

UNITY Awards for students best showing our school values

Humility Eleanor Wilson / Pedro Grasso / Rio Mumar / Poppy Le Prou / Jayden Hales / Mack Lynskey

Excellence Kaitlynn Diu / Trelise Collins / Edie Lynskey / Magdalena Grasso / Kourtney Gulliver / Regan Smith / John Asis

Faith Lacey Parata / Grace Fleming / Amia Diu / Madison Hales / Celeste Langton / Minka Stockhoff

Respect Noah Heller / Griffin Wilson / Archer Cox / Declan Bourke / Aaradhya Tyagi / Olivia Lynskey

Integrity Caleb Leigh / Katie Starr / Ryan M Taylor / Sean Estrada / Natalie Mullin / Georgina Mullin / Sienna Bourke

Special Character Awards

Theresa Anne Landers Memorial Trophy - **Jock Julian**

Year 0-4 Student showing living commitment to Religious Education

Margaret & Jack Landers Trophy - **Olivia Lynskey**

Year 5-8 Student showing living commitment to Religious Education

St Joseph's Ōpunakē Trophy Kaitātaki Tane - **Spencer Stevenson**

St Joseph's Ōpunakē Trophy Kaitātaki Wahine - **Frankie Campbell**

Duynhoven Arts Trophy - **Frankie Campbell**

Sports Awards

Margaret Holmes Cup - Most Outstanding Netball Player - **Sienna Bourke**

David Fleming Cup for Most Improved Netball Player - **Toni-Leigh Cooke**

Lawn Family Trophy for Most Valuable Basketball Player - **Zion Aldridge**

Langton Family Cup for Most Improved Basketball Player - **Amy Gulliver**

Drought Trophy for Most Valuable Rugby Player - **Mack Lynskey**

Murfitt Trophy for Most Improved Rugby Player - **Xavier Le Prou**

Year 8 Awards

St Joseph's Ōpunakē Trophy for Excellence in Sport - **Zion Aldridge**

St Joseph's Ōpunakē Trophy for Excellence in Leadership - **Kelsey Bevan**

Lawrence Joyce Memorial Trophy for Dedication to Agriculture - **Sienna Bourke**

Academic Excellence Runner Up

- **Carly Thomas**

Quinnell Trophy Academic Excellence/Dux

- **Zion Aldridge**

Alan & Maree Drought Shield Outstanding Character - **Kelsey Bevan**

Farewell to our Year 7&8 students
Zion Aldridge, Kelsey Bevan, Sienna Bourke, Amy Gulliver, Carly Thomas, Toby Manson, Maiya McMillan and Spencer Stevenson.
We will always be proud of you.



2024 Best All Round Student
Stronge Cup
Amy Gulliver

School starts back
Tue 28 Jan
2025

Have a great break!



The town of firsts

Although Eltham may only have a population of 2000 its reputation of being a town of firsts means that this South Taranaki country town has always punched above its weight.

This reputation goes back as far as its origins as a town. Chew Chong (Chau Tseung) who immigrated from China in 1867 settled in Taranaki in the 1870s. He sold butter in pats and blobs of no conventional size in his general stores from blends of different butters. He wanted a way of making sure one faulty batch of butter didn't affect the rest. So he developed the pound of butter. In 1887 he opened New Zealand's first commercial butter factory in Eltham, which included a cooling system for the storage of cream. It was also a pioneer in the export of butter to Britain which for many years was one of the mainstays of the New Zealand economy.

In 1902 Eltham businessman and borough councillor Charles (C.A) Wilkinson was on holiday in the United States and liked what he saw of the



Charles (C.A) Wilkinson

tar sealed streets over there. When he returned to New Zealand he thought they would look good in Eltham, so he got to work on his fellow borough councillors, and in 1906 Bridge Street became the first tar sealed street in New Zealand.

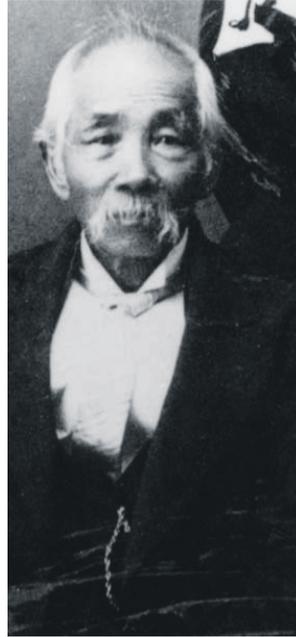
Four years afterwards the Pease Brothers building on the corner of Bridge and Stanners Streets was the first building outside Europe to be built with a suspended floor. Wilkinson played a part here as well. He supplied the concrete. Wilkinson later served as mayor and was Independent MP for Egmont. In 1936 he almost became the first

leader of the National Party.

Eltham's contribution of firsts to the farming sector did not end with Chew Chong. In 1916 Eltham produced the first commercially viable rennet cheese in New Zealand and Eltham Rennet was a big name in the New Zealand dairy industry for many years. In 1951 the first blue vein cheese was produced in Eltham.

In 1967 Eltham dairyfarmer Merv Hicks was told by a dairy inspector that he had two years to upgrade his walk-through cowshed or he would have to shut down. Faced with this challenge he decided to come up with an idea of his own and in the 1968-9 season he got to work. The result was the rotary milking shed. An American had come up with the idea of the rotolactor which could accommodate 50 cows on a rotating platform, but this was big and overly cumbersome so never really caught on. Merv's simpler version was more suited to New Zealand conditions. An engineering mate agreed to build it for him and a company was set

up which made thousands of these. Twenty years later Merv sold the patents to DeLaval.



Chew Chong.

Other farming firsts include the country's first Vet Club, set up in Eltham in 1937. FMG can trace its origins back to a meeting in Eltham in 1904 to find ways of getting lower insurance rates for local farmers.

In 1901 Eltham held the first ever World Axemen's Carnival, with entrants from New Zealand, Australia and further afield taking part. It was held annually on Boxing Day for several years.



A rotary milking shed.

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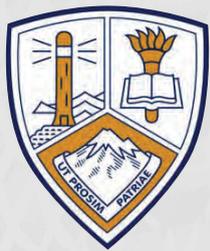
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Principals' Address

He waka eke noa - all in this waka together

And that's a wrap... The 99th year of Opunake High School came to its conclusion as we celebrated the academic, cultural & sporting success of our Year 9 and 10 students.

Such a wonderful prizegiving. The students were so supportive of each other, the musical items were amazing, as was Te Haumoana who opened proceedings with another outstanding kapahaka bracket. This group supported by Whaea Vicki, Whaea Kataraina and Matua Clive Junior has grown in stature over recent years - with an eye to playing a significant role in our centenary.

Our Junior music group blew our socks off not once, but twice and lets not forget to mention Mr Jared Hill and Mrs Katerina Papageorgiou who blew the roof off with 'Born to live forever'. Our prize winners accepted their awards with humility and grace. Thank you to Barry Skinner, Rachel Taylor, Donna Aitken, Rochelle Griggs, Esther Ward and Sarah Robert for such a smooth running event.

JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING 2024



Cultural Award winners (L-R) Shakyrah-Leigh Klenner, Will Plunkett & Jahlesha Klenner



Junior Sportsperson of the Year - Kobe Lark



Kaupokonui Cup & the Mary Pohutukawa Award Top in Year 9 - Cade Carr (R) with Lena Sharrock Award (Runner-up) - Chloe Bennett



Phillips Cup & the Mary Pohutukawa Award Top in Year 9 - Raighne Parale (L) with Lena Sharrock Award (Runner-up) - Will Plunkett



The girls already seeing all the sights & sounds Wellington has to offer

All that's left for schooling in 2024 are our smorgasbord of camps, and to thank all of you who have worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to offer our tamariki such amazing opportunities. I wish I went to our school when I was young!!!

A warm welcome to our new lab technician Louisa Kemsley who will be supporting SCIENCE, SCIENCE.....next year.

And another congratulations to Chrissy Ryan who has received her Level 4 Te Ahu o Te Reo qualifications ka pai, miharo!!!

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui.

Arohanui

Andrea Hooper Carr
Principal

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Taranaki Mathematics & Statistics Association Award for Top Year 9
Chloe Bennett

Taranaki Mathematics & Statistics Teachers Association Award for Top Year 10
Ryker Neil

Year 9 Junior Dreams Trophy for DREAMS Values in School & Extra Curricular
Leah Martins

Year 10 Junior Dreams Trophy for DREAMS Values in School & Extra Curricular
Will Plunkett

Character Cup for Junior Character Aveling Family Cup
Wyatt Dobbin

Talia Maree Patene Memorial Trophy Female Leadership of Te Haumoana
Jahlesha Klenner, Shakyrah-Leigh Klenner

Te Ratahi Ratahi Taonga Kaitātaki Tāne o Te Haumoana
Will Plunkett

Te Haumoana Taonga Kapahaka Leadership
Will Plunkett, Shakyrah-Leigh Klenner

Opunake High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Opunake

Centenary Celebration

100

7-9th March 2025

Taranaki Anniversary Weekend

Centenary event page on Facebook and school Website

12 weeks to go

CENTENARY CELEBRATION UPDATE:



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Tickets are on-sale NOW.

Use the QR code (left) to head to Eventbrite (our ticketing outlet)

KEY DATES:

12th November 2024: Registration opens via Eventbrite
Merch on sale, via online portal

7-9th March 2025: Opunake High School Centenary Celebration

INFORMATION:

For information and updates, look for the Centenary Event page on Facebook (go to the Opunake High School page, search up events)

Connect with our Alumni page on Facebook, currently with over 2800 members, this is another good place to stay up-to-date on whats happening.

There is a Centennial Page on our school website as well, along with an FAQ which is updated regularly.

We have an amazing Event Co-ordinator, former student Tara Fevre (nee Potter). For help with registration and information, or if you'd like to contribute to the event, Tara can be contacted via email: centenary2025@opunake.school.nz

Current v Ex-Student Sports Matches

<p>Saturday 8 March @ OHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am: Netball - Womens 11am: Basketball - Mens 12pm: Basketball - Womens 11am: Rugby 10s - Womens 12pm: Rugby 10s - Mens 12pm: Football - Mixed 1.30pm: Hockey - Mixed 1.30pm: Volleyball - Mixed Surfing - Saturday, time dependent on the tide 	<p>SUNDAY 9 MARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm: Golf - Opunake Golf Club <p>Keen to be involved?</p> <p>Email Tara @ centenary2025@opunake.school.nz</p> <p><small>*Current student teams will be coordinated by the OHS Sports Department NO cost to play!</small></p>
---	--

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Leading classical scholar came from Eltham

As well as being a town of firsts Eltham can also boast a number of famous people who came from here. Among these was classics scholar Ronald Syme.

He was born in Eltham in 1903, the son of David and Florence Syme and attended Stratford District High School and New Plymouth Boys High School. A bad case of the measles damaged his vision. Early on he found he had a knack for languages, developing what became a lifelong interest in Latin while still at High School.

At Auckland and Victoria Universities he studied French language and literature while working on his degree in Classics. He then went on to Oriel College, Oxford gaining First Class Honours in ancient history and philosophy. He won the Gaisford Prize for Greek Prose two years in a row.

After graduating he became a fellow and a tutor at Trinity College where he became known as an expert in Roman military history. What is regarded as the work for which he is best known,



Ronald Syme.

the Roman Revolution was published on the eve of World War II. This looked at Roman political life following the assassination of Julius Caesar.

Other works for which he is known include an acclaimed two-volume biography of the Roman historian Tacitus, as well as a biography of the historian Sallust.

During the Second World War, he worked as a press attaché in the British Embassies of Belgrade and Ankara, later taking a chair in classical philology at Istanbul University. He refused to discuss the nature of his work which led to speculation he may have worked for British Intelligence in Turkey.

He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1944 and appointed Camden Professor of Ancient History at Brasenose College, Oxford in 1949, a position which he held until his retirement in 1970. Syme was also appointed fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford from 1970 until the late 1980s, where an annual lecture was established in his memory. He was knighted

in 1959, the same year he was elected to the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received the Order of Merit in 1976. He Died in 1989. He never married.

A namesake for which he is often confused is Lancashire-born Ronald Syme (1910-92) who was a writer of children's books and lived much of his life in New Zealand.



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Climate Commission says aim for carbon-negative

The Climate Change Commission/He Pou a Rangi has recommended New Zealand set more ambitious carbon targets

The Commission says the current greenhouse gas targets are realistic and achievable, and that a loftier goal on both carbon and methane is also warranted. It also recommends including international shipping and aviation in our emission measurements.

Ralph E. H. Sims, Professor Emeritus, Sustainable Energy and Climate Mitigation, Massey University, comments:

“The recommendations in the Climate Change Commission’s update since the 2019 Zero Carbon Act are moving in the right direction by encouraging New Zealand to become more ambitious in its future emissions reduction targets. It is supported by recent IPCC scientific assessment

reports that endorse the need to reduce emissions urgently. Whether the present coalition Government and relevant ministers will take any notice of the recommendations is the key question.

“Given the number of new policies implemented in the past 12 months that will only serve to increase our gross emissions, having a longer-term view of the necessity to urgently reduce fossil fuels combusted for heat, electricity and transport fuels; to reduce methane emissions significantly; and not to rely on carbon sequestration technologies including planting more forests (that can only ever be a short term measure) is unlikely.

“Often forgotten is that aiming to stay below the 1.5°C Paris target (now almost impossible in my view) or even the 2°C target, does not avoid extreme climate events occurring. Climate change is already happening and extreme climate events

being observed globally are exceeding the projections of the numerous climate scenario models. New Zealand having ambitious emission reduction targets for 2030 or 2050 is helpful but no real incentive for the Government to act with the urgency needed - or to run a national educational campaign to explain the enormity of the problem and outline the co-benefits that exist from reducing carbon footprints.

Dr Jocelyn Turnbull, Principal Scientist – Carbon Cycle, GNS Science, comments:

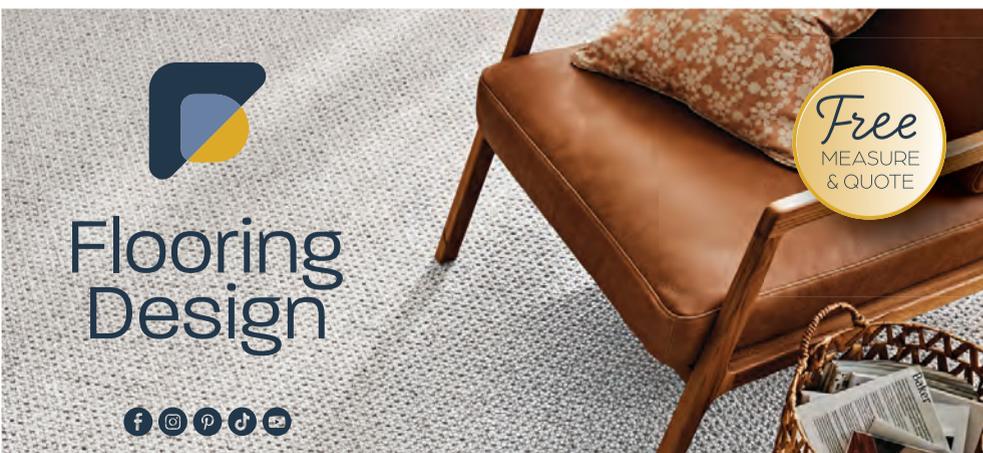
“The CCC’s advice to amend the 2050 emissions target, making it more ambitious, is good news for the world’s – and Aotearoa New Zealand’s – climate. But ambitious targets need ambitious action, and the big question will be whether government and the people of New Zealand are willing to take those ambitious

actions.

“The CCC is right to highlight that many of these actions have co-benefits beyond climate for New Zealanders, particularly around energy costs and avoiding reliance on imported fossil fuels. The near-term actions proposed by CCC are all feasible based on current technologies and understanding, so the targets are real and achievable.

“If New Zealand can achieve these emissions targets, we will have benefitted ourselves through supporting sustainable climate action, reduced reliance on imported fossil fuels, expanded economy, reduced air pollution.

What’s not to like?”



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KŌWHITI WHAKAPAE

Our Kindy was featured in Education Gazette on August 2024 publication, and it was an honour to share kaiako's learning and the usage of Kōwhiti Whakapae, a new online curriculum designed to help early learning kaiako like us, strengthen our planning, assessment and teaching. This tool empowers us to weave Te Whāriki: He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa into our day-to-day teaching and learning, using a four-step process: lay the groundwork, notice and recognise children's current capabilities, respond to children's learning, and document and communicate learning.

It is a resource for kaiako to document and strengthen children's learning progression, compare current practice and where we can strengthen areas, which in turn allows us to assess a child's current abilities. Kōwhiti Whakapae, whose very name reflects the importance of weaving rich and responsive curriculum experiences for all children, focuses on ways for us to support children's progress in three areas of learning: social and emotional, oral language and literacy, and maths.

A link to the Kōwhiti Whakapae article is here:

<https://gazette.education.govt.nz/articles/the-collaborative-new-tool-helping-tamariki-thrive/>

READING - ORAL LANGUAGE & LITERACY



Simon reading Maui and The Sun.

Reading books is a part of our learning and culture at Kindy, and we would like to share with you why reading really matters. According to research undertaken by Keryn O'Neill (2017), the quantity and quality of language children experience in their interactions with parents and whānau (shared reading) during their earliest months and years has a profound and potentially lasting influence on their language and cognitive development. The earlier parents begin reading with their children, and the more books children are exposed to, the better their later outcomes in many aspects of literacy. Early input is particularly important but there are still benefits for continued parent involvement with reading once children have begun school.



Jess reading 10 Little Fingers with Remy (almost 2).

Everyday conversations between parents and their children are tremendously important for language development, however books and shared readings have the following benefits (O'Neill, 2017):

- 1. Richness in language:** Language used in books is richer and more varied and child who has a parent read with them is frequently being exposed to a broader vocabulary: unique, rare and challenging words, which

is likely to be more grammatically correct and cover a wider range of subjects.

- 2. Emergent literacy skills:** Simple act of reading with a baby or toddler promotes the development of many early literacy skills, including alphabet knowledge, vocabulary, paying attention, listening ability, phonological awareness, recognising print, the structure of a narrative, page turning, book and text orientation. These are all skills that enable a child to transition more successfully to school.

- 3. Social emotional benefits:** Through books children have the opportunity to learn about themselves and others as stories in books essentially simulate a variety of social situations they might otherwise not experience. Books can be used to help children cope with a variety of difficult situations, for example, books exploring situations of death, parental separation, disability and the arrival of a new sibling. Shared reading of picture books provides a unique opportunity to think and talk about the feelings and behaviours of book characters that may be less likely to occur in faster-moving, real-life social situations, and may increase children's social understanding.

For more information, check out the following reference / resource:

O'Neill, K. (2017). Why reading really matters. Brainwave Review, 26. <https://brainwave.org.nz/article/why-reading-really-matters/>

BUILDING BRIDGES – KINDY & OUR COMMUNITY

Community is an important part of early childhood education because it helps children develop social and emotional skills, feel a sense of belonging, and in which it also offers access to



Local beekeeper, Mike Blackstock came to Kindy, sharing his beekeeping knowledge with our tamariki.

resources, experiences, and opportunities that improve the quality of care. A strong community provides a supportive and inclusive environment that involves connections between children, families / whānau, Kindy, and local organisations or individual(s) in our community. At Kindy, we develop a strong sense of community through open communication, appreciation of diversity, and collaboration with local organisation(s) or individual(s) and whānau. We recognise the significance of their involvement in children's growth and is crucial for building resilient and connected communities that benefit everyone.



Veterinarians, Sophie and Georgia from Coastal Vets came to our Kindy to talk about the care of animals with our tamariki and they also check on our chickens (Hei hei and Ayam) and guinea pigs (Ropiri and Hururu).

Mangatoki WI

On November 6, members met at the Mangatoki Hall to carpool for visiting gardens, mainly in the Hawera area, but we started with a visit to Ricky's Place, Egmont Street, Kaponga. Here we saw dinner and tea sets made into garden ornaments, his bottle collection and many more interesting things. Our next stop was to the Opossum Factory at Mahoe where a few purchases were made. Next, we all drove to Kapuni to visit Camellia Cottage which is always lovely, and the fruit trees planted in the extended paddock are now maturing. On to Ketemarae Road to visit The Christiansen Garden, a reasonably new house and garden of five years. They have done a lot in that time and are immaculate.



Ricky and his bottle collection was one of the points of interest visited by members of the Mangatoki WI.

Garden number 5 was

to a garden on Murdoch Street where plants were for sale. As it was too drizzly we were invited to Kathy Cameron's house instead of taking our lunch to King Edward Park to eat, which was very kind of her, plus a welcome cup of tea or coffee. Leaving Kathy's, we next visited Gravetye on Manawapou Road. I first visited this garden a few years ago, not long after it was planted. Now it is quite mature as you cannot see over the avenue hedges anymore. Very neat and tidy.

Our next visits were to be on Austin Road and Mountain Road, both were closed, also the Truffle Farm at Normanby. Some other

members continued on to Eltham to see the stained glass being made. Fourteen members attended. Even though it was a damp day, we all enjoyed the day.

Later in November, members are off on the Mystery Bus trip and plans are being made for the Christmas Meeting on December 4. Reports for these will be in the New Year.

On December 11 the church and gardens at The Pioneer Village are to be cleaned. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Lucy Moger
Mangatoki WI Reporter

New Climate Change Commission Chair

Energy Resources Aotearoa say they welcome the Minister of Climate Change's appointment of former Governor General Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy as the new Chair of the Climate Change Commission.

Energy Resources Aotearoa Chief Executive John Carnegie says appointing a proven leader with a distinguished career in governance will reset the Commission's focus for New Zealand's future.

"Dame Patsy's considerable experience will bring a welcome commercial and legal lens to the Commission."

Carnegie says Energy Resources Aotearoa is committed to promoting policy and regulatory settings that ensure access to secure, reliable and affordable energy while reducing our net emissions.

"As convening partner

of the Energy Resources Net Zero Accord, we have highlighted the sector's strong emission reduction track record and collaborated to unlock new technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCUS) and the uptake of torrefied black pellets and biochar.

Carnegie says it's time for New Zealand to refocus on least-cost emissions reduction and stop one-dimensional conversations about which fuels or technologies are good or bad.

"The time for finger-pointing is in the past. We must contribute to achieving our global long-term climate goals and, in doing so, ensure we are also supporting a system where achieving prosperity is possible for all New Zealanders.

This means taking a systems-wide lens to our

low-carbon journey while achieving energy security, affordability and climate resilience.

New Zealand has abundant domestic energy sources, and we need to make the most of these while investing in jobs for Kiwis and leveraging locally owned innovation, research, science and development."

Energy Resources Aotearoa and its members

stand ready to support whole-of-system collaboration in the new Climate Change Commissioner's endeavours.

"We look forward to working closely with Dame Patsy to ensure the Commission's advice towards our 2050 climate change targets helping achieve climate goals while providing affordable and reliable energy for Kiwis."

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Bursts of vigour could almost halve cardiovascular risk in middle-aged women

An average of four minutes of incidental vigorous physical activity a day could almost halve the risk of major cardiovascular events, such as heart attacks, for middle-aged women who do not engage in structured exercise, according to new research from the University of Sydney.

British Journal of Sports Medicine



Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park is worth a visit. See advert in What's On pages.

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Aotearoa's active faults in high resolution

An updated dataset of Aotearoa's active faults shows fault locations on a fine scale for much of the south and east of the North Island. Knowing the locations of faults that have broken or deformed the ground surface in the last 125,000 years is important for research, hazard assessment, and land-use and emergency planning. The second version of the NZ Active Faults Database, available online through GNS Science, compiles high-resolution locations and characteristics of such faults that are detectable at the present-day surface. The authors of the accompanying paper say these data can be used to develop Fault Avoidance Zones for

STOP PRESS

Farewell Reading Recovery.

It was the night before term ends
When all through the schools
Not a child was heard not even a teacher stirred.

Education was frozen as they heard bells chime,
Stunned every school watched online
The end of an era a great decline,

Could it be real as Santa appeared.
Yes Reading recovery was about to disappear.
Reindeer loaded with wonderful books.

No more will the 6year net be cast
A child able to read at last
A class no longer will be hooked

Marie Clay readers are all over seas.
Their Nations all able to read
Santa rides on the long white cloud .

His mission has ended imagination gone
Structured literacy is the only song
Reindeer have no more cheer

It was the night before term ends
When all through the schools Stanford calls
Santa rhymes with Fanta and good night.

*Lesley Dowding,
Literacy Consultant*

Meri Kirihimete e te whānau

All Tui Ora services, including Tui Ora Hāwera, Ōpunakē Heartlands Hub, Hauora ā-Whanau in Ngāmotu, and Waitara Health Centre will be closed from 12pm on Christme Eve (Tuesday 24 December) until 8.30am on Monday 6 January.

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa
Let us keep close together, not wide apart

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Come explore Cecilia's and the Garden Centre with plants, seedlings, pots, statues, etc
Happy Christmas to you all.
Have a great Christmas
Thanks so much for supporting the shop and gaud Garden Centre.
Happy New Year



Talking Taranaki

2024 review



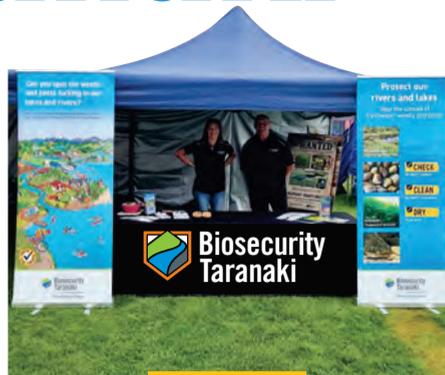
January

Figures revealed an 18% rise in the number of trips taken on buses in Taranaki in 2023. Buses in the region carried a total of 744,037 passengers across 42,973 bus trips last year. 2024 was to see the introduction of new and upgraded services including the Waitara Express and improvements to the bus network after community consultation. A new Regional Land Transport Plan was also adopted in June.



February

We started work on a major upgrade to the Waiwhakaiho River Flood Control Scheme. The \$430,000 project was completed in March and better protects The Valley in New Plymouth from 1-in-100-year floods. The upgrades raised two sections of the existing defences including along the stopbank and a flood wall, protecting businesses and homes near Constance Street and Rifle Range Road.



March

We joined with other organisations and individuals for the launch of Biosecurity Taranaki, a new collective committed to protecting the region from the threat of pests, weeds and diseases. The partnership aims to be proactive in safeguarding our environment, economy and way of life.



April

Our Can I Swim Here? water quality monitoring programme ended for the summer, during which time we took more than 850 samples from 41 swimming spots at rivers, beaches and lakes. The results are shared via the Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) website, with the Taranaki pages having 28,000 views. The programme is under way again this summer.



May

We adopted our 2024/34 Long-Term Plan following public consultation on what our priorities should be over the next 10 years. The plan includes \$4.04m in additional funding for freshwater monitoring and developing a new Land and Freshwater Plan, \$915,000 for improving climate science and \$540,000 to improve resource management by creating a spatial plan to guide development.



June

We kicked off an extensive conversation about freshwater which included 16 drop-in sessions around the region and an online survey. The consultation from June to early August offered farmers, industry, businesses and communities the chance to shape the rules around how we care for freshwater ahead of targets and limits being set in our new Taranaki Land and Freshwater Plan. Nearly 450 attended the sessions and we received 1,100 points of feedback.



July

The project to redevelop Yarrow Stadium and create the best regional stadium in the country reached another landmark with work starting on raising the roof. The trusses were installed and the roof was completed by the end of October. The new East Stand remains on target and on budget with the redevelopment set to be completed by the end of March 2025. The venue hosted many games in 2024 including the NPC quarterfinals where defending champions the Taranaki Bulls lost to Waikato.



August

Our ground-breaking riparian programme hit an incredible milestone with the eight millionth plant leaving a depot to be planted on a riparian margin. The programme is the largest revegetation project in the country on private land with 5,385km of planting across the ring plain since its launch in 1996. Landowners' efforts planting and fencing waterways have had a positive impact on water quality and boosted the region's ecosystems and biodiversity.



September

The Towards Predator-Free Taranaki Zero Possum project entered an exciting new phase, featuring a high-tech farmland barrier and a few squirts of mayo. Work started on the design and creation of a 3km barrier stretching across private farmland south-east of the Kaitake Range while self-reporting cameras have been installed on trees, pointing at an automatic lure dispenser that squirts a small taster of mayonnaise each evening to attract possums. Self-setting traps were also being deployed along the barrier.



October

We were stoked with your response to our appeal for sightings of the rare wetlands bird the matuku-hūrepo/Australasian bittern. We backed the nationally critical bird as our pick for Bird of the Year then continued efforts to protect it with the launch of a map where the public could report sightings. As well as local reports, we've had people from Northland to Bluff record sightings and the data will assist conservation efforts.



November

We honoured groups, businesses, schools, young environmental leaders, farmers, hapū and charities for their mahi in protecting the region at the 2024 Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards. The seven winners and five highly commended in the seven categories included projects to protect nature reserves, environmental action by tamariki and rangatahi, work to stop 630,000kg of CO2 emissions, mahi improving fish passages and efforts to improve farming sustainability.



December

It's been another busy year at our three amazing regional gardens with thousands of visitors enjoying a range of events at Pukeiti, Tūpare and Hollard Gardens. The highlights included the Centuria Taranaki Garden Festival in November, workshops, concerts, food and coffee trucks, nature walks and markets. The gardens are great spots to visit over the summer and we've got more events planned over the next four months. See trc.govt.nz/gardens/whats-on for more.

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Pioneering research brings New Zealand closer to breeding climate-friendly cows

Research presented at the New Zealand Agriculture & Climate Change Conference 2024 has shown dairy farmers are one step closer to breeding cows with lower methane emissions, offering an innovative way to reduce the nation's agricultural carbon footprint without compromising farm productivity.

The study, led in conjunction by New Zealand's leading artificial breeding organisations Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) and CRV, and funded by the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC), began in 2020 with a small-scale pilot trial involving methane testing of 20 bulls. Since then, the programme has

continued to evolve, and by the end of 2024 more than 1000 young bulls and 393 yearling heifers will have had their methane emissions and feed intake measured, with the goal of introducing a methane breeding value to all LIC and CRV artificial breeding bulls from late 2026.

The findings, presented by LIC's Senior Scientist Dr Lorna McNaughton, show that genetic variation can influence how much methane is produced by heifers and that bulls identified as low methane emitters pass this trait on to their daughters. In the first phase of the research, it was found that bulls varied by up to 20% in the amount of methane emitted per kilogram of feed consumed. During

this phase, the highest and lowest emitting sires were selected to produce a herd of daughters at Pāmu Farms of New Zealand's Wairakei Estate in the Central Plateau, with the emissions from these daughters having recently been measured.

"Throughout the programme we've been able to rigorously monitor and measure bulls and heifers to confirm that bulls with low methane emissions could produce daughters emitting less methane per kilogram of feed consumed," says LIC Chief Scientist Dr Richard Spelman.

"This proof-of-concept study demonstrates the genetic variation between high-emitting and low-emitting bulls and we're now looking forward to the next critical step where we'll measure emissions from their daughters during their first milking season in 2025."

To support this next step, a state-of-the-art research

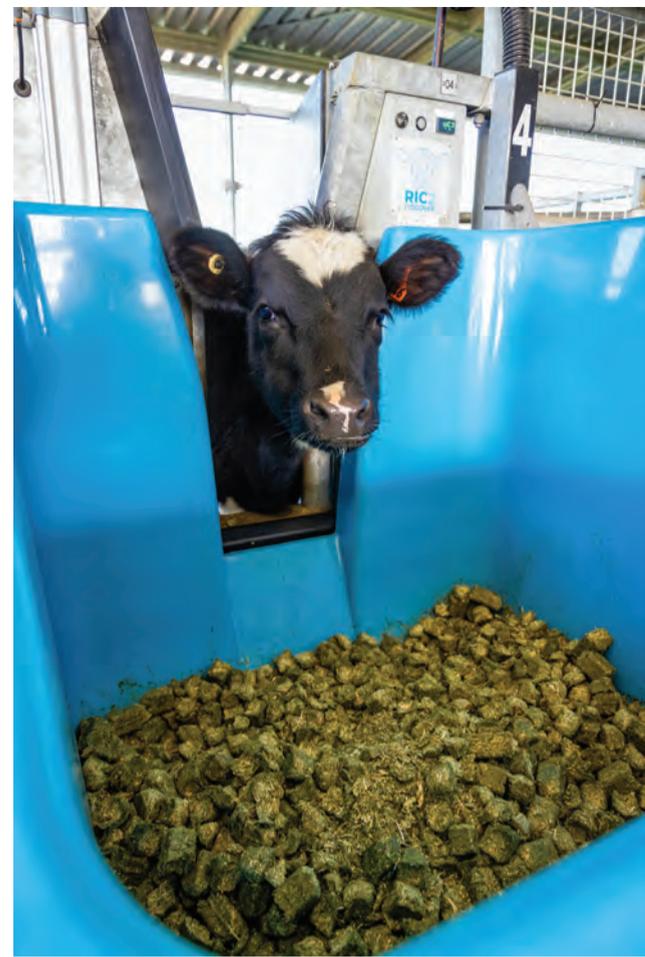
barn is being constructed to allow for the large-scale monitoring of these lactating cows.

"While the last three years of results are promising, and closely aligned to our predictions, this next stage of testing will allow us to confirm the research finding across generations," says Peter van Elzakker, Grass Fed Genetics Manager at CRV.

With nearly half of New Zealand's carbon emissions attributed to methane, this research illustrates how the Agri-sector is working together to support the nation's climate aspirations.

"I'm extremely proud to be part of the solution when it comes to emissions-intensity reduction targets and I am excited by the future prospect of offering farmers low methane-emitting genetic solutions," says LIC Chief Executive, David Chin.

"This research is just one example of how we must



A heifer eats lucerne hay cubes via a feed bin which measures how much each animal eats.

work together and continue to innovate as we look for new ways to address climate challenges and I'm excited to see the work progress into 2025," says CRV Managing Director, James Smallwood.

Tourism leads the pack in growing carbon emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions from tourism have been growing more than two times faster than those from the rest of the global economy. A study tracked international and domestic travel for 175 countries to find tourism's carbon footprint is 9% of the world's total emissions.

Nature Communications



LIC's Senior Scientist Dr Lorna McNaughton presenting at the New Zealand Agriculture & Climate Change Conference 2024

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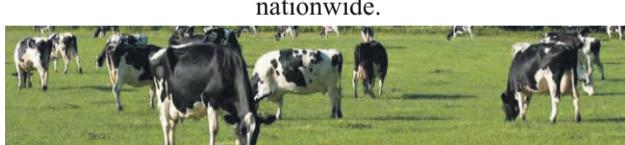

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DairyNZ scientist receives Australasian award

DairyNZ Hamilton-based scientist Charlotte Reed has received the 2024 Australasian Dairy Science Symposium Emerging Scientist Award in Christchurch.

The Symposium brought together 140 science and extension professionals from across Australia and New Zealand who are committed to the future of the dairy sector.

Charlotte shared research on 'What do milk urea concentrations tell us in temperate grazing systems?' from a collaboration between DairyNZ, AgResearch, Lincoln University, and Fonterra under the Low N Systems research programme.

"I am really proud of the collaborative efforts of the research team to help farmers manage their nitrogen use efficiency and contribute to improving freshwater quality," says Charlotte. "Our work relates milk urea concentrations to risk of surplus nitrogen in the herd's



Dr Charlotte Reed (Scientist, DairyNZ) accepts the 2024 Australasian Dairy Science Symposium Emerging Scientist Award from Grant Wills of the T.R. Ellett Agricultural Research Trust.

diet. It's part of a project risks and prototyping it with a group of farmers across the country."

recognition of Charlotte's exceptional achievements, including leading innovative and high-quality research, and her ability to convey the scientific outcomes to the audience," she says.

Charlotte is a DairyNZ scientist specialising in cow physiology, reproduction and behaviour.

She contributes to a wide range of projects, including environmental risk indicators and mitigations, novel traits to improve genetic gain in dairy cows, and cow wellbeing.

Working as part of a team and in a fast-paced environment is what motivates Charlotte every day. She enjoys collaboration, not just within DairyNZ but also with external partners, including farmers.

Charlotte's on-farm practical knowledge is

rooted in her upbringing on a dairy farm in Northland, which enriches her research and insights.

Charlotte graduated from Victoria University in 2020 with a PhD in cell biology, focusing on how oocyte (egg) quality affects dairy cow reproduction. She also holds an Honours degree and a Bachelor of Science in physiology and animal science from Massey University.

The Low N Systems research programme is funded by New Zealand dairy farmers through the DairyNZ levy and by MBIE, with additional support received from Fonterra and CRV. The 2024 Australasian Dairy Science Symposium Emerging Scientist Award was sponsored by the Ellett Agricultural Research Trust.

KO to woollen industry

Federated Farmers says Kāinga Ora's decision to categorically rule out use of woollen carpets in social housing is a total slap in the face for struggling Kiwi sheep farmers.

"It's incredibly disappointing and shortsighted for Kāinga Ora to not even consider a woollen option for these homes," says Federated Farmers meat & wool chair Toby Williams.

"What ever happened to the Government commitment to back our farmers and use sustainable woollen products in Government buildings? That's ringing pretty hollow today."

The National-NZ First coalition agreement said Government agencies would be directed, where appropriate, to prefer use of woollen rather than artificial

fibres in government buildings.

"I can't see why it wouldn't be appropriate to use woollen carpets in a state house, but we didn't even get a look in," Williams says.

"Kāinga Ora weren't interested in testing the price wool carpet providers might come up with for such a significant supply contract.

"Farmers just want a level playing field, but we were totally shut out of this process with no clear reason why."

The current 'Request for Proposals' for the national supply of carpet and underlay specifies nylon carpet only.

It also states, with bold emphasis, "We are not looking to procure wool carpet."

"Using cheap plastic

carpets might save you a dollar or two in the current economic climate, but there are other costs that need to be considered," Williams says.

"It comes at the expense of the viability our sheep farmers and the rural communities we live in, but it also carries a huge environmental cost.

"For the Government to choose a fossil fuel-derived synthetic carpet over a sustainable New Zealand-grown woollen product, just because it's cheaper, is an absolute shocker."

Williams says this is just another blow for sheep farmers, who are struggling to keep wool an export and domestic commodity and a viable part of their businesses.

Milk urea indicates the crude protein level and therefore the amount of nitrogen in a cow's diet. If a cow's diet is rich in protein, it might produce more urea, which is usually excreted in the urine and higher levels can be detected in the milk. On the other hand, when the diet lacks nitrogen, the cow's body recycles the urea back into the rumen.

Bridget Maclean, DairyNZ General Manager Research & Science, underscored this achievement for one of DairyNZ's early career scientists.

"This is a well-deserved

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Stable dairy production continues

The latest annual New Zealand Dairy Statistics report released by DairyNZ and Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) has emphasised the dairy sector's resilience with production remaining stable despite tight and uncertain economic conditions.

In the 2023/24 season, dairy companies processed 20.5 billion litres of milk containing 1.88 billion kilograms of milksolids, which represented a 0.5% increase in kilograms of milksolids.

DairyNZ chief executive Campbell Parker says that the dairy sector has

undergone significant structural change in the last decade but throughout this period production levels have remained stable bringing much needed export revenue into the New Zealand economy.

"We have seen our dairy herd numbers reduce by 12% over the last decade, and a 5% decrease in total number of milking cows. Despite this, total milksolids processed have remained relatively stable, emphasising the resilience of our farmers, and their focus on ongoing productivity improvement," says Campbell.

"The increase in total milksolids production in the 2023/24 season was driven by a combination of the slight increase in cow numbers and favourable weather conditions."

"Milksolids per cow are once again near record levels, which is a result of farmers dedication, technology uptake, and the application of science and insights driving better on-farm decisions and outcomes."

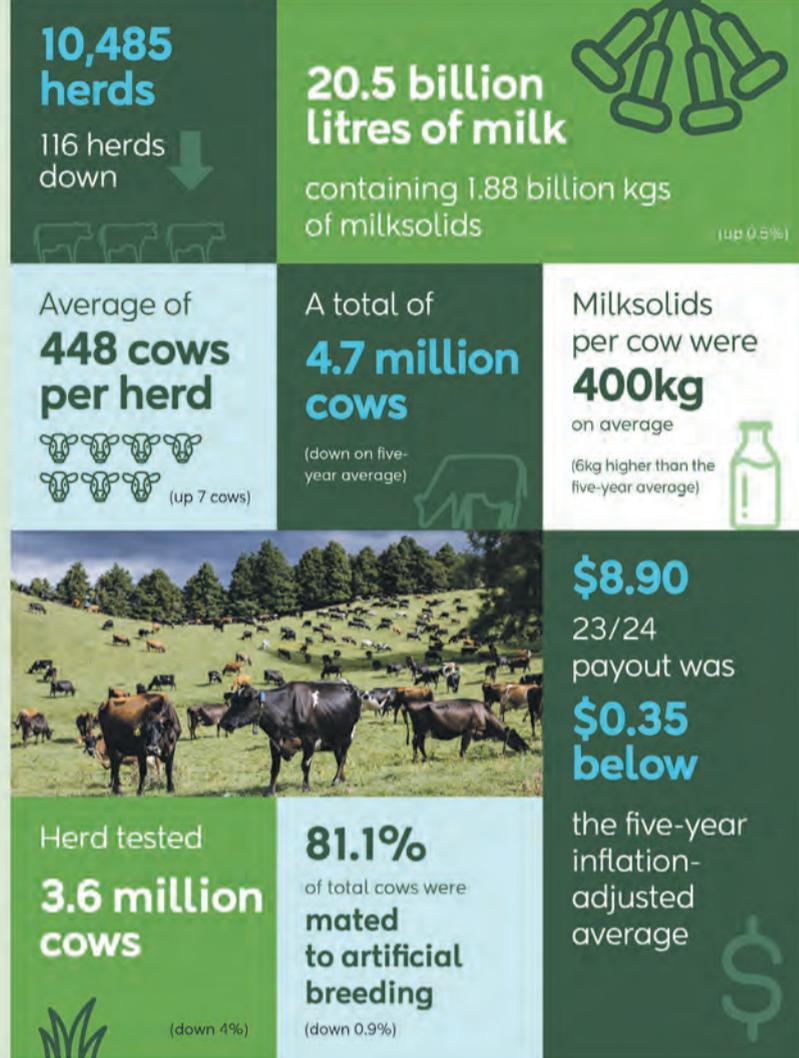
Milksolids per cow increased to an average of 400 kg milksolids per cow, which is 6 kg higher than the five-year average of 394 kg milksolids per cow.

Cow numbers reached 4.7 million cows in 2023/24, slightly up from 4.67 million in the 2022/23 season, although still 2% below the five-year average of 4.80 million.

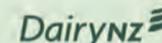
It can also be observed that until 2021 the average herd size had increased consistently, but in the past three years appears to have plateaued around a midpoint of 445 cows per herd.

The 2023/24 season saw a slight decrease in the percentage of cow's herd tested on the previous season, at 77.1% (3.62 million cows), while artificial breeding remained relatively stable, with a slight decrease to 81.1% of cows (3.81 million cows).

Dairy Statistics Snapshot 2023/24



*Data from the Dairy Statistics 2023/24 report



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LIC chief executive David Chin says that the slight decreases are not entirely unexpected, following a year of tight financial conditions on farm but emphasises the importance of utilising new technology and insights to improve sector production.

"The dairy sector is still producing more kilograms of milksolids per cow, which is a great result driven by farmers continued increased focus on improving cow productivity and farm efficiency. While there was a slight decrease in herd testing

and artificial breeding uptake this year, it's important to note that these practices remain critical to our sector's success and as the economic outlook improves, we're optimistic that these numbers will rebound in the coming season.

"This year's Dairy Statistics once again highlight the growing preference for crossbreed genetics, which is delivering measurable benefits for dairy farmers, including a record-high average of 277 days in milk in 2023/24. This trend

also supports the breeding of more profitable animals and reinforces LIC's commitment to improving herd health and productivity through ongoing investment in genetics, diagnostics testing and farm software."

The average dairy co-operative payout (including dividends) from Fonterra and Tatua was \$8.90 for the 2023/24 season, an increase from \$8.76 in the previous season. When adjusted

Continued page 31

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Report shows NZ's methane targets way too high

Federated Farmers is welcoming the findings of an independent review of New Zealand's biogenic methane science and targets as a constructive step in the right direction. "What this new review and report have made very clear is the current methane

reduction targets are way too high for Kiwi farmers," says Federated Farmers president Wayne Langford. "Federated Farmers opposed the current 2050 methane reduction target of 24-47% from day one, because we knew there was absolutely no credible



Wayne Langford.

science to underpin it. "Those figures would require farmers to go much further and faster than is required to stop our contribution to further warming, at a huge economic and social cost to our rural communities." Federated Farmers included an urgent review of New Zealand's methane targets as one of its 12 policy priorities for restoring farmer confidence in the lead-up to last year's General Election. "A review of our current methane targets was an important action to help restore farmers' confidence to invest in the future of their businesses and communities," Langford

says. "When farmers looked at those targets, we could see no real way to achieve them without simply reducing stock numbers and completely undermining the profitability of our farms. "They weren't scientific targets - they were highly political targets set by politicians - but with this new report the Government now has a chance to take a science-based approach to methane." The report clearly shows that, under a scenario where global temperature increases are limited to less than 2°C, methane cuts of 14-15% by 2050 are all that would be needed.

Under a lower emissions scenario where global temperature increases are limited to 1.5°C, a 24% methane reduction would prevent farmers contributing to additional warming. "What this means is the current target range of 24-47% goes well beyond what would be required for New Zealand farmers to be warming-neutral," Langford says. "Farmers need methane targets that are fair,

affordable and based on robust science. They also need targets that are realistic and which they can see a pathway to achieving by 2050. "It's incredibly encouraging that the Government has taken the step of commissioning this independent review - but we now need them to go one step further and act on its findings."

Stable dairy production continues



Dairying is holding its own according to the latest annual New Zealand Dairy Statistics Report.

Continued from page 30

for inflation, the 2023/24 payout was \$0.35 below the five-year inflation-adjusted average of \$9.25 per kg milksolids. Campbell says that the Dairy Statistics 2023/24 report indicates another positive production season for the sector and continues to demonstrate the importance of dairy to the New Zealand economy.

"As we look ahead, the outlook for the current season is positive, with increases to the forecast milk price and reducing interest rates. This improved forecast will likely improve the cash position of many farmers this season, which will in turn increase farmer spending, stimulate economic activity and continue delivering economic growth for the country."

Merry Christmas

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Federated Farmers say banks still behaving badly

Federated Farmers have released the findings of their latest banking survey, and despite falling interest rates the report still paints a damning picture of rural lending.

The survey of more than 600 farmers conducted in November shows only 53% of respondents are currently satisfied with their banking relationship.

“That’s a huge drop from 80% in 2017 and raises some serious questions about their behaviour,” Federated Farmers banking spokesperson Richard McIntyre says.

“We’re incredibly concerned by the rapid deterioration in farmers’ relationships with their banks and hope this will face some real scrutiny during the banking inquiry.”

The Federated Farmers report shows that one in four farmers continue to feel undue pressure from their bank, with dissatisfaction highest among sharemilkers at 35%.

Only 55% rated



Richard McIntyre.

communication from their bank as good or very good, continuing a downward

trend from a high of 80% just a decade ago.

Almost a quarter of farmers feel their bank doesn’t allow them to structure their debt efficiently. Eleven per cent report being asked to use overdrafts for capital projects.

“That’s really concerning and will be adding a lot of unnecessary financial stress for farming families across the country,” McIntyre says. “Forcing farmers to use their overdrafts for capital spending doesn’t just drive

up interest costs for the farmer; it also unjustifiably drives up the profit for the bank.

“That kind of behaviour is totally unacceptable. Overdraft facilities are designed for short-term cashflow management, not longer-term investments.”

According to the survey both ASB and Westpac were the most likely to make such unreasonable requests of their farming clients.

“This kind of poor and

indefensible behaviour from banks has a real impact on farmers’ wellbeing,” McIntyre says.

“Of those we surveyed, 33% said their mental health and wellbeing has been negatively affected through their interaction with the banks.”

While the report shows continued poor performance and behaviour from many of the banks, there are still some strong performers.

Rabobank, with 23% of

market share in rural banking, outstrips all the other banks in terms of satisfaction rates among farmers, at 70.1%.

Rabobank and ANZ also rate much better than others in terms of their flexibility for farmers to structure their debt.

“Those strong results from Rabobank and ANZ may be a silver lining, but there are clearly still some systemic issues in rural banking,” McIntyre says.

“There is a real squeeze on agricultural lending at the moment and it’s getting harder every year for farmers to access the capital they need to run their businesses.”

Reserve Bank figures show that lending to the farming sector is currently at \$62.9 billion, up slightly from \$59 billion in 2016.

“It might look like an increase on paper, but when you adjust that 2016 figure for inflation, it would be over \$76.3 billion in today’s dollars,” McIntyre says.

“What that means is that in real terms agricultural lending has decreased by \$13.4 billion, or nearly 25%, since 2016.

“With constantly increasing costs and compliance, and a decrease in capital available from banks, it should be no surprise farmers are feeling squeezed.”

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Feds welcomes move on wilding pines

The Government’s move to stop carbon credits being earned on productive farmland is welcome news, but changes must also be made to the way we set our international emissions targets, Federated Farmers says.

“This is great news from the Government that it will be taking steps to stop the relentless march of pine trees across our productive farmland,” says forestry spokesperson Toby Williams.

“Federated Farmers made rethinking New Zealand’s ETS Forestry rules and climate targets one of our 12 key policy priorities in the lead-up to the last election.

“We’re really pleased - and farmers across the country will be too - that the Government is taking action today to address those concerns.

“Federated Farmers also welcome the cap on carbon farming on Class 6 land as a further step to safeguard against large-scale carbon farming.”

Williams says New Zealand’s rural communities are bearing the brunt of misguided climate change targets, as over 200,000 hectares of productive sheep and beef land have been

planted in carbon farming in the last five years alone.

“Alarmingly, we’ve seen sheep numbers in New Zealand fall 4.3% in just the last 12 months, and this comes on the back of decades of reductions.

“We’re seeing schools close, rural bus runs stop, and local clubs fail as jobs are lost from communities across rural New Zealand.

“Planting our rural communities in pine trees simply doesn’t align with the Paris Agreement requirement of achieving low-emission development in a way that doesn’t threaten food production.

“Today’s announcement brings New Zealand’s emissions trading policy more in line with the Paris Agreement, by removing the incentive to take high-quality land out of farming.”

Williams says, importantly, people can still plant forest on their lands if they wish, so there is no impact on property rights.

“However, the Government simply won’t incentivise this behaviour by allowing these forests to earn carbon credits through the Government’s ETS.

“We understand these changes are also not retrospective, so won’t

affect existing forests.”

While the announcement addresses current ETS settings, the underlying issue remains the way our international climate targets continue to rely on huge levels of carbon farming to be achieved, Williams says. “While it is a great announcement today, it’s also the case that the Government is currently doing a three-week consultation on what New Zealand’s next target should be under the Paris Agreement.

“Past governments have set targets that can be achieved only with huge levels of forestry planting, and that has put New Zealand in our current situation.”

“The numbers may add up on a spreadsheet in Wellington, but they make no sense to rural communities already suffering from falling stock numbers and encroaching carbon farming.

“To truly address the drivers of carbon farming, the Government needs to distance itself from such plans and make sure the new Paris Target it’s set to announce can be achieved without swamping rural communities in carbon farming and threatening food production in the process.”

Revival of Trans-Tasman kneeboard event

Due to conditions the TCM KSNZ Opunake Classic 2024 was held over two days.

Day one commenced at Middletons Bay with a remembrance ceremony for those fellow kneeboarders who have sadly passed over the years, Ged Christophers, Bryan Wallbutton and Graeme Stubbs. This was quickly followed by the long-awaited battle of the Trans-Tasman Cup. We were lucky enough to once again host four competitors from across the ditch. Thank you to them for making the effort to travel over and reviving the Bledisloe Kneelo challenge. All competitors represented their nations extremely well, but the Cup was narrowly



Kneeboarders from the Opunake Classic 2024 event.

won by the Aussies.

Australia Team – Mark McLeod, Dane Rennie, John Finlayson and Brendon Robson

NZ Team – Hamish Christophers, Cameron Stanley, Kelvin Weir and Regan Storey

Round One was completed after much debate (due to conditions) dividing the 31 men draw into Grade A and B. The event was then put on hold until Sunday.

Sunday proved to be the best day to complete the competition with clean offshore conditions. After an amazing show of talent over the morning, we had our division finalists. Both finals were very close but listed below are our champions.

Grade A.1 – Sam Coyne. 2 – Hamish Christophers. 3. Paul Gledhill. 4 – Brendon Robson (Aus).

Grade B. 1 – Josh Christophers. 2 – Murray Weir. 3 – Mike Anderson. 4 – Tracy Skelton

The Opunake Surf Inn once again provided a great venue for prizegiving and a social gathering. Food and drinks were flowing after a long day in the sun. Also awarded at prizegiving were the following: NZ Kneeboarder of the Year – Hamish Christophers. Masters Champion – Jeff Effindel. Tangaroa (Most Improved Kneeboarder) – Paul Gledhill.

The Aussies have invited the New Zealanders to challenge the Tasman Cup

next year in Phillip Island. Will keep you posted on that.

On behalf the Kneelo community, we want to say a huge thank you to Murray and Diane Weir for once again putting on an amazing event. The time and effort these two put into these events is massive, and the number of entries this year is a testament to how much we all appreciate them.

The event will also not be possible without sponsors, judges, photographers, Green Meadows farmer, Opunake locals, helpers and supporters. A huge shout out to you all.

Alana Anderson
KSNZ

Opunake Surf Life Saving Club welcomes summer



Some of the members of the Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club.

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 16 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 beach and community. On weekends, our trusted

volunteer team will be on patrol from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., so be sure to say hello when you see them!

Swimming outside patrol hours

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.

If 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

police. They can contact our rescue squad directly.

If there's someone nearby, such as a surfer with a board, they might be able to assist in keeping the person afloat—safely.

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS FOR ADVERTISING THAT WORKS!

Honours Board performances smash it for Taranaki

Whitaker Civil Taranaki took every point available against Wairarapa in Masterton led by Trent McGrath stroking his way to 106, Liam Carr killing it with a seven-wicket haul in Wairarapa's second innings, and a first innings bag of five, for the ever accurate Jordan Gard.

These special performances ensured Taranaki had the edge throughout the game with the team gaining a maximum 16 points (4 bowling; 4 batting; 5 first innings; plus 3 for the outright)

With Manawatu dealing to Whanganui and Hawkes Bay dismissing Horowhenua-Kapiti, the result means Taranaki are still sitting four points behind Manawatu, the main protagonists in the chase for a Hawke Cup challenge in January.

Saturday kicked off with a few well-chosen words from the very pumped up 1970's Hawke Cup all-rounder Ross "Crafty" Crow, who was on board to present Jacob Leuthard-Richards with his first Furlong Cup cap.

Wairarapa won the toss and decided to bat on a fresh-



Trent McGrath in action on his way to a pivotal 106 at Queen Elizabeth Park. It was the first of two Honour's Board performances for Whitaker Civil Taranaki on the weekend, with left arm spinner Liam Carr taking 7-56.

looking wicket. With plenty of starts, but a top score of only 22 by Mark Steventon, they would have been extremely disappointed, only managing a total of 146.

Jordan Gard was the destroyer. Coming on at first change he was soon into his work with his accurate

and penetrating medium-pacers, and the two opening batsmen were soon back in the shed.

From then on it was a constant trickle of dismissals. Gard was outstanding for his 5-36, speedster Ryan Watson bagged two, whilst Liam Carr tricked top scorer

Steventon.

There were also two run outs orchestrated with some outstanding fielding from Bailey Wisnewski and Gard. Josh Borrell and Wisnewski opened with a 48-run partnership, but there was a flurry of lost wickets, including another polished innings of 43 by Wisnewski, which took the score to 6-134.

With 300 the target

McGrath and Mattie Thomas set about restoring the momentum and domination. McGrath displayed his calm demeanour and clever shot-choice which led to an Honours Board performance of 106.

Alongside him, Thomas showed some form and hit an attractive 46. Watson arrived when Thomas was dismissed, smacked a quickfire 32, and it was then

up to McGrath and Gard to take the total to 300 which they did.

With two sessions left to play and Wairarapa 156 in arrears John Beale made a quick breakthrough before Jake Jonas and Jeremy Anderson put together a partnership of 75.

It was the introduction of the spin-twins Carr and Thomas, that broke the partnership, and when Carr dismissed Robbie Anderson for 46, the writing was on the wall for the Wairarapa team.

Taranaki's star of the show was young left-armer Carr. Bowling with clever changes of pace, and varying his flight, he proved to be the master of the occasion, with figures of 7-56 from 18 overs.

More will be seen of this youngster.

The wicket-keeping of Rupert Young also deserves a mention with two catches and a stumping off spinner Carr. This is no mean feat.

Taranaki required 34 runs to win outright with plenty of time available and they comfortably knocked the runs off.

The momentum continues. Ian Snook.



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Up and coming fighters to go head to head

A match-up between two up and coming young fighters is set to be among the high points of Friday's Barbwire Boxing Fight Club Event no 104 in Stratford.

Opunake favourite Bobby Katene from Barbwire Boxing will be taking on Minisita Saufoi from Auckland in a cruiserweight bout.

"His coach, who is his dad approached me and said how about a fight with Bobby?" says James (Batman) Langton of Barbwire Boxing. "Both are about 18 and are really starting out on their journey in the boxing world. Both fighters are coming off some impressive wins over the season. I think it will be a good opportunity for Bobby to take it up to the next level with his opponents."

He said that Saufoi being a southpaw will add another element of interest to the fight.

In preparing for the fight, Bobby had been in a training camp with Keith Belcher having come from Auckland to spend a week with him.

"You will probably see Bobby take his fight standard to a new level," says James. "This would be



Bobby Katene and James (Batman) Langton of Barbwire Boxing.

the fittest I've ever seen him. It's good to see Bobby take the responsibility of training for himself and getting himself mentally ready. It's a very lonely sport so you need to be self-dedicated and

self-motivated to be ready for combat."

Bobby says he is looking forward to the fight.

"The training camp has been really good. I've been putting in the hours. It will

be a good match-up as we've had a similar number of fights, we're a similar age and a similar weight."

As well as the Katene-Saufoi fight there will be other interesting matchups

on Friday night, says James. The main card will see a women's New Zealand heavyweight title fight between Sequita Hemingway and Maria Hunt.

"This is absolutely a gift to

have," says James. "I don't think people appreciate how great a fight this is going to be."

On the under card, as well as Bobby's fight, Niwa Barlow will take on Michael Tuaiti.

"This is as good a three-card as you will get anywhere in New Zealand this year," says James.

Also of note will be the Benjamin-Saua heavyweight matchup.

"This is looking at being the best fight card I've ever put in in all the years I've been involved in boxing. I can only encourage people to come along. If you can't come to the live event then watch it on live stream where there will be commentary and interviews. Fans vote and get to pick who wins and the winner gets prize money that's not chump money."

Looking towards the future James says Bobby could be the next big thing in New Zealand boxing.

"From this time last year he's a totally different fighter. He's more mentally aware of what he needs to do. In the last 12 years I've never seen so much progress in a fighter."

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Long serving club captain recognised

The Manaia Golf Club's long serving club captain was presented with a life membership when the club held their AGM last week.

Greg Elliott was 10 years old when he first started coming along to twilight golf, club secretary Andrew Gibson told everybody. Greg was first elected to the

committee in 2004 and was made club captain in 2006.

"He's held that position apart from the odd year ever since," said Andrew.

He said Greg was always there for working bees, with the installing of the new irrigation system being among the highlights. Greg was also known for the

tournaments he organised.

"Everyone from around the province knows you and you are so approachable."

Greg thanked everyone.

"I love this place and that's what's kept me going," he said.

Club president Rod le Fleming noted that this was the club's 120th AGM and



Manaia Golf Club president Rod le Fleming with the club's newest life member Greg Elliott.

that they have around 160 members.

Club members had had some good results during the year. Sam Jones, who learned his golf at Manaia had made the DP World Tour and won back-to-back Muriwai Opens. Caleb Symes had won the senior division of the New

Zealand Fire Service Golf Tournament and Caleb Andreoli had played in the Taranaki Masters team.

The Ladies' pennant team had won the Taranaki Mid-Week competition for the second year in a row, and both the Men's teams had made it through to the quarter finals of the Taranaki

Pennant competition.

"Our junior golfers continue to make us proud under the watchful eye of Margaret Putt with success throughout the year, with Oliva Symes winning best Stableford at the Eagles Under-17 tournament at Manukorihi and making the Taranaki Junior Golf team, and Carter Symes for playing well at the Eagles Tournament at Manaia and winning a trip to play at Clearwater Christchurch," said Rod.

"Our course is looking great, even though we have had a few issues this year with porina damage and vandalism, hence the installation of a few security cameras to try and minimise this issue."

He also paid tribute to Jackie Higgins, who has been treasurer for the last 10 years.

COASTAL RUGBY 2024

Kia ora and trust the upcoming festive season will be an opportunity to spend time with whanau and friends, and be grateful for the good people we surround ourselves with.

The Coastal Rugby Club enjoyed and celebrated a successful 2024 season, and we are looking forward to welcoming back our existing members and new members to the club in 2025. The rugby season is a few months away yet, but your committee doesn't have an off-season, and Tim and Piki our membership team have got the ideal Christmas gift for you!

Coastal Rugby Club membership is your ticket to meeting up with mates, entertainment on and off the field, and mixing with good people. Your membership includes gate passes to games played anywhere in Taranaki, along with merchandise depending on the level of membership purchased.

We have a range of membership levels - for all membership queries get in touch with Tim (0274146756).

Coastal Rugby merchandise can be ordered or purchased at our apparel partner Kingsway on Devon Street, New Plymouth

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025

*Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou
Janet Fleming
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Stoney Oaks newest arrival



Stoney Oaks fallow deer Bells had "a beautiful baby girl" Tuesday afternoon which Gail Simons from Stoney Oaks has forwarded onto the Opunake & Coastal News. She has been named Brigitte, says Gail.

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Getting into the Christmas cheer at Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park.



RIGHT:

Stoney Oaks white Red deer stag. Looks like he's waiting to join Santa's sleigh

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MIND MATTERS

Wishing you all the best for the festive season! I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the wonderful team at the Opunake & Coastal News, and to everyone who has reached out to me with their ideas and support for MIND MATTERS.

In recent columns, we've explored significant concepts like subjective experience, the unconscious, and basic models of the mind. We discussed various ways to observe our unconscious at work, with dreams being a powerful tool for such exploration. The unconscious helps us understand subjective experiences and behaviours, even though it's not a visible part of the brain; rather, it's a necessary construct to make sense of our inner world.

We've touched on some of Sigmund Freud's foundational ideas about dreams, especially his model of the mind. We still need to delve into Carl Jung's contributions. Jung expanded and refined Freud's discoveries in intriguing ways. If you've ever taken a personality test for a job, that's Jung's influence at play. I'm excited to share more about Jung's model of the mind soon.

Today, let's take a preliminary look at how you might begin to explore your dreams. Developing insights from your dreams is a skill that requires practice. Learning dream analysis is a lifelong pursuit, though the fundamental principles are straightforward. Of course, there is debate about these principles, but it's important to start somewhere. I align with Jung's perspective on dreams.

This edition of MIND MATTERS aims to set you on the path of dream analysis. It's now widely accepted that dream analysis is a personal journey—you need to analyse your own dreams. A support person can offer comfort and encouragement, but they can only remind you of the principles and



DR. ROBERT SHAW

help you stay on track. Your dreams are part of your subjective experience, unique to you alone.

Here's a brief outline to get you started. I'll elaborate on key ideas in future editions, but let's agree on the basic principles for now. Remember, many experts may contest these points, but this is a foundational starting point.

(1) The overall purpose of "dream analysis" is to enable you to access your unconscious. We are not trying to fore-see the future or tell your fortune or discover your destiny.

(2) Discovering things about your personal unconscious will be good at times and awful at other times. We repress things in our unconscious and this we do for good reason. Now, the aim is to bring into consciousness (awareness) that which you deliberately (but not knowingly) wanted to repress (hide and forget). You sure you want to look at your worst inclinations?

(3) The darker, more miserable parts of yourself that you try to repress are sometimes called your shadow. Your shadow is a part of your unconscious. When a child plays with faeces, the parent might say, "Dirty, stop that, go and wash your hands, do not do that again." The child enjoys playing with poo but is forced to stop this pleasurable activity. To cope with this conflict, the child pushes the notion that it is fun to play with faeces into the unconscious. Evidently,

it is not good to enjoy the nice warm poo and feel how squishy it is. The child—who cannot yet understand rules—is forced to accept a rule about poo. Years later, when the child is upset with his sister, he puts poo in her hair. It brings about the reaction he secretly hopes for—screams of horror, yelling, swearing, allegations, tears, and general confusion. In his most secret place, the child is happy with the result and reaffirms to himself the niceness of warm poo. He feels superior, knowing poo was good all along, having experienced it first-hand. How foolish are those who think otherwise. Now, he knows that poo is also useful, particularly with sisters. His shadow is growing stronger. School teachers who read heavy books might worry that he could go on to other things and become a criminal. This child is forced to apologize to his sister, and he knows how to be demure and look cute. He does not remember in his conscious mind how he came to enjoy faeces. But his unconscious (the shadow part) remains strong and ready, just in case. Watch out, sister!

(4) We will use Freud's terms: what we remember of the dream is "the dreams manifest content"; within the confusion of the dream there is a meaning to be discovered and we call the meaning the "latent dream thoughts". The latent dream thoughts are quietly waiting to be discovered.

(5) The latent dream content, what you dream, is fragmentary (all broken up), it is sense-impressions (you mainly see thing in your dream). As Freud says: "We know a dream from what seems as a rule a fragmentary work of sense-impressions, mostly visual but also of other kinds, which have simulated an experience, and with which thought-processes ('knowledge' in the dream) and expressions of affect [emotion] may be

mingled."

(6) It will help to keep in mind that every part of the dream comes from your unconscious. Hence, every part of the dream is a part of you. If you dream of a bucket, some aspect of you is a bucket. What is your bucket-ness? What does a bucket mean to you? What does it symbolize for you? Everything you encounter in the dream is a symbol for something which is relevant to you. What special associations do you have with a bucket. Did you hit your sister with a bucket? Are buckets your secret weapon? Or, are you really happy when you use the bucket to feed the hens. Is feeding with the bucket your peaceful time during the day? Your retreat from a hectic world?

(6) Now you work through the stages of analysis. First: Begin by identifying what you encounter in your dream, people (named or not named, Jesus, Mike Tyson), objects (a magic carpet, cows, a boxing ring, a bath, bucket, Tuesday, blue dress, best shoes, dangerous lion, monster, pathway, building, house, child in distress, Wellington, father). There are also feelings, sounds and smells which appear in dreams, Treat these in just the same way as described above for objects. This work takes a long time.

Second: Think about each of the encountered things and try to relate it to an emotion. What do these things mean for you in your life? How do these individual things make you feel?

Third: The unconscious uses symbolic images from your real world, which appear in your dreams. What might these things you have been considering symbolize for you? The language of dreams and the unconscious is a symbolic image. Hence, the unconscious borrows images from your real world, and they appear as symbols in your dream. Now the bucket is the symbol of all

the years of hard work that you put in to produce a farm. People wonder why you have a bucket on your farm's logo – but we know! Looking for symbolism in everyday life is not often a part of the routine in Taranaki. Hence, you might need some help with this step.

Fourth: Now, think about all the material you have and try to see how it might be worked into a meaningful story. This requires crea-

tivity and time. When you interpret the dream and arrive at an interpretation that "clicks" or makes you say "a-ha," then you're on the right path. You will be surprised and happy when you arrive at a possible interpretation. You will have found meaning in your dream.

*Dr Robert Shaw
Registered Psychotherapist
Opunake*



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Te Kaunihera o Taranaki ki Te Tonga
South Taranaki
District Council

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

Welcome to this special quarterly edition of Southlink for Ōpunakē and Coastal News readers.

Sounds on the Sand - Sat 11 Jan

SOUNDS ON THE SAND



FEATURING
SONIC DELUSION

SATURDAY 11 JANUARY, 12NOON

FREE FAMILY EVENT

Sounds on the Sand is returning to Ōpunakē Beach this summer.

The South Taranaki District Council is bringing Sonic Delusion to Ōpunakē Beach on Saturday 11 January 2025 from 12noon. The vibrant Swiss-Kiwi, high-energy performer, Sonic Delusion (Andre Manella) has played over 1,000 live shows at venues and festivals across Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia and Germany over the last decade.

"We are incredibly excited to welcome Sonic Delusion back to Sounds on the Sand this year. We know Andre will have everyone up on their feet dancing in the sun," says Event coordinator Ella Tosland. "Pack a picnic, or grab some food from the campsite shop, and bring the whole family down for an afternoon of music. Don't forget sunscreen!"

Sonic Delusion's happy, funky and groovy indie pop is 'too funky for folk and too folk for funk'. In his boogielicious live performances, he uses his well worn loop pedal with an array of instruments to skilfully layer and create an incredible sound. This free community event is proudly brought to you by the South Taranaki District Council.

Upcoming meetings (Beginning of 2025)

Public are welcome to attend

Taranaki Coastal Community Board
Wednesday 29 January 2025, 2.30pm
Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration
Events Centre, 156 Tasman Street,
Ōpunakē.

Policy and Strategy Committee
Monday 3 February 2025, 1pm

Ordinary Council
Monday 3 March 2025, 4pm



Unless specified,
meetings are held at TSB
Hub, Camberwell Road,
Hāwera.

Liquor Bans over Christmas and New Year

Ōpunakē Beach and surrounds

The public areas of the Ōpunakē beach area (excluding the Ōpunakē Beach Camp) and the surrounding cliff tops and the public areas of the Ōpunakē Lake Reserve and all public places within these areas.

The temporary liquor ban will start on Friday 20 December 2024 and ends on Sunday 5 January 2025.

Manaia

- South Road (SH45) Manaia, between Hassard and Kaiپی Streets.
- All public places adjacent to these streets and within the area including the Band Rotunda.

The temporary liquor ban will start on Friday 20 December 2024 and ends on Sunday 5 January 2025.

Existing permanent liquor bans in Eltham, Hāwera, Normanby, Ōpunakē and Pātea will remain in place throughout Christmas and New Year.

Find out more about Liquor Bans at www.southtaranaki.com/liquorbans

Find out more



Annual Report online

The 2023/24 Annual Report and Annual Report Summary are now available at your local LibraryPlus or online to read at www.southtaranaki.com/annualreport

Summer Reading for everyone

The South Taranaki LibraryPlus have an exciting summer of reading lined up with the annual children's summer reading programme, Summer Blast, as well as an adult reading programme, READ.

Summer Blast is a six-week programme designed for 5 – 12-year-olds, encouraging daily reading for at least 15 minutes and visiting the LibraryPlus three times to talk with librarians about what they have read. Tamariki who complete the programme by the end of January will receive a free book! Register in person at your local LibraryPlus from Monday 9 December until Tuesday 24 December.

READ, the adult reading programme, is about visiting the library, borrowing books and completing reviews. Each time an adult borrows a book from our LibraryPlus they are automatically entered into a weekly prize draw to win 1 of 4 Prezy Cards. Each review completed goes into the draw for an iPad drawn at the end of January.



Find out more about these exciting programmes and activities at your local LibraryPlus at www.southtaranaki.com/libraryplus



Safe to Swim? Check First!

People heading to our lakes, rivers and beaches this summer are encouraged to first check whether the water is safe to swim in. Until March 2025, Taranaki Regional Council will monitor water quality at 41 sites across the region's popular recreational hot spots. Weekly results and warnings are available on www.trc.govt.nz/can-i-swim-here. As a rule of thumb you should always avoid swimming for three days after heavy or prolonged rainfall.

If the water doesn't look or smell right, it's safest to not enter the water.



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TSB Festival of Lights announces high-energy line-up of free lights and entertainment

NPDC's TSB Festival of Lights will turn up the magic for another dazzling summer at Pukekura Park in New Plymouth from 21 December.

This year's lineup for the free, five-week festival features 13 new light installations and more than 70 events, making it one of New Zealand's most anticipated free summer events. The festival runs through to 26 January.

The lineup includes a vibrant mix featuring public art light installations, stage performances by high-calibre musicians, an all-ages New Year's Eve party, outdoor cinema, and Festival Kids events. The beloved 'Glow Boats' are also returning to the lake and will now be pre-bookable through the festival's website.

Illuminating Pukekura Park are light installations such as Affinity, coming from Sydney, inspired by the neural pathways of the human brain. Gondwana Glade is a multi-sensory journey through the whispers of ancient nature. New commissioned pieces by national light artists Vesica, Angus Muir, and Tungsten Projects immerse visitors in large-scale public art spaces. Opening night (21 Decem-



Children with TSB Festival of Lights 2024-2025 lighting installation *Affinity*, by Amigo and Amigo (Sydney).

ber) features noughties Aotearoa icons Goodshirt, among a summer soundtrack of 44 artists playing over the five weeks. Other performers include international blues musician C.W. Stoneking, APRA Maioha Award winner Jordyn with a Why,

Kiwi-turned-Nashville band South for Winter, Aotearoa Music Awards Best Rock finalist Midwave Breaks, and others such as Casual Healing, Richter City Rebels and Christopher Tubbs. The Festival Kids programme will keep tamariki

entertained with a foam party, glow cricket, DJ classes, and roving performers. For the adults; Pinot & Picasso, Circus BBQ Party, and a bluegrass twist on Mac-

beth are among the exciting events on offer. "The glow of TSB Festival of Lights reaches across Taranaki and throughout Aotearoa - last year we

welcomed 175,000 visitors, brought top international and national musicians to the festival, and connected public arts and nature with the community," says NPDC Events Lead, Lisa Ekdahl. "This is what the Festival of Lights is all about."

Our first issue next year is the 30th January. Call us to contribute.



MOVING?
Subscribe to the Opunake & Coastal News and we'll post you a paper as soon as it's out!

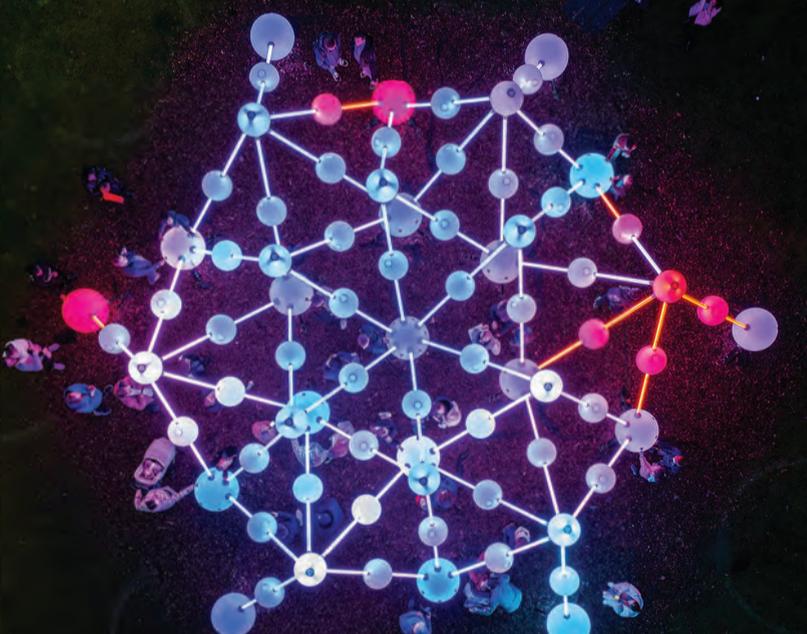
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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS
Publication Dates for 2025

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DEADLINES:
EDITORIAL - 5pm Thursday prior to publication.
DISPLAY ADVERTS - 5pm Friday prior to publication.
CLASSIFIEDS - 3pm Monday prior to publication.

Adverts and readers' contributions may be phoned, emailed, posted or dropped into the Opunake & Coastal News at 23 Napier St, PO Box 74, Opunake.
Phone (06) 761-7016 or a/h (06) 761-8206, Email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz;
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70+ Free Events
21 Dec 2024 - 26 Jan 2025

Festivaloflights.nz

**Pukekura Park,
New Plymouth**

TARANAKI
like no other

TSB Festival of Lights

NPDC

All sorts come to Actionaki



have come through, from birthday parties through to corporate events, team building crews and stag and hen parties and Christmas functions. It's really been great meeting new people and watching them step up, take themselves out of their comfort zones and achieve their goals.

Archery is a really popular activity at Actionaki. Off to shoot a few claybirds. Paintballing in the forest. The events we cater for include claybird shooting, .22 rifle target shooting, Stag and Hen dos, work dos, family gatherings, kids' birthday parties, team building days, archery, frisbee golf, paintball, and golf chip challenges. So if you, your family or your team need a break or activity at holiday time, we are only a phone call, facebook or email away. Our activities are ideally suited to ages ten and over.

Ph 0800 824 836.

Paddy Walsh

Paintballing.

Actionaki is now part and parcel of what's going on around Taranaki. Since starting 18 years ago, all sorts

Simon, Stacey and the team at Coastal Agri wish you all a happy & safe festive season. We will be closed stat days only, but as always, we are still here for urgent call outs on 06 7617079.





Claybird Shooting.

DO YOU WANT ACTION?



Our activities are suitable for ages 10 and over

- Paintball
- Clayshooting
- Archery
- Frisbee golf & golf chip
- .22 rifle shooting
- Team Building
- Christmas functions
- Work do's
- Stag & Hen do's
- Family gatherings
- Birthday parties 10+
- BBQ's

182 Opua Road, Opunake, Surf Highway 45
paddy@actionaki.co.nz

FREE PHONE 0800 824 836



Kai Time.



St. Pauls Op Shop

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to all of our wonderful supporters

From the team at St. Pauls Op Shop

Funds raised contribute to our community service organisations

Great places to go Golfing



Opunake Golf Course.

The Opunake Golf Club is located 2.5km up Namu Road just north of Opunake. The 18-hole, 5309 metre course is surrounded by pohutukawa and pine trees with spectacular views of the mountain and sea. From mid-November till Christmas, golf gets a lot

more social with Twilight Golf every Wednesday 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. Business House Golf starts on January 15th (see advertisement). On January 19th 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 10-

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.



Kaitake 5th fairway at Oakura. Cart hire is available at Kaitake. Please see our advertisement.

Kaitake Golf Club is a parkland style country course which enjoys the mild micro-climate of the Oakura area. The course is located under the Kaitake Ranges which provide shelter from cold South-East winds when they blow. Our free draining soils means the course is rarely closed because of wet conditions. Our green fees are \$25.00 for 18 holes and \$15.00 for 9 holes. We have new golf carts available so come along and enjoy the beautiful countryside and listen to the numerous fantails, tuis etc that are abundant throughout the course. Any queries please call the office 06 7527 665.

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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 \$25per round
on our historic course

Boxing Day Tournament \$10 entry
Turn up on the day from 9.30am
Ambrose non-golfers welcome
New members welcome

Ph Jackie 06 764 6412





KAITAKE GOLF CLUB

1340 South Rd, Oakura.
Ph 06 752 7665
Email: kaitakegolf@xtra.co.nz

*Cart Hire available - Non members \$40,
Members \$30 .
Our Greens fees are:
\$30 for 18 holes & \$20 for 9 holes*

OPUNAKE GOLF CLUB

Opunake Open Tournament

Sunday 19th January 2025

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
Ph 027 212 7115



BUSINESS HOUSE MIXED AMBROSE

Starts Wednesday 15th January 2025

Entry Fee \$12 per team per night (meals available)
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 or Simon Julian on 027 254 0917

Everyday Play Available

\$20 Green Fees - Affiliated Golfers
\$30 for Non Affiliated
Students \$10

Opunake Beach Carnival 2025



Mighty Muscles.

The 2025 Opunake Beach Carnival will be a great day for the whole family with more than 40 craft and food stalls, musical entertainment, and a range of activities for the kids. The event is on Saturday January 4 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, 6-9,10-13, and Mighty Muscles under 7- 8-11 years and 12+ Years Miss Opunake (14 years +).

There are fantastic prizes to win, kindly donated by local businesses.

This year all pageant and talent contest entries are free.

The 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 kindly sponsored by The Opunake Beach Carnival Committee and Campbell Contracting. The Big Dig is scheduled for 10.30 am, as the tide will be big at 1 pm. Please register at the Lions

tent by the stage before the dig.

All day activities include Tinka the Train, Kids' Cars, Laughing Clowns and a shooting gallery. Carnival-goers will be spoilt for choice with food options aplenty, including Thai and Turkish food, ice-cream, coffee, hot dogs and chips and hangi to name a few. Back by popular demand is the hourly raffle.

Opunake Talent Contest. Entries are open to all ages and all talents welcome if you are ready to show us you

can. Pre-register by emailing opunaketalentcontest@gmail.com or register on the day if places are still available.

The Beach Road will be closed on the day, but the Carnival Committee will be running a shuttle service thanks to Pickering Motors, which will be a koha donation.

Proceeds made on the day help fund projects for the improvement of the beach and the funding of future Opunake Beach Carnivals. Please take some time to

complete our survey for your ideas on how improvements can be made to the beach for everyone to enjoy.

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

Opunake Talent Contest and Competitions are ready to take off

The talent contest is a

chance to show Opunake what you have got going on. Get involved in the Tik Tok dance-off, Lollies or the Bag, bottle flipping, pie eating 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.

If you want to get involved and you have talent to burn.

Register at opunaketalentcontest@gmail.com and get yourself ready to take your turn.



Sunblock Assassins.




ŌPUNAKĒ BEACH CARNIVAL

SATURDAY 4th JANUARY

10AM START - FREE ADMISSION

HOURLY RAFFLES: 10am-2pm - All good prizes.

10 am start: On Dell Stage - Babies 0-2

10.30am: Opunake Lions BIG DIG.
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: Tots (3-5), Children (6-9 and 10-13)
Muscles (Under 7, 8-11, 12+)

Opunake Beach Carnival Talent Contest - Open to all ages.
Pre register: opunaketalentcontest@gmail.com, or see us on the day

Great activities: Tik Tok Challenge, Bottle Flip, Pie Eating Contest, Sunblock Assassins, Lollies or the Bag

MISS OPUNAKE

All day fun for all ages activities Tinka the Train, Kids Cars, Laughing Clowns, Shooting gallery. Bouncy Castle, Zorb Balls on the Clifftop

Carnival-goers will be spoilt for choice with food trucks including Kebabs, German Sausage, Hangi, Thai Delight, Pit Laynz BBQ, Japanese curry, Ice-cream, coffee, hot dogs and chips.

The Beach Road will be closed. The Pickering Shuttle will be available - \$2 or Koha donation.



Pie eating contest.

Country Connections



Proud sponsors of the Opunake Beach Carnival

Leigh and Patrice 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 2025



Lollies or the bag.



Jeeps.



Bottle flipping.



St John Ambulance.



CAMPBELL CONTRACTING LTD

Proud to Sponsor the Big Dig since 2010



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the team at Campbell Contracting

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 www.campbellcontracting.nz



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- Fresh, Fresh, Fresh
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WHERE YOU GO FOR HEADSTONES

To all the families we have helped this year, we know this will be a sad and difficult time for you, but we wish you all a very special Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

**CLOSED FROM 23rd DEC
RE-OPENING JAN 9th, 2025**

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NEW HEADSTONES
ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS

Dunlop Insurance

Your local Insurance Brokers

Dunlop Insurance wishes to thank all the wonderful locals who have supported our business this year.

We appreciate your custom and wish you an enjoyable and safe festive season.

Our offices will be closed on 23rd December, re-opening January 8th.

Support is available anytime by calling your advisor's mobile number.

From all the team,
Anna, Gary, Claire, Lynley, Melissa and Piper.

Ph: 06 278 6856

**ARE YOU
COVERED?**

CONTACT US TODAY!

Our advisors are happy to meet at a time and place that suits you for a free, no-obligation quote.

Anna Dunlop 027 555 2080

Gary Dunlop 027 451 7404

48 Victoria St Hawera 4640
office@dunlopinsurance.co.nz

Housing values rise in November

The housing market is on track for its flattest calendar year in more than a decade, despite a modicum of growth this quarter.

The latest QV House Price Index shows home values grew nationally by an average of 0.3% in the November quarter – the first quarterly increase since April. The average home is now worth \$908,173, which is 0.7% less than at the same time last year and 14.6% below the market's peak just over three years ago.

Among New Zealand's main urban centres, Auckland (0.5%), Hamilton (1.2%), Napier (0.9%), Christchurch (0.3%) and Dunedin (0.7%) all recorded modest quarterly home value increases for the first time in months. The average rate of reduction also slowed this quarter in Tauranga (-1%)

and Wellington (-0.9%).

Home values have risen across the wider Taranaki region this quarter.

New Plymouth's average home increased in value by 1% to \$718,279. That figure is now 1.6% higher than at the start of 2024.

The average home value also increased by 3.7% to \$488,069 in Stratford, and by 0.9% to \$441,329 in South Taranaki.

"Time will tell whether or not we're finally witnessing the modest beginnings of the housing market's long-awaited rebound or whether this is just another small bump in what has been a remarkably bumpy road in recent years," said QV operations manager James Wilson.

"Interest rate reductions have certainly paved the way for a general uplift in activity

and market sentiment across much of the country. We're now seeing significantly more Kiwis at open homes and in auction rooms, which has largely stemmed what was, for the most part, a slow reduction in property values throughout winter. But with such a large supply of homes for sale, demand isn't yet converting into significant price pressure.

"We did see an overall increase in property values around the same time last year too, which petered out as interest rates, the increased cost of living, rising unemployment and slowing migration took hold once more. These are still pretty major factors today and will also continue to play a pivotal role in hampering any significant home value growth as we move into 2025, even as mortgage rate

relief finally sets in."

Despite this modicum of growth in the November quarter, the average home in Aotearoa is now worth just 0.3% more than at the start of this calendar year.

"With December's figures still to be accounted for, the housing market looks to be on track for its flattest calendar year in more than a decade," said Mr Wilson.

"Looking ahead, there's still very little to suggest that house prices will suddenly take off any time soon, with supply far outweighing demand. There are still buyers waiting in the wings for economic conditions to improve and for interest rates to drop further. It looks like they may get their wish in 2025 but it could still be a while yet, and any growth in the meantime is expected to be moderate at best."

Fun at the Carnival



Opunake Beach Carnival Big Dig starts at 10.30 am get in early and register with the Opunake Lions by the stage.



Pie Eating Champs. Sponsor Rusty Campbell with a Big Dig Winner.



Dunlop Insurance wishes to thank all the wonderful locals who have supported our business this year. We appreciate your custom and wish you an enjoyable and safe festive season. Our offices will be closed on 23rd December, re-opening January 8th. Support is available anytime by calling your advisor's mobile number. From all the team, Anna, Gary, Claire, Lynley, Melissa and Piper.

FINER
SPRAYING SERVICES LIMITED
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Grant and the team.
Thank you to our clients for their support this year
Grant: 027 444 9189



BOOM SPRAYING SPECIALIST
Accurate Application - Sound Advice

Opunake loop trail



Opunake Clifftop Garden.
The Opunake Clifftop Garden part of the Opunake loop trail is maintained by a team of dedicated local gardeners.

Planting and maintaining the gardens is achieved through regular get togethers of the team to re-design, plant and maintain. There is no committee structure to the group, it is simply run by consensus.

One of the garden's driving forces is Rose Ratahi, who has become known as the face of the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival as well as being a longtime festival entrant herself

From one of the points of interest in the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival the Clifftop Garden is now one of the Festival's regular entrants.

In 2020 the Opunake Clifftop Garden Group received the Taranaki Coastal Organisation Award from the South Taranaki District Council.

The garden is also an integral part of the Opunake Loop Trail and can be accessed via the lookout overlooking the Tasman Sea and Opunake's iconic beach. After viewing the garden

there is more of the Loop Trail to see. Alternatively there's the table and seating overlooking the Tasman Sea which was built by respected local identity Ron Brewer who sadly passed away earlier this year. It's an ideal place to relax and reflect.

Pungarehu Community Pool

Open 16th December
Pick up keys from Challenge Rahotu
\$60 cash only
Open 11am-9pm
Ph Nigel 027 681 9524

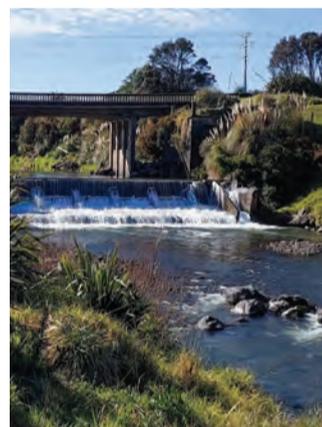


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- NZ Craft • Pounamu
 - Jewellery • Souvenirs
 - Clothing & more

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Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day
Tues - Sun: 9.30am - 4pm
021 02742413

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



Waiaua river.

Legends of the Coast

Take a Kid Fishing Day

Saturday 11th Jan, 2025

7am-5pm

Weigh in at Opunake Main Beach 5-5.30pm

Prizegiving to follow.
\$2 per child.

Registration at Opunake Beach Camp Office - Wed 8th, Thurs 9th, Fri 10th, 9am-5pm.

Open to Primary & Pre-school children

Prizes kindly donated by Cleenasz, TBL, Drake Plaster & Paint & Legends of the Coast

Contact: Leah (027) 334 7304 for more details



bnz breakers
VS MELBOURNE UNITED

MON 13 JAN 2025
TSB STADIUM, NEW PLYMOUTH

TARANAKI NPDC TICKETS AT eventfinda

DINING & ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

Taranaki

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We are open **Mon - Fri 9am to 4pm**

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- Chicken Burgers, \$6.50
- Fish Burgers, \$7.00
- Beef Burgers, \$8.00

Open everyday



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42 - 44 TASMAN ST
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Thank you for supporting us during 2024.
Closed 23, 24, 25 & 26 December
Open 27, 28, 29 & 30 December
Closed 31 Dec, 1st & 2nd Jan
Open 3, 4, 5 January

Regular hours from 8 Jan - Wednesday to Sunday 8am - 3.30pm

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you to our valued customers for your continued support

Call 06 761 7062 for bookings



Justice for greyhounds

Animal rights organisation SAFE is elated with the Government's announcement today that it will ban greyhound racing in New Zealand. "Today marks the end of an era of exploitation," says

Campaign Manager Emma Brodie. "We are relieved the Government is finally bringing an end to a practice responsible for the prolonged suffering of thousands of dogs."

"Greyhounds will finally have the opportunity to live a life full of love, comfort, and safety."

The Deputy Prime Minister Rt Hon Winston Peters, who also serves as Racing Minister, announced today that greyhound racing in New Zealand will be banned after a 20-month phase-out period.

SAFE believes this outcome reflects a growing recognition that New Zealanders won't stand for cruelty disguised as entertainment.

"This victory belongs to everyone who has campaigned for better lives for greyhounds," says

Brodie. "The phase-out is a testament to the power of collective action and compassion."

"Moving forward, the Government must now ensure a smooth transition for greyhounds, supporting their rehabilitation and rehoming into permanent loving homes where they belong," says Brodie.

Minister Peters also introduced the Racing Industry (Unlawful Destruction of Specified Greyhounds) Amendment Bill, to be passed under urgency. The bill will prevent the unnecessary killing of dogs during the transition period.

"SAFE welcomes this critical measure to protect greyhounds from unnecessary death during this phase-out period. We remain committed to working with our partner organisations to assist with the smooth transition for greyhounds into ,," says

Brodie. "This is a truly historic day for animal rights in Aotearoa. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who stood with us in the campaign to end greyhound racing. Together, we have achieved a monumental step forward for animals."

NZVA statement re greyhound racing decision

The New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) Te Pae Kīrehe supports the Government's decision to end greyhound racing based on its own long-standing concerns about animal welfare within the industry.

We have been concerned for some time about greyhound welfare in New Zealand's racing industry. There were significant welfare risks and compromises to greyhounds, which needed to be

minimised and adequately balanced, with provisions that ensured the animals had a life worth living.

We had advocated for measurable and sustained improvement in the welfare and proper care of greyhounds. Some progress had been made by the greyhound racing industry, but like the government, we believe this was too little too late.

NZVA Chief Executive Kevin Bryant.

Mt Taranaki a trampers playground

The Taranaki Crossing is a project within the Egmont National Park, connecting and upgrading a series of walking tracks on the maunga. For more information: www.doc.govt.nz

Trampers are urged to check for up-to-date track and weather conditions on the DOC website or contact North Egmont Visitor Centre prior to heading outdoors.

Remember to book your hut before heading out this summer

Trampers overnighing at Mount Taranaki's Holly Hut or Pouakai Hut are reminded to book online via the Department of Conservation website before heading out this summer.

Both Pouakai and Holly huts are along the scenic Pouakai Circuit, with the larger Holly Hut also services the Around the Mountain Circuit track.

"As these are both popular tracks the huts can get really busy during peak season on the mountain. Pre-booking online will ensure people get a bunk for the night," says DOC Taranaki Recreation/Historic Supervisor Andy Johnston.

Pouakai Hut and Holly Hut can be booked online. Feedback from users has been positive, says Andy Johnston: "People appreciate

knowing they will get a bed at the end of their tramp."

Trampers should carry proof of their booking with them. Backcountry hut tickets are no longer valid at Holly Hut or Pouakai Hut, but they may be used at any other hut in the park. Pricing remains the same, with adults \$15, youth (11-17 years) \$7.50 and children 10 and under free of charge. Backcountry hut pass discounts apply.

"Keep your pets and drones off the mountain this summer

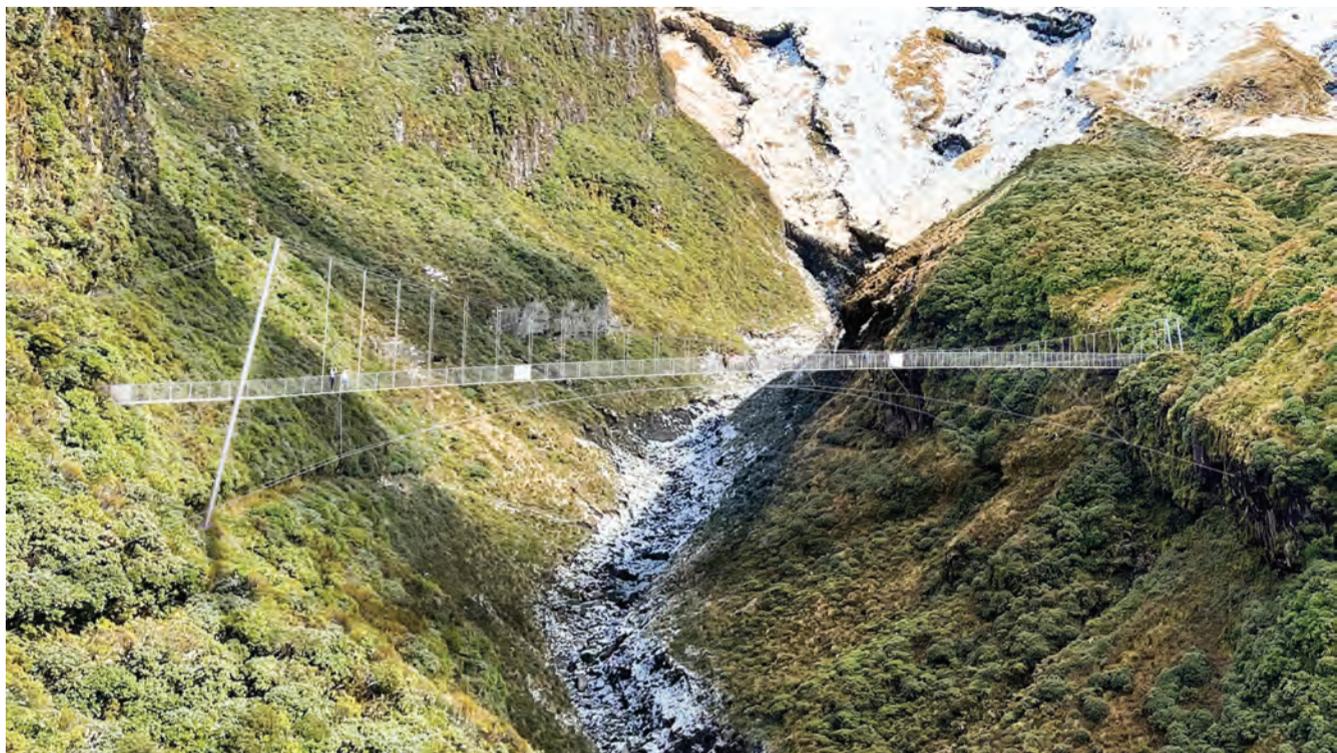
Leave your pets and drones at home when visiting Mount Taranaki this summer urges the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Our native wildlife such as kiwi and whio need as much protection as we can provide. Even the most obedient, domesticated dogs and cats can reveal their predatory instincts in the wild says DOC biodiversity ranger Joe Carson.

Drones can disturb birds and affect people's enjoyment of the outdoors she says. "Keep your pets and drones out of Egmont National Park summer and help keep our wildlife safe."

People found with pets or drones illegally in the park can face fines under the Wildlife Act.

Help find kiwi on Mount



The swingbridge which links the Stratford Plateau to various walks.

Taranaki

Taranaki Kiwi Trust is asking for the public's help finding kiwi signs on Mount Taranaki.

The Trust, who work throughout Taranaki to protect Western Brown Kiwi and increase their populations, is wanting more information on kiwi distribution on the mountain.

Photos of kiwi footprints, probe holes and feathers

and their location on the mountain would help, says TKT Kiwi Operations Leader Sian Pottier. "If you hear kiwi calls while overnighing on the mountain we're also keen to hear from you".

For kiwi sign sightings email sian@taranakikiwi.org.nz describing your experience. For information on kiwi sign and calls visit: www.taranakikiwi.org.nz

Short walks and tramps for families on Mt Taranaki this summer

Here's some ideas for getting the family out exploring Mount Taranaki this summer. Check out the DOC website for more track info www.doc.govt.nz or contact North Egmont Visitor Centre ph 06 7560990.

Wilkie Pools Loop Track
Time: 20 min to the pools, 1

hour 20 minutes loop

Distance: 1.9 km loop
From Dawson Falls road end walk through young forest then subalpine (goblin) forest to a series of pools, scoured from 20,000 year old lava. Take togs and a towel and enjoy a refreshing dip in the pools.

The first 900m of this track (to the pools) is baby buggy/wheelchair friendly with the remainder of the track good

Continued on page 51.

Free events

Summer adventures in Taranaki gardens



TŪPARE

487 Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth

Outdoor nature bingo

9 January, 10am to 11.30am

Kids can explore the magic of the gardens with this nature bingo adventure.

Tūpare summer jam

23 February, 11am to 2pm

Relax on the River Flat with delicious kai and tunes from local musicians.



The great BIG Easter hunt*

13 April - Two sessions: 9am to 10am and 10am to 11am

Join us for an epic Easter egg hunt! For children aged 5-10 years.

HOLLARD GARDENS

1686 Upper Manaia Rd, Kaponga

Outdoor nature bingo

13 January, 10am to 11.30am

Embrace the outdoors and bring your tamariki on our nature bingo adventure through the garden.

Marvellous magic show + food truck fiesta

16 February, 11am to 2pm

Josh from Magic Works brings his quirky antics, amazing tricks and interactive entertainment to the Main Lawn. Enjoy the show and kai from a selection of food trucks.



*Registrations essential at eventbrite.co.nz

PUKEITI

2290 Carrington Rd, New Plymouth

Yours Truly xx curated by Laura Campbell

10-20 January, 10am to 3pm daily

Thirty-one artists from around Aotearoa 'show their true self' in this special exhibition.

Outdoor nature bingo

23 January, 10am to 11.30am

Explore the magic of the gardens with our nature bingo adventure.



Pukeiti by night*

15 April, 6.30pm to 8pm

Join Dr Emily Roberts and discover what comes to life at night in the forest. Family friendly.

Pukeiti wellness day*

9 March, 8.30am start

Recharge and rejuvenate with various activities during the day.

For more information: www.trc.govt.nz/whats-on or 0800 736 222

Walks for all ages and levels of fitness

Continued from page 50.

for children. The track winds through 'goblin forest', crossing the bridge over the Kapuni Stream to reach the turnoff to the small lava formed

Wilkie Pools. Families may want to return the same way – continuing around the loop requires some rock hopping across Kapuni Stream. Return to the signpost to continue around the

loop, past small waterfalls, bubbling springs and the intake weir for the power station. Recross the Kapuni Stream and head back to the visitor centre. Take care when crossing

the Kāpuni Stream as the river bank may be eroded, making access difficult. There is no bridge across this stream. It may be impassable after heavy rain. York Road Loop Track

Time: approx. 3 hours (with stops)
Distance: 5.3km loop
York Road Loop Track follows part of the old Egmont Branch Railway Line. It is best walked in

a clockwise direction and passes ten numbered sites of interest along the way. The terrain is mainly flat with some gentle inclines. You may be lucky enough to see a whio/blue duck.

China images a step back in time

Ian McAlpine dropped by the Opunake & Coastal News with a selection of china he's collected over the years all featuring images relating to Mt Taranaki.

Some of the items had images of "Mt Egmont and the North Egmont chalet." The North Egmont Chalet was pulled down in 1974. The present Stratford Mountain House replaces it. "It was a lovely building," recalls Ian of the North Egmont Chalet adding that it had a big dance floor. There is a photo of the building in the North Egmont Visitor Centre when it celebrated its centenary.

In the early days people would come from New Plymouth and stay the night at the chalet before returning to New Plymouth it being something of a mission to get there. Nowadays of course you can drive there

and back in a day.

Ian's interesting array of china included jugs, cups, vases, salt and pepper shakers, various ornaments and a dinner set. Also,

teaspoons bearing the trademark images.

He'd bought some of them on the Internet others he'd acquired over the years.



Ian McAlpine who estimates he has climbed Mt Taranaki 1900 times. He is holding aloft a jug with an image of the mountain on it.

Below is a close up of the dinner set depicting a photo of the North Egmont Chalet. Judging by the vehicles it looks like the photo was taken around 1900.

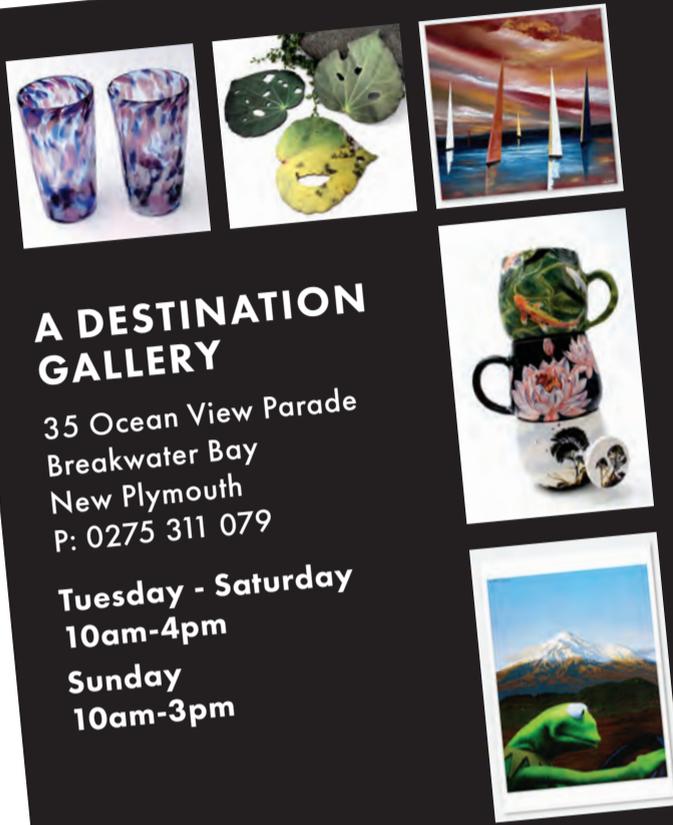


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A DESTINATION GALLERY

35 Ocean View Parade
Breakwater Bay
New Plymouth
P: 0275 311 079

Tuesday - Saturday
10am-4pm
Sunday
10am-3pm



Maketawa Museum

Seven years ago Barry Bishop started the Maketawa John Deere Museum. Barry's Museum is full of vintage classic John Deere Machinery. He now has a collection of 36 green and yellow beauties. The oldest tractor Barry currently owns is a 1936 John Deere BN, imported from the states.

Take a step back into the world of John Deere - Adults \$10, Kids Free

1914 Mountain Road, Inglewood | Ph 0274 479 232

Open Saturday – Sunday: 10am – 5pm or by appointment

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

OPUNAKE CHRISTMAS PARADE

FATHER CHRISTMAS LOLLIES GALORE - HIGHLAND PIPE BAND AND SO MUCH MORE!!

24TH DECEMBER

7 PM - TASMAN STREET, OPUNAKE

Santa to visit Opunake on Christmas Eve



Santa has treats for the children.



The pipe band is a highlight in the parade.



Opunake High School celebrates a century in 2025.



OPUNAKE AND DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Presents

Opunake Christmas Parade 2024

Tuesday December 24. 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 December 18 to guarantee your position in the parade lineup.

All entries will be judged this year and prizes will be awarded based on the following criteria.

Best Effort and Most Creative

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, Ihaia Rd or email agrimecauto2022@gmail.com

Name of entry: _____

Type of vehicle: _____ Length of entry (mtr): _____

No. of adults: _____ No. of children: _____

Responsible person: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Email address: _____

2024 PARADE ENTRY FORM

My printed name or signature below is my bond that I understand the rules and guidelines for the 2024 Santa Parade and warrant that my/our entry will fully comply.

Signature: _____

Safety Rules and Guidelines

Special note: The parade begins at 7pm on December 24



OPUNAKE AND DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Christmas Parade 2024

Safety Rules & Guidelines

1. Parade officials will inspect all entries and reserve the right to eliminate any entry that is in violation of these rules.
2. The 2024 parade will start at Tasman Street and Ihaia Road corner and end again at that corner.
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 wheels.
5. Your entry must 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 2024
Entries received after that time will be placed at the end of the parade.

Please email your completed form to agrimecauto2022@gmail.com
Or drop it into Agrimec Auto, Ihaia Rd, Opunake.

Biggest season of Summer at the Bowl about to kick off

NPDC's Bowl of Brooklands is taking centre stage over the next few months with the biggest ever line-up of shows and festivals heading our way for an epic Summer at the Bowl.

With six events already confirmed, including a range of concerts and Te Matatini 2025, December through to mid-March is a chance to enjoy a wide range of entertainment tastes and genres.

"New Plymouth district, and in fact the region will be pumping over summer – there is just so much going on and I cannot wait," says New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom.

"Getting these events here is a massive and collective effort by NPDC's event and venues teams. as well as



Summer at the Bowl is just about here.

promoters and groups such as Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki, who work hard to ensure our region is on the map for major gigs like this.

"Not only is it going to be a great time, but a massive

shot in the arm for the local economy, businesses and hospitality and accommodation providers."

As well as concerts, the Bowl is hosting the prestigious biennial national

kapa haka festival Te Matatini in February which see 55 groups perform and bring thousands of

supporters to the region for the five-day event.

"Te Matatini is also televised to an audience of around 2.5 million people both online and television, so this is a huge opportunity to showcase our region and for people to see the best kapa haka performers from across Aotearoa performing on that stage in a stunning setting," says Mayor Holdom.

Accommodation around the maunga is in high demand and local businesses will be stocking up getting ready for the influx.

The 2023/2024 Summer at the Bowl attracted 21,000 concertgoers over three shows, including many from outside Taranaki. It also

injected \$8.1 million of total expenditure into the local economy..

Already lined up for the Bowl of Brooklands this summer are: 15 December: Christmas at the Bowl, 29 December: Rock the Bowl, including Shihad and Sublime, 11 January: L.A.B, Stan Walker & Friends, 16 January: Timeless Summer Tour (including Boy George, Bonnie Tyler and Little River Band)., 25 February – 1 March: Te Matatini 2025, 14 – 16 March: WOMAD

In addition, the popular TSB Festival of Lights will be back in Pukekura Park (December 21- 26 January).

Deb welcomes you to

BRANDY'S BOTANICAL BARN

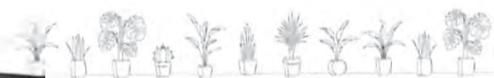
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PRIZE WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED CHRISTMAS EVE.

Available: 6m³ Split Pine \$480.00 or 6m³ Split Mac \$600.00 (price includes delivery to the Hawera, Normanby & Manaia areas, other areas may incur a small delivery charge).

How to order: Call Andy at 0274 45 64 64 or see Deb at Brandy's Botanicals Barn!

Andy & Deb would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your custom and to Wish you a Merry Christmas & Best Wishes for 2025





npeventvenues.nz

CHRISTMAS AT THE BOWL / 15 DEC

ROCK THE BOWL / 29 DEC

L.A.B, STAN WALKER & FRIENDS / 11 JAN

TIMELESS SUMMER TOUR / 16 JAN

TE MATATINI / 25 FEB-1 MAR

WOMAD / 14 -16 MAR

Egmont Country Music Festival

The seventh Egmont Country Music Festival 2025

As a pure country music lover, I take pride in bringing to Taranaki the Egmont Country Music Festival for the seventh year running.

Music speaks volumes regardless of what type of music you love. It's healing, it can make a bad day so much better.

There's something very special about country music.

Singers from all over New Zealand and this year also from Australia there will be something for everyone.

Where else can you find a full weekend of music and line dancing or rock and roll for only \$50 per person.

Friday price: \$29pp, Saturday price \$35, Sunday price \$10pp.

Parking for up to 4 days is \$20 per motorhome/caravan/tent.

Gates open for parking at 12pm Thursday.

The event will be held at the Clifton Rugby Sports Grounds in Tikorangi on



Lynn Crawford.

Sunday and is open to anyone who would like to sing. The open mic sessions run each day for a few hours but on Sunday will go from 9:30am till 3pm. All you need is 5 sets of chord charts for the band to back you.

We welcome anyone who would like to stay over on the grounds.

Motorhomes, caravans, tents are all welcome. Just get in touch to make your booking.

The Clifton Rugby Grounds have offered us the academy if you would like to sleep over.

Food and drinks are available at the venue.

There are also gate sales for those just wanting to pop in.

All enquires and sale of tickets and parking email crawfordlm50@gmail.co.

Merry Christmas everyone, see you all at the festival.

Lynn Crawford

the inland North Road. The festival will start at 2pm on Friday with 12 hours of music on Saturday and

Relay for Life

Cancer Society Taranaki is very much dependent on support of its community donations, bequests and fundraising events to be able to provide services

for our local Taranaki Cancer Clients and their whanau. Relay For Life fundraising helps people in our community through the Cancer Society's support services, Cancer Prevention programmes and cancer research.

Relay For Life brings people from all walks of life together for a common cause. It begins with an opening ceremony, with cancer survivors and carers leading the first lap of the event. Then teams take to the track.

Later in the evening the teams get together for the Candlelight Ceremony. This is a time to remember the

people we have lost to Cancer. Team members continue to walk or jog until everyone comes together for an inspiring closing ceremony.

Relay For Life is a fun event with every team bringing its own special energy to the

event.

Register your team for Relay For Life Taranaki 2025

TET Stadium and Events Centre, Inglewood. Saturday 29 March 2025. 10.30am -

10.30pm

Relay for Life.



Scene from last year's Relay.

SEASON'S Greetings FROM THE VILLAGE GALLERY, ELTHAM

Open 10 am - 3 pm, Tuesday to Saturday

THE SHOP AND GALLERY WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 14TH TO JANUARY 14TH

166 High Street, Eltham
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Horse treatment, kids and adults riding lessons and arena hire.

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EGMONT COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Taranaki 2025

Bookings and Tickets : Email crawfordlm50@gmail.com

January 10/11/2 2025

Clifton Rugby & Sports Club, 29 Inland North Road, Tikorangi, Taranaki

The Hideaway

Open every day from Boxing Day until January 12th, 2025.

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

Chart toppers to perform at Butlers Reef

What a way to bring in the new year. Coterie join us at Butlers Reef on New Years Eve.

Fresh off the back of two sell-out tours in Australia and New Zealand, scoring five Number 1 hot singles in New Zealand, and dropping a debut album that rocked the charts at Number 1 in New Zealand and Number 4 in Australia, Coterie are hotter than a summer day down under.

Led by brothers - Tyler, Josh, Brandford, and Conrad - hailing from the coastlines of Perth, these lads are the talk of the town on both sides of the Tasman Sea. Known for their electrifying live performances, Coterie is taking the music scene by storm. Drawing inspiration from the surf culture of the

West Coast and their Maori roots, the band serves up a delicious mix of soulful rock-reggae with killer harmonies that leave fans craving more.

Coterie's journey began 15 years ago in their parents' garage, where they jammed and perfected their sound, fuelled by the vibes of Red Hot Chili Peppers, Kings of Leon, and the legendary Jimi Hendrix. Guitarist and youngest brother Conrad reflects "We always believed in ourselves, it was just a matter of time. Now that we're getting our shot, we're even more driven to show the world what we've got."

Their big break came in two epic waves. First, a grassroots online campaign targeted the iconic band Six60, leading to a friendship and coveted opening slots

on their tours. Not afraid to hustle, Coterie's persistence paid off. As lead vocalist Tyler puts it, "The key is to be a bit annoying - it gets you noticed."

The second wave of success hit when they dropped their radio smash 'Cool it down,' a homegrown hit that struck a chord with fans everywhere. The track soared to double platinum status, ruling the charts and airwaves like a boss.

Not ones to sit still for too long, Coterie announced their summer 24 'Lush Leopard tour' selling out 23 shows across Australia and New Zealand before their single "Paradise" saw the band dominate Australian radio including two weeks at Number 1 on trendsetting station Triple J. May 2024 saw Coterie take out

'Breakthrough artist of the year' at the 2024 Aotearoa Music Awards following the same accolade awarded to them by Rolling Stone Magazine at the 2023 Rolling Stone Awards and hitting the road with Australia's biggest export 'Tones n I.' From sold-out tours to chart-topping singles, Coterie is unstoppable. Their latest banger 'One more Chance' featuring Aotearoa rap legend Savage is poised to keep the party going. These guys are not just making waves - they're out to own the whole dang ocean.

Joining Coterie, we have support from local legends The Mons Whaler, The Mara, as well as DJ HepsFX taking you into 2025 in style. 5:00pm. Gig starts 6:00pm. Entry R18.



The Australian band that will be performing at Butlers Reef on New Years Eve.

GOLDEN TOURS

TOLL FREE 0800 77 00 70 | Tony: 027 466 1557
Hostess: Margaret Jones 027 269 4277
Email: info@goldentours.co.nz

2025 SOUTH ISLAND TOUR

20 DAYS
16 March 2025
COST \$5,995

TOUR INCLUDES BREAKFASTS & DINNERS
Explore the wonders of the South Island with us!

Cost of tour based on twin share.

For an itinerary please ring TONY

Worried about COVID? Insurance cover is available at an additional cost while on tour should you need to isolate/quarantine.

Enquiries any time: **TOLL FREE 0800 77 00 70**



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ON THE LAWN, BUTLERS REEF

NEW YEARS EVE

COTERIE

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TARANAKI

Lalaga at the Govett Brewster



Lalaga: Le Hui Fono, 2024, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Ngāmotu New Plymouth.

Photo: Quishile Charan.

Lalaga: Le Hui Fono emerges from an ongoing commitment to deepen relationships of collaboration, support, and reciprocity between Pasifika artists and communities in Taranaki and across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa. Drawing on Lalaga/Raranga/Lalanga practices, the project weaves connections

through creative practice to uplift the aspirations of local communities. Workshops, making, performance, and talanoa throughout the exhibition will transform the gallery into a space for sharing knowledge, conversations, and creative possibilities, contributing to collective culture and

wellbeing. The project draws from the practices and wisdom of Lalaga/Raranga/Lalanga in seeking to weave together new and existing connections through creative practice and generate outcomes that uplift the aspirations of local communities. Lalaga: Le Hui Fono features

new works, including some created in the gallery during the exhibition produced in response to a series of residencies and exchanges among artists from Ngāmotu, Sāmoa, Fiji, and Tonga that commenced in 2022. The inclusion of significant historical works also encourages a rekindling of

connections and fosters new exchanges of knowledge and storytelling. The making, workshops, performance and the gallery into a space for sharing knowledge, questions, conversations, and creative possibilities that are shaped by Pasifika communities and

creatives and contribute to collective culture and wellbeing. Lalaga has been guided by Theresa Tongi, the Gallery's Pacific Public Program Coordinator, Ruha Fifita, Govett-Brewster Pacific Curator at Large and the Gallery's Te Moana nui-a-Kiwa Advisory Group.

GOVETT -
BREWSTER
ART
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Lalaga: Le hui fono

2 November 2024 - 11 May 2025

govettbrewster.com

creative nz
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND / Te Ao Māori

NPDC



Manaia Community Church services in the Gibson Hall

December 15th: Praise and Worship + Christmas Quiz at 4pm with bring and share meal to follow.

December 22nd: BBQ and Carols
BBQ at 6pm, Carols at 7pm

December 25th: Christmas Day service at 9am
December 29th: Service at 10am

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

St Martin's, Pungarehu: Closed - No Masses.
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake:
Christmas Mass 25 December - 9.00am at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake
January 2025 Mass Times
At Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake:
5 January-10.00am
12 January-9.00am
19 January-9.00am
26 January-9.00am

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 & Fellowship 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

Take care and be aware of other water users

Boaties are being urged to be aware of others when they head out on the water this summer.

Port Taranaki Harbour Master Tony Parr says while it's always great to see recreational boat owners exploring the Taranaki coastline, those at the helm need to take care and avoid collision with other water users, including other

vessels, swimmers and foil windsurfers.

"Summer can be a very busy time at the Port. We want everyone who is using the water to stay safe and get home safe," says Mr Parr.

"The message to recreational boat users is to be aware of others out on the water. The last thing we want to see is a tragedy which could have easily



Be careful and aware of other users on the water this summer.

been avoided. It's a simple message really; we're asking those underway in a boat to keep a good lookout and maintain a safe speed to ensure you're not going to hit anyone else.

"This could include coming into close proximity to big ships entering and leaving the port, and also to swimmers and divers. Slow down to five knots within two hundred metres of a boat with a blue and white dive flag. A windsurfer is technically a sailing vessel, so you need to keep out of its way unless it is overtaking you. The same applies to rowers and paddle boarders.

You need to keep out of their way too."

Maintaining a good lookout and a safe speed makes it easier to spot hazards and other users, Mr Parr says. Boaties need to be aware of the five-knot limit in inshore parts of the port area. "Sticking to the speed limit gives recreational boat users time to react and avoid collision with other harbour users."

His safety tips are: Don't leave shore without a fitting lifejacket for everybody on board your boat. Check and double check the weather before setting out. Take two forms of communication with you. Make a Trip Report with Taranaki Coastguard before your set out (VHF Radio Channel 61), and watch out for the wake from your boat.

Opunake Combined Churches

Combined Churches Christmas Carol Service -

Thursday 12th December 7pm at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Blue Christmas Service at St Barnabas Sunday 15th December at 7pm.

Combined Churches Rest Home Service - 19th December at 10.30 am.

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 9am.

January Combined Churches Services all at 10 am.

5th - Our Lady Star of the Sea.

12th - The Wave.

19th - St Barnabas.

26th - St Paul's.



OKATO CO-OPERATING PARISH
St. Paul's, Okato and St. James, Oakura



CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

ST. JAMES, ŌĀKURA

Sunday, 8 December

ADVENT 2, Communion Service @ 10.00am
led by Rev. Joy Dale

Saturday, 14 December

QUIET MORNING from 9.30am-1.00pm
Led by Heather Lofthouse. A quiet time for prayer and reflection with music, scripture, and meditative stitching.

Sunday, 22 December

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS @ 10.00am
led by Rev. Joy Dale

Sunday, 22 December

NATIVITY ACTIVITIES from 3.00pm - 4.30pm led by the Sunday School Team. Picnic, crafts, Sunday School film, Christingle!

Wednesday, 25 December

CHRISTMAS DAY, Communion Service @ 9.30am led by Rev. Joy Dale

Wednesday, 25 December

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH @ 12 noon led by Margaret Bryce and David Thorpe. No Charge. ALL WELCOME!
Please RSVP by 23 December, Margaret on 021933765 for catering purposes.

Sunday, 29 December

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS @ 10.00am led by Rev. Joy Dale. Summer Celebrations - Not your usual Sunday Service!

ST. PAUL'S, ŌKATO

Sunday, 1 December

ADVENT 1, Communion Service @ 10.00am led by Rev. Joy Dale

Sunday, 8 December

ŌKATO CHRISTMAS PARADE @ 6.30pm. FREE sausage sizzle & burgers, slice & water served at Coastal Taranaki School gym after parade.

Sunday 15 December

ADVENT 3, Communion Service @ 10.00am led by Bishop Philip and Rev. Joy Dale

Tuesday, 24 December @ 7.00pm

CAROLS AND CANDLES led by Lesley Dowding. Live music, fruit mince pies and mulled wine.



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Local news, Local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events.
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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Hollie Smith headlining 2025 Concerts in the Park

Popular New Zealand entertainer and singer Hollie Smith will be bringing South Taranaki's premiere Park to life with her power packed show.

Popular annual summer event Concerts in the Park is returning to King Edward

Park in Hāwera on Saturday 25 January 2025.

Entertainment will begin with duo Nana & Petal (Paul Adams and Celine Filbee) kicking things off at 4pm, and the main act will take the stage at about 5.15pm.

Hollie Smith is a



singer, songwriter, and performer. Her incredible live performances and powerhouse vocals have made her one of the most sought after acts in the New Zealand music industry. She is best known for her songs 'Bathe in the River' and 'Whakaaria Mai'.

South Taranaki District Council events coordinator Ella Tosland says she looks forward to hearing the well-known artists songs reverberate around King Edward Park

"We hope families and whānau take the opportunity to enjoy this free event relaxing at this beautiful venue," says Ella. "We encourage those attending to make an evening of it by bringing along a picnic or buying something from the food vendors we will have available."

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

Left: Hollie Smith performs at King Edward Park on January 25, 2025.

TIME
13 artists
from
Aotearoa, Australia and the UAE
@
from out of the blue studio gallery
18 Halse Place
Ōpunakē. 4616.
On until December 30th
Free Admission
Open
Thursday to Mondays 1-5pm.



KING EDWARD PARK CONCERTS IN THE PARK

SOUTH TARANAKI
SUMMER



Proudly supported by



FEATURING
HOLLIE SMITH
AND NANA & PETAL
SATURDAY 25 JANUARY, 4PM
FREE FAMILY EVENT

FOOD TRUCKS, ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC

Sounds on the Sand returning to Opunake Beach this summer.



Sonic Delusion will be at the Sounds on the Sand in January.

The South Taranaki District Council is bringing Sonic Delusion to Opunake Beach on Saturday 11 January 2025 from 12noon.

The vibrant Swiss-Kiwi, high-energy performer, Sonic Delusion (Andre Manella) has played over 1,000 live shows at venues and festivals across

Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia and Germany over the last decade.

“We are incredibly excited to welcome Sonic Delusion back to Sounds on the Sand this year. We know Andre will have everyone up on their feet dancing in the sun,” says Event coordinator

Ella Tosland. “Pack a picnic, or grab some food from the campsite shop, and bring the whole family down for an afternoon of music. Don’t forget sunscreen.”

Sonic Delusion’s happy, funky and groovy indie pop is ‘too funky for folk and too folk for funk.’

In his boogielicious live performances, he uses his well-worn loop pedal with an array of instruments to skilfully layer and create an incredible sound.

This free community event is proudly brought to you by the South Taranaki District Council.

The Beach

Jan 2nd - Feb 10th 2025

@

from out of the blue studio gallery

18 Halse Place.

Opunake 4616

OPEN

Thursday - Monday

1pm - 5pm

By appointment.

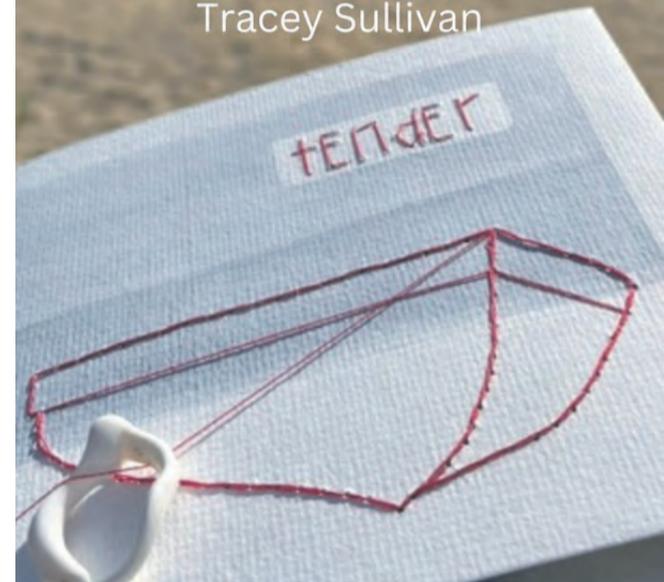
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Alysn Middelgouw-Marsden

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SOUNDS ON THE SAND

SOUTH TARANAKI SUMMER



South Taranaki District Council

FEATURING
SONIC DELUSION

SATURDAY 11 JANUARY, 12NOON

FREE FAMILY EVENT

OPUNAKĒ BEACH

National prevention service cuts - a body-blow to health

A proposal to cut 55 positions and 300 currently vacant roles from a health service responsible for preventing disease and keeping people out of our over-stressed, under-resourced healthcare system is a body blow to the health of New Zealanders say Health Coalition Aotearoa (HCA).

The proposal to cut \$32 million from the National Public Health Service (NPHS) and one quarter of staff comes after two major restructures in two years.

"It's just one body blow after another for the dedicated professionals who

have worked tirelessly to keep our population safe and healthy," Health Coalition Aotearoa co-chair Professor Boyd Swinburn said.

"This just flies in the face of all evidence and common sense to give up on building fences at the top of the cliff when the ambulances at the bottom are already grossly overworked."

ASMS, the union for senior doctors, strongly opposed the cuts.

"We can't understand why the NPHS is facing \$30 million of cost savings, given the Commissioner's undertaking that frontline services would not be cut,"

ASMS executive director Sarah Dalton said.

"Evidence shows that public health spending delivers a 14:1 return on investment, so stripping out capacity makes no sense."

Public health services, including infectious disease surveillance and control, water and air quality monitoring, promotion of healthy eating and physical activity, tobacco and alcohol enforcement, have a vital role in protecting New Zealanders from communicable and non-communicable diseases.

We are concerned about the future effectiveness of

public health interventions designed to meet our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi with the restructure of Māori public health services and the proposed large reduction in the Pacific Public Health team, when there are such enormous inequities of health outcomes in these population groups.

The proposal to reduce the size of the Alcohol and Addictions unit is astounding, considering the scale of alcohol harm in Aotearoa.

"Given the scale of harm from alcohol - \$9.1 billion per year - and the Government's stated objective to reduce hazardous drinking, prevention is a vital and strategic investment. Cutting the team and multiplying its

workload makes no sense," Swinburn said.

"We also note the cuts include smoking cessation roles, which makes a mockery of the Government's Smokefree 2025 plan announced today - including a "renewed focus for smoking cessation services, health promotion, and community mobilization, while enhancing compliance and enforcement measures."

HCA calls on the minister to explain how the Government will "prevent and reduce the impact of five non-communicable diseases: cancer, diabetes, respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease and mental health" - a stated goal of its Policy Statement on Health, while slashing a third of the service

responsible.

"When you cut \$32m from a service, and take 355 roles away, the ability to promote and protect the health and well-being of New Zealanders will be severely impacted," HCA board member Dr David Galler said.

HCA supports improving efficiencies and reducing unnecessary and genuine duplication, but only if any cost savings are used to expand provision of effective prevention services, HCA co-director Professor Lisa Te Morenga said.

"It is clear this proposal is driven by a Government directive to cut spending on the health budget, and this makes any claims about achieving efficiency and improving outcomes hard to believe."

CoastalCare

Haumarū ki Tai Health and Community Centre
Delivering essential community health and social services now and into the future....



Thank you for your support throughout 2024

CoastalCare would like to wish everyone a safe & happy Christmas!

Holiday Hours

OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE:

Closed December 24th - at 2pm- Open January 6th 2025

OPUNAKE PHARMACY:

Closed 25th & 26th December - .Open with shorter hours on 27th, December 8.30am-3pm-Closed 30th December. Open 31st December 9am-3pm

Closed 1st, 2nd January 2025 - Open 3rd January 8.30am-3pm

Closed the 4th -5th January Resume normal hour from the 6th January 2025

NZ POST/NZTA

Closed on weekends and Public Holidays only

COASTAL PRINTERS:

Closed on weekends and Public Holidays only

TARANAKI DENTAL:

Closed December 13th - Back on January 9th 2025

TARANAKI PODIATRY

Closed December 12th - Back on March 12th 2025

TARANAKI CHIROPRACTIC:

Closed December 19th - Back on January 8th 2025

LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY:

Closed December 19th- Back on January 8th 2025

MATTHEWS OPTOMETRIST

Closed - 6th December -Back on March 6th 2025

ACTIVE PLUS PHYSIOTHERAPY

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DR. ROBERT SHAW - COUNSELLOR

Closed - Back February 2025

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Check trc.govt.nz or scan below for timetables and pick-up spots.



SUMMER WORK TO DO?

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The Lion King is coming

Exploring the unlikely rise of the beloved king of the Pride Lands, the all-new big-screen adventure The Lion King opens in cinemas December 19 and will be in Opunake's Everybody's Theatre early January.

"Mufasa: The Lion King," calls on Rafiki to relay the legend of Mufasa to young lion cub Kiara, daughter of Simba and Nala, with Timon and Pumbaa lending their signature schtick. Told in flashbacks, the story

introduces Mufasa as an orphaned cub, lost and alone until he meets a sympathetic lion named Taka—the heir to a royal bloodline. The chance meeting sets in motion an expansive journey of an extraordinary group of misfits searching for their destiny—their bonds will be tested as they work together to evade a threatening and deadly foe. The film features an all-star roster of talent, including Aaron Pierre, Kelvin Harrison Jr., John

Kani, Tiffany Boone, Kagiso Lediga, Preston Nyman, Mads Mikkelsen, Thandiwe Newton, Lennie James, Anika Noni Rose, Keith David, Seth Rogen, Billy Eichner, Donald Glover, Blue Ivy Carter, Braelyn Rankins, Theo Somolu, Folake Olowofoyeku, Joanna Jones, Thuso Mbedu, Sheila Atim, Abdul Salis, Dominique Jennings and Beyoncé Knowles-Carter. Blending live-action filmmaking techniques

with photoreal computer-generated imagery, the all-new feature film is directed by Barry Jenkins, produced by Adele Romanski & Mark Ceryak, and executive produced by Peter Tobyansen. The film features original songs by award-winning songwriter Lin-Manuel Miranda, original score by Dave Metzger and additional music and vocal performances by Lebo M.





Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.





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New Years Day, Jan 2nd & 3rd
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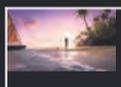
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EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

72 Tasman Street, Opunake | www.everybodystheatre.co.nz

<p>Moana 2 1hr 40mins TBC Fri 27 Dec 1PM Sat 04 Jan 7PM Fri 10 Jan 1PM</p>	<p>Wicked 2hr 40mins PG Fri 27 Dec 7PM Sun 29 Dec 1PM Fri 03 Jan 7PM</p>
<p>Goodrich 1hr 51mins M Sat 28 Dec 7PM</p>	<p>The Problem with People 1hr 42mins M Sun 29 Dec 7PM</p>
<p>Paddington in Peru 1hr 46mins PG Thu 02 Jan 1PM Sun 05 Jan 1PM Fri 10 Jan 7PM</p>	<p>Sonic the Hedgehog 3 30mins TBC Thu 02 Jan 7PM Sat 04 Jan 1PM</p>
<p>The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim 2hr 14mins M Fri 03 Jan 1PM Thu 09 Jan 7PM</p>	<p>Mufasa: The Lion King 1hr 58mins PG Sun 05 Jan 7PM Thu 09 Jan 1PM</p>



Moana 2
1hr 40mins | Rated: TBC
Fri 27 Dec 1PM



Wicked
2hr 40mins | Rated: PG
Fri 27 Dec 7PM

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EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

We would like to thank you all for your support
throughout 2024.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Years!

For January movie screenings please visit us online or
see our flyers outside the theatre.



EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

72 Tasman Street, Opunake | www.everybodystheatre.co.nz

<p>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever 1hr 39mins G Fri 13 Dec 7PM Sat 14 Dec 1PM Sun 15 Dec 7PM</p>	<p>Gladiator 2 2hr 28mins R16 Sat 14 Dec 7PM</p>
<p>Shamrock Spitfire 1hr 48mins M Sun 15 Dec 1PM Thu 19 Dec 7PM Sat 21 Dec 7PM</p>	<p>Moana 2 1hr 40mins TBC Fri 20 Dec 7PM Sat 21 Dec 1PM Tue 24 Dec 1PM</p>
<p>Goodrich 1hr 51mins M Sun 22 Dec 1PM</p>	<p>Wicked 2hr 40mins PG Sun 22 Dec 7PM Fri 27 Dec 7PM</p>



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
1hr 39mins | Rated: G
Fri 13 Dec 7PM



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
1hr 39mins | Rated: G
Sat 14 Dec 1PM

What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm.

AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:

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

NOVEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 20

Time Exhibition: At the from out of the blue gallery, Opunake.

NOVEMBER 2 - MAY 11, 2025

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

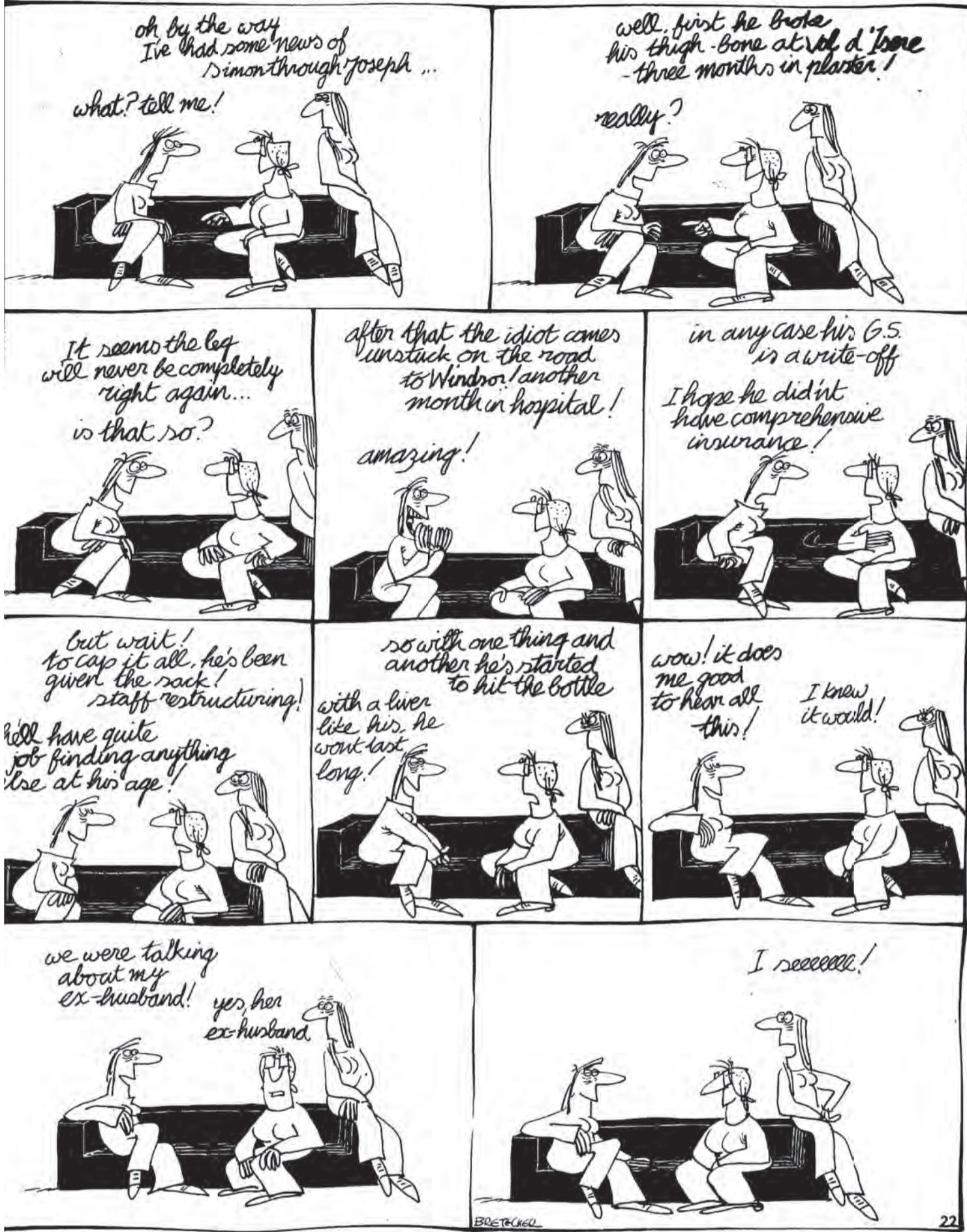
DECEMBER 13

BFC104 Fight night: Boxing at the TET Multisport Stadium, Stratford.

DECEMBER 14

Speedway - North Island Modified Championship: Stratford Speedway

tenderness



DECEMBER 18

Okato Christmas Market: Hempton Hall, 3-7pm.

DECEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 26, 2025

TSB Festival of Lights: Pukekura Park, New Plymouth

DECEMBER 24

Opunake Christmas Parade: 7pm start.

DECEMBER 27

Hooves & Grooves Race Day: New Plymouth Raceway

DECEMBER 31

New Years Eve at the New Plymouth Raceway Backyard Bash on the Lawn: At Butlers Reef, Oakura.

JANUARY 2 2025 - FEBRUARY 10

The Beach Exhibition: At the from out of the blue studio gallery, Opunake.

JANUARY 4

Opunake Beach Carnival: Opunake Beach

JANUARY 10, 11 & 12

Egmont Country Music Festival: Tikorangi. See ad for more details.

JANUARY 11

Take a Kid Fishing Day: 7am-5pm. See ad for more details.

JANUARY 13

BNZ Breakers vs Melbourne United: Basketball at the TSB Stadium, New Plymouth

JANUARY 25

Concerts in the Park: King Edward Park, Hawera. 4pm.

MARCH 29

Cancer Society Relay for Life: TET Stadium & Events Centre, Inglewood. 10.30am-10.30pm

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

Two-year fishery closure at Western Taranaki

Pursuant to section 186A of the Fisheries Act 1996, notification is given of the Fisheries (Western Taranaki Temporary Closure) Notice 2024.

The notice closes the western Taranaki coastline from 16 December 2024 until 15 December 2026. The closure was requested by Taranaki Iwi and hapū.

The temporary closure extends from Tapuae Stream (west of New Plymouth) to Taungatara Stream (south-east of Opunake) and from the mean high-water mark to 1 nautical mile from shore.

The temporary closure prohibits taking all shellfish (except rock lobster), all seaweed (except beach cast seaweed), all sea anemones, all stingrays, and conger eel species *Conger wilsoni* and *Conger verreauxi*.

Further information about temporary closures, including a map of this temporary closure, is available on the Ministry for Primary Industries website (www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/) or by contacting Fisheries New Zealand.



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

MPI 5792

OKATO CHRISTMAS MARKET

Wednesday 18 December
3-7pm
Hempton Hall, Okato

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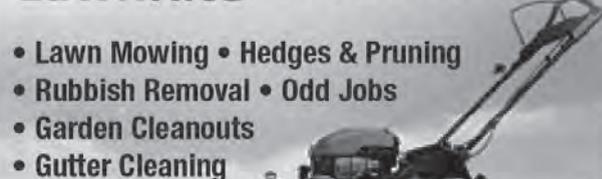
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