



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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## Inside



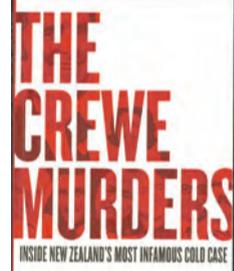
Stay sober if driving say Coastal Cops, page 6.



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Stratford turns out for the Rumble page 37.



The story of British humanitarian Nicholas Winton, who helped save hundreds of Central European children from the Nazis on the eve of World War II. Coming to Everybody's Theatre on December. Page 61



Protesters out in force in New Plymouth last Saturday protesting against the Israeli-Palestinian war.

A large crowd of people and a mix of nationalities gathered by Puke Ariki before walking up Gill Street in New Plymouth to protest at the situation in Palestine.

Among the marchers were young children, their

presence a poignant reminder that many of the fatalities of civilians in Gaza are young children.

The sombre procession made its way to the corner of Liardet and Gill Streets where there were various speakers.

Soheib Zaoui was among the protesters. His father Ahmed Zaoui arrived in New Zealand in 2002 from Algeria seeking refugee status and was initially imprisoned as a security risk, but released after several years and

eventually granted New Zealand citizenship in 2014. Ahmed Zaoui returned to visit Algeria this year and has again been in the news holding a political meeting at his house and is currently in prison in Algeria.

One of four children, Soheib has remained in New

Zealand. New Plymouth is not alone in registering their protest at the situation in Gaza with demonstrations throughout the world registering their horror and dismay at what is happening.

There is a regular protest march every Saturday at 2pm in New Plymouth until there is a permanent ceasefire.



Disappearing Palestine - a picture worth a thousand words.



A little girl on the demonstration...about five years old.



## Striving for a peaceful New Year

The Opunake & Coastal News would like to wish everyone all the best for the Christmas Holidays and we hope you have an enjoyable break.

Our first publication in the New Year will be on January 25. Our office will reopen on Monday January 15.

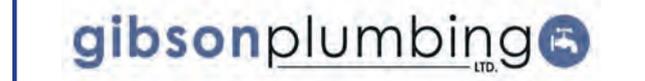
See you next year.



Photographer Manouchehr kia



To Good Health & Best Wishes for 2024  
David, Ann and Ben





# 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 21st December.

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

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



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## Arthur Gilmour

I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the articles by Natasha McKinney of the WW1 letters of Corporal Arthur J. Gilmour.

I am ex-military myself and it was a joy to read about the tribulations and conditions that soldiers endured in the war trenches, and very interesting.

I was saddened to hear that he perished in war and my heart went out to his family, even though they may no longer be with us.

Thank you all at the Opunake and Coastal News and to Natasha for all the work and research... and to the family, for allowing these intimate thoughts to be



Arthur Gilmour

shared

Y.B. Manaia

## Ever heard of the Tate family

I was introduced to them recently.

There is the head of the family, Dictate who wants to run everything, there's

Uncle Rotate tries to change everything around and his sister Agitate who likes stirring things up whenever she can. Nephew Irritate always rubs people up the wrong way and nieces Hesitate and Vegetate pour cold water on every

proposal. Then there's Aunt Imitate who is all for trying something new just because someone else is doing it. And, of course cousin Devastate will always throw a spanner in the works.

You are sure to know the Tate family for they sit on every committee, live in every street, join every club, travel in every bus, work in every type of job.

Watch you don't become one of them!

## ADELPHOS

# Two sides of the coin: a Christmas narrative

A friend recently gave me a blackened 1896 New Zealand penny, with Queen Victoria and some Latin words on one side and Britannia on the other. It's not worth much, unless I time-travelled forward one thousand years. Maybe?

Then I remembered an old custom; I overheard my grandmother once mention to my mother, of putting coins on a dead person's eyes. And in New Zealand pennies were popular because of their size.

Apparently, the custom dates back to pre-Christian times. They were to ensure Charon was paid for ferrying

the dead across the river Styx into the underworld.

But I think that in olden times, coins were used more for the practical reason of keeping the eyes closed against rigor mortis. It got me thinking about coins and their two sides: two ways of viewing things.

We are reminded, even in these strongly secular times, that Christmas is the time we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Some reading this may be aware of the two sides of the coin when it comes to His birth. Commonly known as the Massacre of the Innocents (Slaughter). It occurred soon after the birth

of Jesus, when the three Wise Men failed to report back to King Herod about His birth:

"When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi" (Matthew 2:16-18, NIV).

How tragic! Likewise, watching the news on television has been gut-wrenching. Now, day after day, we are subjected to seeing the bodies and suffering of children in the war that rages between Hamas in Gaza and Israel.

Two sides of the coin: the Christmas narrative reminds

us that God's kingdom was historically birthed in the midst of both joy and tragedy.

Many people believe that God is ultimately responsible for suffering in our world. It was King Herod, not God, who ordered the massacre of the Jewish babies. Likewise, today, in the Middle East and Ukraine it is people rebelling against God who cause wars and ongoing human suffering. Something to think about.

The Jesus of Christmas was God's gift to the world. It's a gift that's meant to live within our hearts and to be freely given away to others through our lives.

Meri Kirihiemete.

Adelphos

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# TSB building for sale, no plan to gift to the community say council

Reaction to the South Taranaki Council indicating it would not be interested in gifting the TSB building in Opunake to the community pointing out they do not own it and that the Council has no plans to purchase the building, was one of disappointment at the last Opunake Business Association meeting in early December.

An approach was made by members of the Opunake Business Association to the South Taranaki mayor Phil Nixon to see if the building in the town square could be retained as a community asset.

The TSB branch was closed at the end of September amid protests from the local community which followed the decision to close the remaining bank in the town.

It was hoped that the building, now on the market, could be retained as a community asset but for this to happen the building would have to be bought off the TSB by the South Taranaki District Council.

At the recent Opunake Business Association meeting the future of the TSB building and the ATM machine which is still installed in the front of



The TSB bank for many years, now empty.

the building was discussed. The ATM machine still gives the public 24 hour, 7 day access to the public.

The Banking Hub which is housed in Library Plus nearby being touted as an alternative to the bank however does not. It is only available when Library Plus is open and cannot be accessed other times which is a concern over the Christmas holiday time. Whilst the ATM machine allows people to withdraw cash, people cannot deposit cash.

There is the ability to deposit cash in the form of both notes and coin and to

withdraw money in notes, but not coin in the Hub.

Concerns were also raised that the ATM machine could run out of money over the Christmas Holiday period.

The fact that the TSB ATM machine is only available to New Zealanders and not to overseas tourists was also pointed out at the Business Association meeting.

Having a cash float continues to be a problem for Opunake business people along with no longer being able to deposit cash.

Hawera, over 40 kilometres away, is now Opunake's closest bank.

An interesting aside is that the film, Bank of Dave, about disgruntled locals in Burnley, Australia opening their own community bank was screened at Everybodys Theatre earlier this year. The film is based on the true story of businessman Dave Fishwick who wanted to open his own bank to support Burnley locals during a period of economic strife. A successful minivan dealerships owner, Fishwick would eventually open Burnley Savings and Loans, in Sept.24 Jan 20 Perhaps the film could have a return showing.



The former TSB building and the area known as the TSB square, where many community events take place.



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## STDC MAYOR'S MESSAGE

## A Merry Christmas from the Mayor

As we hurtle rapidly towards the end of the year it's timely to reflect on the past 12 months.

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2023 has certainly had its challenges right from the start with cyclones hitting the country in January and February. Here in Taranaki we were lucky compared to the devastation on the East Coast when Cyclone Gabrielle struck. My heart went out to those communities who suffered such devastation and for those still suffering the ongoing effects.

In South Taranaki we made good progress on many projects during the year. It has been great to see Te Ramanui Ruapūtahanga (the district's new Library, Culture and Arts Centre) progress in central Hāwera.

We hope it will open around spring next year, and we will finally be able to open Te Ranganuku Road (the new part of Nukumarū Station Road) early in 2024.

The new business enterprise hub and co-working space Te W'anake/The Foundry was opened, and the South Taranaki Business Park progressed into stage two of its development.

In addition, co-design teams had been established, and draft plans developed for the Waverley, Ōpunakē, and Eltham town centre upgrades, and the new architecturally designed building at Aotea Utanganui – Museum of South Taranaki in Pātea was completed.

There is a lot of continued interest in green energy with several players interested in establishing both offshore and onshore wind farms as well as interest in the establishment of more solar farms. There really is a lot going on in South Taranaki and the future is looking very promising.



Mayor Phil Nixon hitched a ride with Santa at the Eltham Christmas Parade.

We are now looking at what changes are going to happen with the new government now in place. This is causing us a little uncertainty as we develop our 2024-2034 Long Term Plan as we know there will be change but we don't quite know exactly what the changes will look like.

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

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. 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.

Phil Nixon,

Mayor of South Taranaki

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.

I wish everyone a  
Happy Christmas and all the  
very best for 2024.



Cr. Max Brough,  
Councillor-at-large  
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# Kaponga keeps carolling on

Carol singing at Christmas has traditionally been a community event and that tradition is thriving in Kaponga.

There was a full house at the Kaponga Town Hall on Sunday night for the annual Carols for Christmas. It soon became obvious that not enough chairs had been put out and more had to be brought in. One or two locals spoken to by the Opunake and Coastal News said that they were pleased with the turnout but in some years they had even more people turn up, saying that perhaps the wet weather might have been a factor.

The two churches in Kaponga, St John's Co-Operating and St Patricks Catholic take turns at hosting a Christmas event. This year it was St Johns' turn.

Leading the evening was the Rev Paul Bowers Mason, the Anglican missionary based in Stratford. The evening began with a video of children acting out the Christmas story. There were items presented by the choirs of the two schools in Kaponga, Kaponga Primary and St Patricks, as well as a chance for the audience to exercise their vocal chords singing some old time favourites.

Paul spoke about the message the angels brought to the shepherds at the first Christmas of "Glory to God in the highest, Peace on earth, Good Will to All."

"Peace and good will you may notice is in short supply today," said Paul. "Even the town of Bethlehem is in one of these war zones in the area known as the West Bank."

He noted that the Good Will, Peace on Earth message had been adopted by the community at Parihaka and posed the challenge of what we are doing today to



From left. Margrit Gut, Wynne and Paul Bowers Mason entertain.

promote that message.

He noted the words of Leo Tolstoy.

"Everyone wants to change the world but nobody wants to change themselves."

Paul is perhaps better known as one half of the Mason Brothers musical duo with his brother Wayne. Together with his wife Wynne, who is also an Anglican minister and singer Paul presented a couple of musical items.

Paul and Wynne share both

a Christian faith and a love of music.

"We met through university and the Christian Fellowship," said Paul. "We did a little bit of singing together and we sang part of our vows together."

They have been ministers for the last 12 years. They took up their current role two years ago which involves being based in Stratford and looking after surrounding areas like Eltham, Kaponga, Manaia and Opunake.

Paul is no stranger to the Kaponga area and remembers childhood visits to an uncle at Mahoe.

He still occasionally performs with his brother Wayne in the Mason Brothers. Wayne who is 74 has been performing in bands for the last 60 years.

"Next year I promised Wayne that we will be back on the road," says Paul.



The choir from Kaponga Primary School performed a number of items as did the choir from St Patrick's School.

Wishing everyone a very  
**Merry Christmas and all the best  
for the New Year.**  
We are closed for the statutory  
holidays, but are open Christmas Eve.




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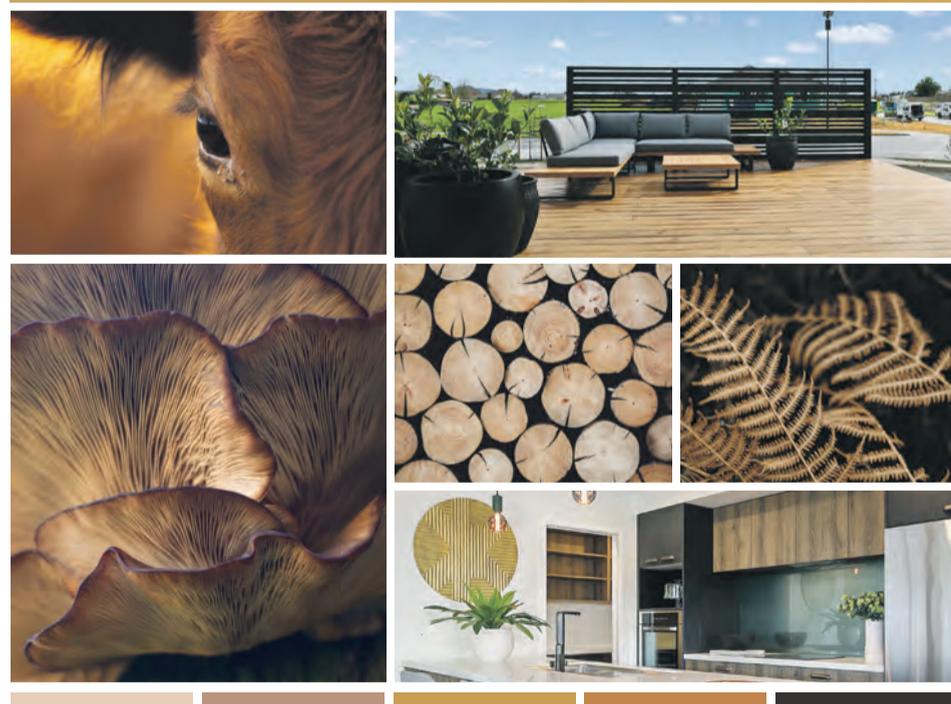
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## OPUNAKE FIRE SERVICE

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. So far this year we have attended 55 callouts, and these were made up of 12 medicals, 13 MVAs (motor vehicle accidents) and 14 fire related calls. 2023 has been a busy year with training. Being involved with the brigade is not just jumping on the truck and responding, there is a lot of commitment too with training and courses that go on behind the scenes. The courses that some of our fire fighters attend can last up to seven days, with preparation for these starting several months before. Over the last 12 months we have had three people attend their recruit fire fighter course, three attend



**A recent exercise extracting patients from a crashed car.**

a senior fire fighter course, three attend a motor vehicle accident course, and four attend a first aid course. One person attended a pump operator course, two are obtaining their class 2 licences in preparation to become emergency response drivers and one attended a preliminary station officer course.

Although we have an open fire season at the moment and ground moisture levels are high, that could easily change as we get into January. If you are thinking about putting a match to that pile of rubbish on the farm, a good web site to go to is "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. Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year! If you have been thinking of joining the fire brigade, then make that your New Year's resolution and we'll see you in 2024.

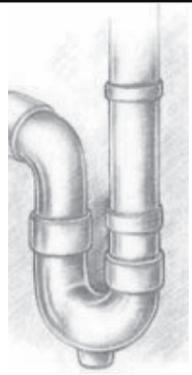
*Andrew Pentelow (CFO)*

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## Christmas message from the police to stay sober if driving



**Constables Chloe Ashton (Hawera Police) and Brad Coad (Opunake Police).**

With the Christmas party season in full swing and people planning other

gatherings over the summer months, we are reminding everyone to plan their travel, and if driving to events, to make sure there is a

designated driver organised and that they stay sober.

We are urging drivers not to drink any amount of alcohol before getting behind the

wheel and also encouraging family and friends to speak out to stop a friend or loved one from drink driving.

We want everyone to enjoy this holiday season and get home safely every day. Yet there are still people choosing to put their own life and the lives of others at risk by drink driving.

Even small amounts of alcohol increase your risk of crashing, so even if you feel okay after a drink, the reality is that if you get behind the wheel you're putting yourself and others in needless danger. Alcohol also makes it impossible for drivers to assess their own impairment because it creates a false sense of confidence and means drivers are more inclined to take risks and believe they are in control when they're not.

*Continued on page 7*

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

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# Christmas message from the police to stay sober if driving

- Never drink any amount of alcohol if you're driving
  - It takes time for alcohol to leave your system. If you have to drive early in the morning, don't drink the night before.
  - Plan ahead and make sure you can get home safely by using public transport, booking a taxi/ rideshare, or having a sober driver who sticks to soft drinks. Don't accept a lift from someone who's been drinking.
  - Take responsibility for others: never buy a drink for someone who is driving, speak out to friends who plan to drink and drive, and if you're hosting a party help your guests to plan a safe way home before the party starts
- Every driver is responsible for obeying the law, driving safely and avoiding behaviour which puts



## Remain sober and safe when driving this summer.

themselves or others at risk. With summer in full swing, many people are contemplating taking their road trip to the beach. We are lucky enough to have one of the few beaches across the country where vehicles are permitted but there are a few in the community who are at risk of ruining this for everyone.

Most importantly we want everyone to know that the beach is considered a road, and therefore the same rules and regulations apply. Because of this vehicles on the beach need to be safe and roadworthy with a current warrant of fitness and drivers need to be appropriately licensed, wearing seatbelts and not under the influence

of alcohol. One trend we often see is the increase of dangerous driving behaviour including burnouts and reckless manner of driving. We encourage everyone who witnesses behaviour like this to give us a call and if possible video the behaviour or take note of vehicle registrations so that drivers can be held accountable. Behaviour like this can result in a loss of licence, the vehicle being impounded and a trip to court. Lets not allow a small group of people ruin an awesome benefit we have locally and put other beachgoers safety at risk. Lets also not forget to keep our speed at legal and appropriate levels when out travelling. Our area is surrounded with 100kmph roads however people seem

to forget that this is not a target, but it is a limit. There will be an increased presence on the roads over the summer period and if you are going to exceed the speed limit then don't be surprised if you are stopped and on the receiving end of a ticket.

A big thank you to The Wave Church for the food bags we are able to give to families and everyone else who has supported us throughout the year! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Chloe and Brad

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# Are your firearms safe and secure?

"Getting ready to head away for holidays can be a stressful time", says Mike McIlraith, Director of Partnerships for Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority.



Mike McIlraith who advocates safety with firearms.

"However, it's important to take time to consider how firearms and ammunition will be transported, stored, and used safely during your holidays. If you're looking to travel with firearms, or you'll be leaving them at home while you're away, now is a good time to start thinking about logistics, before heading off on that well-earned summer break. Here are a few top safety and security tips to have in mind over your holidays":

1. Travelling with firearms:
  - Firearms can never be left in a vehicle overnight. So, if you pack the vehicle the night before, for an early start in the morning, make sure you leave time and space, and pack your firearm just before you travel.
  - Firearms must be transported out of sight. Dedicate a spot in the vehicle where they can't be seen if someone looks through the window.
  - Firearms must either be inoperable (bolt out or trigger lock in) or in a locked container when travelling. Do both where you can.
  - Ammunition must be transported separately to the firearm, and in a locked container if practical. This will make it more difficult to access both the firearm and ammunition if someone breaks into your vehicle.
  - Firearms can only be left unattended in a locked vehicle for 60 minutes (while you're nearby). So, plan your meal and rest breaks

accordingly.

2. Storing firearms so they don't get into the wrong hands:

- Think about what you'll do with your firearm once you get to your holiday destination.

If you're staying with friends and family who own firearms, ask to use their storage.

- If you use a regular hut or bach, install a gun safe, a firearm rack or secure cable system.



This man is taking firearms safety very seriously.

- Steel cables and padlocks can help secure your firearm to the framing of a building, pipes or built in furniture.
- Store vital parts and ammunition separately to your firearm.

3. Keeping firearms safe and secure at home while you're away:

- Make your firearms and ammunition storage even more secure while you're away. Take the keys with you, cover up gun safes and ammunition storage - so they're not easily visible. Hide other valuable items like tools or electronics (thieves may start off looking for one thing and leave with your firearms instead).
- If you're heading away for an extended period think about the security of your firearms. Consider installing an alarm, security cameras or sensor lights.
- Put things in place to make

Turn to page 8

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# Are your firearms safe and secure?

Continued from page 7

it look like you're home e.g. arrange for someone to mow your lawn and collect the mail, have internal lights on a timer.

- Considering registering your firearms before you go on holiday. If you do get burgled and your firearms are stolen, the Registry will provide an accurate picture

of which firearms were taken.

4. Alcohol and firearms:

- Many of us like to have a few drinks over the Christmas holidays. It's important to remember though, that alcohol and firearms don't mix.

- If you want to have a drink when you get back from a hunt, lock your firearms up first. Gears before

beers can stop an accident!

- If you've had a few beers and there's a possum in the tree or a rabbit in the paddock it will probably still be there tomorrow. It's not worth risking something going wrong.

Add safety to your essential summer reading list

Te Tari Pūreke has recently overhauled and republished the Firearms Safety Code,

replacing NZ Police's Arms Code from 2013.

The Firearms Safety Code is as important to New Zealand's 230,000 firearms licence holders, as the Road Code is to New Zealand drivers.

Understanding the Code is essential for anyone to safely possess and use firearms and for those wanting to get their

firearms licence.

The Code provides guidance around the seven rules of firearm safety along with practical examples, photographs and diagrams. It also outlines licence holders' legal obligations, states of readiness, prepping a firearm for use, safe practices during transport, storage, and handling, as well as safety equipment and first aid. The

Code is also now available in te reo Māori.

To brush up on your firearms safety over the summer holidays, you can download a copy free from [firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz](http://firearmsafetyauthority.govt.nz). Or pick one up from any good bookstore, specialist retailer like Gun City, online retailer like Fish Pond or from your local library.

**RIGHT:**

An historic oak tree in Okato with a most intriguing history. See page 15.

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## Deep brain stimulation could help traumatic brain injury

Deep brain stimulation could help restore brain function in patients who have experienced traumatic brain injury, according to a small study of five people.

International researchers surgically implanted electrodes into specific areas

of the thalamus – the brain's relay station – using imaging techniques that helped predict which circuits in the brain weren't activating properly.

The team then applied deep brain stimulation to the circuits using the electrodes

and found that when participants took tests that measured attention, speed and mental flexibility, spatial organisation, visual pursuits, recall, and recognition, their processing speeds improved by between 15% and 25%.

They also found no adverse reactions in this study, and

while larger studies are needed, the results provide preliminary evidence that deep brain stimulation might improve function in people who have experienced disability from a brain injury.

*Nature Medicine*

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Member

# New caterers for Opunake Events Centre

There's a new restaurant in town! Well not quite... The Opunake Sports and Recreation Trust would like to welcome Steve and Fiona from Roberts Tribe & Co. as the new caterers at the Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Events Centre.

The two business partners hail from Stratford and are no strangers to the hospitality industry. Steve and Fiona currently run the TET Stadium in Stratford and were looking for an opportunity to expand their hospitality business.

"Fiona and I had a really good conversation about where we see our business heading, and what our future may look like," Steve says. "When the opportunity came up at the Event Centre, we came out and met with the facility managers and its trustees, and we really liked what we saw."

Steve and Fiona have been successfully running the TET Stadium for seven years and have a team of twelve staff. The bistro is open seven days a week there, and they're hoping to operate four days a week in Opunake and expand further in the future.

Opunake Sports and Recreation Trust Chairman Peter Burnnand says that they will be a great fit for the community. "We have been on the hunt for a caterer that is available to our stakeholders, sports nights, and to the community. There's no other place on the coast that can offer a family friendly



From left, Peter Burnnand, Fiona and Steve Roberts.

restaurant space that the Rec can. It's a great spot!"

The Opunake community has already been enjoying the taste of Roberts Tribe & Co.'s food as they have previously catered for Opunake High School and the Taranaki National Arts Awards and have the bistro open during sports nights. "The feedback overall so far, has been positive," says Fiona. "We're always looking at ways to improve our service and welcome any feedback."

Like most other business owners in the hospitality industry, Roberts Tribe & Co. had to get creative in Stratford during the Covid 19 lockdowns. Steve developed an Uber Eats delivery service with a twist. "We

thought because you can't dine in, why don't we bring the dine in experience to you, so we offered to deliver beer or wine with any meal order." We're still offering that now as it has been such a hit in the Stratford community, and we're looking at doing that out here if the Opunake as well as a few new things!"

Steve and Fiona are still on the hunt for a local chef, so bistro hours in Opunake are varied at this stage, but they are taking event and catering bookings. Roberts Tribe and Co., along with the support

of The Opunake Sports and Recreation Trust are looking at an opening evening with live music, nibbles, and drinks in the New Year. They're also looking at hosting a whānau or family fun day toward the end of summer.

The Opunake Sports and Recreation Trust will hold their AGM on 11 December 2023 at 6pm at the Event Centre. If you would like to get involved with what happens in the community, then please come along. All welcome!



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## Highlighting the potential of honey for animals

A scientific literature review from AgResearch has highlighted the potential of Mānuka honey as rongoā (traditional Māori medicine) in the context of animal health.

Authors of the study say that there is good supporting peer-reviewed literature for

the antibacterial properties of Mānuka honey to prevent and/or manage infections, and some supporting evidence for wound healing in livestock and companion animal species.

Studies in rodents and in cells have also indicated that Mānuka honey has potential to improve digestion and

alleviate inflammation, and well as potential productivity effects such as increased milk yield.

The review highlights that the overall evidence base is limited and stresses the need for more studies and randomised clinical trials to support the growth and development of Mānuka

honey-based enterprises. *NZ Journal of Agricultural Research*



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# Academic addresses tobacco and vaping issues

Before it was announced our smokefree laws were being repealed, New Zealand ranked second in the Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index survey of 90 countries, which rates countries on their response to tobacco industry interference.

The smokefree law repeal stunned public health experts, who say the evidence is against the move. Science Media asked Professor Peter Adams, School of Population Health, University of Auckland, to comment:

How does the tobacco industry influence politicians in New Zealand?

“With our tobacco rates dropping quite significantly over the last 10 years, our anti-smoking efforts have been a huge success, I think. The denicotinisation and the reduction in the number of outlets are an important part of trying to move that almost to the endpoint of zero smoking. Public health experts didn’t really



Items to be avoided for the sake of our good health.

anticipate such a complete reversal on that plan now. But from my point of view, it signals that tobacco industry relationship building has been quite successful.

“The trouble with studying these areas, the relationship forming part of things, is that it’s very hard to have concrete evidence of what’s going on and how those relationships are forming. And that’s been a big part of what we’ve been trying

to do, is to begin to shed some light on the informal relationship building practices of industries.

“What isn’t happening is the industry trying to push their issues - what they’re trying to push is building comfortable relationships. A lot of the behaviour around gifting and donations and lobbying is aimed at forming collegial relationships, where there’s an understanding between the two parties in the form

of a friendship, where both parties know what’s meant to happen, there doesn’t need to be any pressure involved. It’s a comfortable relationship that’s formed over a long period of time through multiple exposures and through different forms of ‘no pressure’ contact.

“I think we in public health are doing it wrong, because we think that if we can get hold of a politician and pressure them as much as possible, with our persuasion and our evidence, they will do things differently. But all that achieves is that the public health advocate will be seen as a screaming skull, who is not someone you want to go to dinner with.

“Tax and availability are the two big drivers for change. With alcohol and other unhealthy products, they’ve avoided doing that. So, we haven’t seen a lot of change. But with tobacco, we have imposed tax and restricted availability, and had a spectacular change in people’s engagement in the product. It highlights how important effective measures

are, rather than just education and awareness. Now there’s talk about going back to the ineffective strategies of education and awareness, which is really worrying - but it also speaks to perhaps industry having a degree of increased influence.”

How has vaping changed the level of influence tobacco industries have?

“Up until vaping took off, the public health researchers and public health advocates were quite clear that there should be no industry links going on. It’s not like that with gambling and alcohol, but it’s been very clear with tobacco. So, vaping has complicated that because it’s seen as a cessation tool, or seen as a much cleaner alternative.

“I must admit that I’m dubious about the long term with vaping because it’s still an addictive product, and people with addictions will consume much more. So, the potential for profits is very high, which gives both the capacity and the incentive for industry to protect that patch.

“I think is a bit of a dangerous game that’s being played now. Everyone’s starting to realise how potent addictive behaviour is and how profits are kind of unlimited. Just as we saw with BZP and the spread of party pill shops very quickly when there was liberal legislation. So, it is a worry that the tobacco industry has moved back into the vaping space very strongly. They are going to be making long term, big profits that they can deploy into political influence strategies. All addictive consumption industries do this, but tobacco has really refined those strategies.

They’ve been the largest group on the block for the longest. Even though more recently, in high income countries they’ve been less successful, they’re still pretty successful in low and middle income countries.”

Science Media



## Opunake Medical

The team at Opunake Medical wish to thank the community for their ongoing support. Primary care is under huge pressure with additional workload and resource limitations and the patience and support of our community is really appreciated.

### In brief:

- We have recently completed a transition to a new computer system which is designed to improve the care we can provide our community. The transition has not been without its stress, but the team have put a huge effort in and are getting up to speed with this. This includes a new and easier to use patient portal providing you access to lab results, repeat prescriptions and other clinical information from your cellphone or computer – if you wish to inquire about this free service, please contact the clinic.
- We would like to provide a warm welcome to PA Kelsey Pruitt who joins us as a Physicians Associate from Washington State, USA. She comes with an incredible skillset in General Practice care and has proved herself a real asset to the Opunake Medical team already. Kelsey works as a critical part of our comprehensive care team seeing a wide range of patients with our medical team.

Coming into Christmas we will have reduced hours over the Christmas and New year’s period and it is recommended that patients look ahead and plan for the festive season.

(Please note hours for 27th-29th December are 9:00am-2:00pm and acute on day appointments only). Arranging your medication prescriptions (processing of scripts takes 48 hours) and booking any appointments you require in preparation is recommended.

Finally, we wish to thank the amazing Opunake community once again for their ongoing support and wish everyone a happy and healthy festive and summer period.

Nga mihi, Opunake Medical

Happy  
Holidays

# Les Forsyth fondly remembered

He once organised for me to go up in a top dressing plane. He also, I discovered, as a young man had built the house in Opunake bought by our mother when I was overseas for some years and which for many years became a family home.

He was also a wonderful ambassador for FBT for whom he worked as a sales representative travelling round Taranaki calling in on customers.

Kind, friendly and fun, he began as an advertiser but traversed that nebulous territory between client and acquaintance. He became a friend.

I'm talking about Les Forsyth who sadly passed away recently at the age of 78.

Born in Hawera to Emily and Les Forsyth, the first year of his life was spent at Taikatu Road, Otakeho where his parents were sharemilking after which the family moved to the family farm in Nopera Road, Pihama.

The eldest of five siblings, Les attended Pihama Primary School and then Opunake High School where he was in the academic class and



Les Forsyth.

got fully involved in sports like cross-country, swimming, tennis and rugby. He left High School at the age of 15 to help run the family farm after his father suffered

a heart attack. His lifelong love was rugby and he played and coached both for Opunake and Stratford. He was well suited to his chosen position of half

back, not just because of his size but, commented his youngest daughter Deidre, he knew how to talk both on and off the field. His brother Graeme remembers they always worried if they got a ride to practice or games with Dad as he would always hold them up getting home by analysing the games with the coaches.

Married to Sue for 25 years, the mother of his three children, the family lived in Stratford. As with everything in his life he did an amazing job as a father, recalls Deidre. He was a firm but fair father, she says adding a clip around the ear or a boot up the bum were occasionally administered to keep them in line.

His son Craig, recalling fond memories of growing up in Stratford and helping his father with chores, says his Dad took an active interest in his sporting fixtures and would take him to sports practices and weekend events - telling me what I did well and where I could improve. He was driven all around the North Island for his cycling by his father. At school, Les was always helping out with working bees, fundraisers such as galas and camps. Unusually Craig said Dad cut his hair until his teens but kept it pretty basic. Les subsequently moved to New Plymouth - a surprise to all as he was at heart a country lad - marrying his second wife Jan. The marriage was short lived, Jan passing away in 2004. With his partner Lorraine, they spent happy years together, a trip overseas being a highlight when he was able to connect with his family roots in Scotland and meet relatives from all over.

Les's skill at being able to

try his hand at anything and do it well always amazed me, said Deidre. He could build, plaster, block lay, paint and garden just to name a few of his many talents. Block layer/plasterer was his first job off the farm. He then went into insurance work and then into aerial topdressing as a loader driver and then as a sales representative for FBT, his final job before retiring. It was a job that fitted his temperament and which he loved, solving the problems of the world with the many farmers he visited and the occasional newspaper editor.

A proud man, he was a stickler for things being tidy and in order and lord help you if you messed with his systems, said Deidre. I remember hearing many stories over the years of Dad's possessions being borrowed, carefully placed back in the exact same place and he still somehow knew someone had touched them, says Deidre, herself guilty of using his tools and being found out despite returning them perfectly she thought.

Les took much pride in his garden even while his health began to fail. Hedges and shrubs had to be perfectly trimmed.

A family man, Les enjoyed

gathering together for family events like birthdays, Christmas and Guy Fawkes at the home farm.

A grandchild Mason recalls last Christmas when his grandfather thought he could master his hoverboard... but failed. It threw him off onto concrete but he was OK. It was one skill among his many Les did not acquire. A little known one however was his prowess on the piano which Lorraine only learned of in later years. When younger he would play at dances around Opunake.

I will miss the stimulating talks over many a coffee round the coast, your friendship, your humanity. And your practical help when my property was flooded and, spade in hand you set about digging a trench along the property to divert the water. It was typical of someone who, while a great talker could also give practical help where needed. Just one of many fond memories.

Our thoughts go out to Lorraine, and his three children Craig, Karen and Deidre, his extended family and his many friends.

We are among the many who will miss you, Les.

Compiled by the editor and the family of Les Forsyth.



Les surrounded by his grandchildren.

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# Okato Christmas parade is "brilliant"

As the 2023 Okato Christmas Parade (hosted by the Okato Community Church) rumbled past on Saturday December 2, one onlooker had just one word for the spectacle "brilliant." Louise added, "We come here every year and have for the past fifteen years." She was accompanied by

Hamish and Sparkles (their black dog). The parade set off at 6.30pm from the south part of Carthew Street, heading north, led by Matt Stone in his police car - making full use of his siren and flashing lights. Close behind was a cohort of bagpipers and drummers with Scotland the



The Okato Christmas parade always draws a crowd.

Animals featured, both in the parade and also in the crowd. One little dog had a figure of Santa on its back, as well as other Christmas decorations. The floats - all of which were creatively ornate and brilliant - included Okato Swimming Club, New Plymouth Square Dancers St Patrick's Church, Coastal Young Farmers, Okato Veterinary Clinic, the Life Education Trust, Coastal Taranaki School, Okato Lions, Stepping Stones, Okato Playcentre, Horses Helping Humans, Okato Community Church, Clyde Bishop Tractors, Fonterra, Interior Design Living Stratford and New Plymouth Hotrodder - to mention just a selection. On festive display were balloons, streamers, decorations, Christian messages (Jesus is the reason for the season), music such as one of my favourites Jingle Bell Rock (Coastal Taranaki School) and complimentary lollies. Great effort by all the people involved in the organisation and floats. Well done all of you. "We are grateful for a generous donation each year from the Okato Vets and thankful for the volunteers who give up their time to help us run this event," commented Joy Burmeister of the Okato Community Church.

*Rolland McKellar*

Brave the rousing opening tune. Two circuits of the town were completed. Next, was Glenys Putt in

depicted by a mask) waving royally. The inscription on an attached poster read Remembering those who

certainly the most vocal was a five-year-old boy who called out, "Have a merry Christmas pie," as each float went by - or at least that was what it sounded like. What Braxton was actually saying, when I checked with his mother Anna was, Have a merry Christmas, 'bye (as in goodbye). Bram, Anna and Braxton Hendrix of Rahotu were certainly enjoying themselves. "We come here every year," Bram explained. He said it was "on a par" with other years. Doing a great job keeping everything orderly and safe were the Maori Wardens and the Okato Lions with assistance from the Okato Volunteer Fire Brigade. One float highlight was Santa who was waving vigorously to the huge crowd lining Carthew Street.



The Okato Lions.

footman attire, on board her horse and wagon, pulled by her two Clydesdale horses. Sitting in the back was 'Queen Elizabeth' (as

have passed - a reminder of those who have died this year. Perhaps the most enthusiastic onlooker and



No show without Santa.



Enjoying a day at the parade.



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# A fairy tale Christmas for Eltham

The crowds, floats and fairy tale characters as well as good weather were all at the annual Eltham Christmas Parade. The parade, held on Friday night (December 8) was organised by the Eltham Lions Club and sponsored by the Eltham Business Association. Every year there is a different theme and this year organisers decided on a Fairy Tale theme.

“All the kids are into that,” said Eltham Lions president Llew Eynon. “We’ve been lucky with the weather. Last year it wasn’t so nice. We’ve had a great response from the schools. There’s quite a few stalls and good support from the locals.”

There were about 20 floats officially entered as well as others who had decided to join in, “which usually happens.”

While other local Lions clubs



Four year and a half year-old Xavier Evans-Page with father Jonathon Page admires Girl and Pip before the start of the Eltham Parade.

Christmas Parade with face painting at Bridger Park. Llew said they were grateful to the Council for the use of the park. It’s a venue of

Centenary project. As floats assembled at Stanners Street four-and-a-half year-old Xavier Evans-Page who was about to

a ride through the streets of Eltham courtesy of Brian.

Huia Brown programme co-ordinator for the Eltham Youth and Development Centre said this was the first time they had put a float in.

“We weren’t able to operate for a while but this year we are making our comeback, so we are here playing on Shrek,” she said.

The Eltham, Ngaere and Rawhitiroa schools were all represented. Royal Enfield motorbike enthusiasts Mark Bellringer of Eltham and Jo Pullar of Opunake were both there with their bikes.

“I own two at the moment, but I’ve had three or four of them,” says Mark.

Early last month he had been at the Mid-Year Rally at Whangamomona where 40-50 bikes had turned up. He said he would have liked to have seen more Royal Enfield riders there for the



The dragon.

marked World Children’s Day on November 25, the Eltham Club had decided to do so alongside the

which they are familiar, having done a lot of work there as part of a Lions

help out with the Eclecterri dragon entry could be seen admiring Janine and Brian Frost-Jones’s two Jack Terrier crosses Girl and Pip, who were about to be given



Carly Whitehead on Diesel with mother Sarah was at the parade with the Eltham Pony Club.



Fairy tales were this year’s Christmas theme.

parade. One club that was there in force was the Eltham Pony Club. Head coach Julie Roberts said they had 25 members there and they always make a point of entering.

Four year-old Carly Whitehead was dressed as Belle from Beauty and the Beast and riding Diesel. This was her second year in the club.

A Highland Pipe Band led the parade into Bridge Street where an enthusiastic crowd

lined the street known as the first in New Zealand to be tar sealed. Joining the floats were fire engines, trucks and vintage tractors. As with any Santa Parade the man in the red suit took up the rear, this time riding in a vintage fire truck accompanied by South Taranaki mayor Phil Nixon who had earlier judged the floats. From Bridge Street it was on to High Street, London Street and York Street, ending the parade for another year.

**“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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# Book launch blends fiction and genealogical history

On Saturday December 2 was the launch of Lesley Dowding's fourth book entitled *Home Before the Acorns Fall*. The event was held at St Paul's Church hall in Okato (almost) under the branches of a historic oak tree (planted as an acorn in 1919 by Vera Putt). This book outlines the love, bravery and Christian faith between London-born Vera and Clyde Putt, from New Zealand, a World War 1 soldier. Their chance meeting leads to marriage and life in Okato, as well as the growth of a historic oak tree which results from Vera planting a London acorn she uplifted. Complemented by Brenda Cash' superb watercolour illustrations, the story encompasses marital harmony, two continents, two World Wars, one acorn and a century old oak tree.

The well-organised launch was attended by about forty people, including descendants of Vera and Clyde, after thanking Mike Gordon, one of Taranaki's foremost entertainers. He sang a dozen songs, mostly from the 1940s, such as *As Time Goes By*, *When You're Smiling* and the Dame Vera Lynn war-time classic *The White Cliffs of Dover*. He expertly accompanied himself on keyboard. Mike's performance was outstanding from all points of view. "I'm singing all the oldest songs I've got," he



Brenda Cash (illustrator) on the left and author Lesley Dowding with their book *Home Before Acorns Fall*

quipped. Lesley Dowding welcomed everyone, notably the descendants of Vera and Clyde, after thanking Mike for his musical performance, which she described as "delicious." She explained the genealogical underpinning of her book, which is "part fiction and part fact." She outlined how Vera (1900-1976) and Clyde (1892-1964) met, while he was a soldier in the UK and how she uplifted a London acorn which she subsequently planted just outside St Paul's Church in 1919, soon after World



The historic oak tree which was the result of a London acorn planted in 1919 by Vera Putt.

War 1 ended. The couple attended the church all their

married life. One son Merv, with his wife Iris, attended St Paul's all their married life. At the back of the book are the words of *Abide With Me*, his favourite hymn. Lesley paid tribute to the illustrator of the book Brenda Cash for her "outstanding watercolour pictures. She has really created them so beautifully." Several of the descendants spoke, including Glenys Putt who recalled her time with Vera, her grandmother. One memory was removing house cow pats from the paddock and recalling that



Cake cutting. From left Graeme Putt, Glenys Putt, Matt Putt and Lesley Dowding.

Continued on page 15

Merry Christmas to all our customers and all the best for the New Year.

We will be closed from the 25th Dec to the 27th. Open 28th Dec to 31st Dec. Closed 1st to the 3rd Jan 2024



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# Book launch blends fiction and genealogical history

Continued from page 14

Vera would be at the ready with her wheelbarrow, to help.

Another speaker was Graeme Putt, a brother of Glenys.

"I'm pleased Lesley has

written this story and captured these memories in her book. It is to be treasured," he enthused.

Another person who shared his memories was Fraser Putt, Graeme's son.

Over a delicious afternoon

tea, people chatted while Lesley and Brenda signed copies of the book, which has been described as "sophisticated." Apart from the brilliant illustrations and evocative writing, there are many intriguing

photographs at the front and back of the book. There is also a QR code so you can listen to the audio version, which is accompanied by music relevant to the times. The book is published by Lighthouse Publishing 2023

and printed by Graphix, New Plymouth. You can contact Lesley at [lezley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lezley@xtra.co.nz) for copies of this unique book.

Books can also be bought from Poppies in King Street, New Plymouth, The Gables

Art Gallery in Brooklands Park, New Plymouth, Lysaght Watt Gallery, Union Street, Hawera, Percy Thomson Art Gallery in Stratford, The Emporium, Tasman Street, Opunake, as well as local Okato cafes.

## The Crewe Murders

That the Crewe Murders 50 years ago continue to spawn books means that New Zealand's biggest unsolved murder mystery still fascinates and intrigues.

Journalist Kirsty Johnston and James Hollings, an Associate Professor of Journalism at Massey University have just published a book, *The Crewe Murders – Inside New Zealand's most infamous cold case*, which reviews the tragic event.

Alas the mystery however still remains as to who decided on a winter's night in the little farming settlement of Pukekawa to dispatch the young couple leaving their 18 month toddler alone in a blood splattered house.

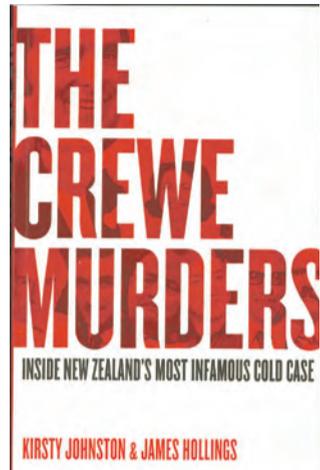
The book doesn't come up with who they think was the killer but, like the enquiry several years earlier requested by their orphaned daughter Rochelle of the police as

to who killed her parents, the book likewise excludes early suspects initially focussed on.

The original suspect was the father of Jeanette Crewe Len Demler who first came across the "terrible bloody mess", followed by the patently innocent Arthur Allan Thomas twice convicted by jury of the double murder and later pardoned after 9 years in prison.

Suggestions are made in the book by the authors as to who could perhaps fit the profile of someone sufficiently enraged to kill the young couple. A disgruntled employee, a local known to the couple, someone who had a deep grudge against the couple.

Sadly 50 years on many of the witnesses have passed on and the likelihood, saving a deathbed confession, as to who killed the young couple



KIRSTY JOHNSTON & JAMES HOLLINGS

may never be known.

Concerns about the police investigation is troubling and there were accusations of evidence being planted to make their suspect fit the crime.

Of the 64 guns collected from an 8km radius from the Crewe's property, only two fitted the forensics when the Waikato River eventually yielded their bodies some

weeks after the slayings.

One belonged to a neighbour who was quickly eliminated, the second to Arthur Allan Thomas to whom the police shifted their tunnel vision focus.

A series of incidents on the Crewe property prior to the murders are also discussed. These included a burglary, a fire in the Crewe's house and the burning down of a haybarn on the property which left Jeanette Crewe frightened to be alone in the house.

The book also reviews forensic evidence for the defence headed by Dr Jim Sprott and initiated by dogged Auckland Star journalist Pat Booth. Pat Vesey, uncle of Vivien Thomas Arthur's wife, who headed the retrial committee also earns our admiration.

It was all a long time ago yet the power police have



Harvey Crewe with daughter Rochelle.

and any suggestion of making evidence fit a suspect by those employed to uphold the law is a troubling scenario and raises concern that there are possibly further miscarriages of justice with cases like Scott Watson whose appeal against his

conviction for the murder of Ben Smart and Olivia Hope comes up next year.

Though the case may never be solved *The Crewe Murders* is an engrossing read with lessons perhaps to be learnt and still relevant today.

Editor

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# Latest rating valuations for Stratford

Stratford property owners will soon receive new three-yearly rating valuations in the post. Updated values have been prepared for all 5,434

properties in the district by independent valuers Quotable Value (QV) on behalf of Stratford District Council. They reflect the likely price a property would

have sold for on 1 August 2023, not including chattels. Since the district's last revaluation in 2020, the value of residential housing has increased by an average of 29.8%. The average house value is now at \$445,000, while the corresponding average land value has increased by 53.1% to a new average of \$195,000.

QV Taranaki manager Andrew Jaques said it had been a "rollercoaster" last three years for the property market, with record-low interest rates helping to drive significant value growth in 2021, before experiencing a long period of decline midway through 2022 towards the end of 2023.

"We've witnessed a strong increase in residential property value levels overall since our last revaluation in August in 2020. Though property values have softened over the past 18 months or so, they're not yet back to their pre-pandemic levels and only appear to be levelling out now," he said.

"Properties at the more affordable end of the ladder have seen the most competition from first-home buyers, who remain the most active group in the market today and have therefore experienced some of the largest average value



Stratford near the library and Percy Thomson Gallery.

increases since 2020 - especially in and around the Stratford township. Higher value residential properties are staying on the market and taking longer to sell."

The average capital value of an improved lifestyle property has increased by 38.8% to \$654,000, while the corresponding land value for a lifestyle property increased by 34.5% to \$329,000.

"Stratford's lifestyle market has seen strong growth since 2020. Demand continues to remain strong with its relatively low price point by national standards and when compared with neighbouring New Plymouth District lifestyle properties," Mr Jaques said.

Meanwhile, commercial property values have increased by 31.8% and property values in the industrial sector have increased by 34.0% since the district's last rating valuation in 2020. Commercial and industrial land values have also increased by 31.9%

and 41.9% respectively.

The rural sector has shown a pastoral increase of 34% and 2.9% for dairy. "Overall land prices have softened slightly for larger (economic) sized dairy farms. In contrast to this, we are seeing a substantial increase in smaller blocks under 30 hectares," Mr Jaques added.

The total rateable value for the district is now \$4.6 billion, with the land value of those properties now valued at \$2.73 billion.

What are rating valuations?

Rating valuations are usually carried out on all New Zealand properties every three years to help local councils assess rates for the following three-year period. They are not intended to be used for any other purpose, including raising finance with banks or as insurance valuations.

They reflect the likely selling price of a property at the effective revaluation date, which was 1 August 2023, and do not include chattels.

Any changes in the market since that time will not be included in the new rating valuations, which often means that a sale price achieved today will be different to the new rating valuation.

Rating valuations are calculated using a highly complex and detailed process that utilises all relevant property sales from your area. A large number of properties will also be physically assessed, particularly those that have been issued building consents in the last three years.

The updated rating valuations are then independently audited by the Office of the Valuer General to ensure they meet rigorous quality standards, before the new rating valuations are confirmed and posted to property owners.

If owners do not agree with their rating valuation, they have a right to object through the objection process before 19 January 2024.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe & Happy New Year. We are closed from December 22 and will re-open January 15, 2024.

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# The boundary is the boundary is the boundary

Post Covid, Allen Juffermans from Juffermans surveyors says he's found a lot of business people are moving from Auckland and running businesses from towns such as Opunake which has created a demand for lifestyle blocks and subdivisions in villages.

"There is a housing shortage throughout the country." Established in 2002 Juffermans surveyors has recently moved into new premises the Foundry in Hawera and now has offices in Stratford and Whanganui. The focus of the business is very much South Taranaki says Allen. Juffermans are the only resident surveyors in the South Taranaki and Stratford Districts. It's been a steady growth since the business was founded by Allen, a qualified surveyor who grew up in Warea and attended Okato College. After completing the four-year Bachelor of Surveying degree at Otago University he got head hunted by RPC Surveyors in Whakatane where he ran the Opotiki office for two years covering the East Cape area. In 2000 he returned to Taranaki working for BTW surveyors before establishing his own business in Onaero in 2002 operating out of his home. "The intention was to slow down," says Allen after a stressful few years but with the housing boom in 2004, he became "extremely busy." He employed someone and since then the business has grown. He established an office in Nobs Lane Strandon where he was involved with a major housing development in Bell Block. He went on to open an office in central New Plymouth and in 2016, opened an office in Hawera.



Allen Juffermans at work.

He recently however decided to close the New Plymouth office because of his exasperation with the Council who he found difficult to deal with describing them as "bloody hopeless." They made everything as difficult as they could he said adding "If they can stop a development, they will". He cites as an example trying to survey a development in Okato. "After ten months of negotiation and a big expense to the client, we submitted the application." The New Plymouth District Council kept wanting more and more information. When they wanted additional engineering information it was the last straw. It was just going to cost a significant amount of money. The client pulled out. They'd run out of money." He decided instead to mostly focus on South Taranaki and has offices in Stratford, Hawera and Whanganui and says the South Taranaki District Council are much easier to deal with. He recently moved into new offices at the Foundry in High Street Hawera (he was in Princes Street), a

business centre set up by the South Taranaki District Council which Allen says, "shows you how proactive the South Taranaki District Council are." There are three surveyors - Allen and two colleagues - based in Juffermans Stratford office, plus an engineer; two surveyors are at the Hawera office and a planner in Whanganui. Allen's wife Martha is a landscape architect who operates between the various offices. He also has a surveyor in New Plymouth based at TMS Collingwood's traffic Management Solutions. As far as subdivisions go and the cost, they can vary. "Subdivisions where the land was previously subdivided in 1860 directed by London for example can be "difficult but fun" he says. As regards boundaries, sometimes contentious, he comments emphatically "the boundary is the boundary." Sometimes it comes down to how well you get on with your neighbour as to whether there are disputes. He describes an interesting case in Eltham where

sections in an entire street at an unusual angle to other streets had been surveyed off but the sections were not at right angles to the street so all of the houses subsequently built flush to the street encroached on each neighbour. As it affected everyone in the

street they all agreed to ignore the survey pegs. Allen also has some interesting comments about the Resource Management Act reforms conducted last year under the Natural and Built Environment Act which he felt they had got "about right" and says a lot of work went into it. To change it would be "a backward step." And Allen's final words: "I love Opunake and the coast."

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I extend my sincerest gratitude on behalf of Opunake Primary School and the Board of Trustees for the unwavering support we have received from the Opunake community throughout the year. The collective efforts of various organizations, generous grants, donations, and the invaluable support garnered from individuals participating in events and outings have truly helped our school. In the spirit of the season, we extend warm wishes to each member of our community for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This year has been marked by substantial activity at our school, with a primary focus on navigating through the Aotearoa History Curriculum. Our students have gained profound insights into our local history and tikanga. Thanks to the outstanding support from our parents and whanau during visits to Pukeiti, Puke Ariki, Tawhiti Museum, and our local walkway. Special appreciation is reserved for the support received during our Matariki/Puanga ceremony and the successful "open day" initiatives. These events have enriched our school experience, accumulating a wealth of treasures and memories along the way.

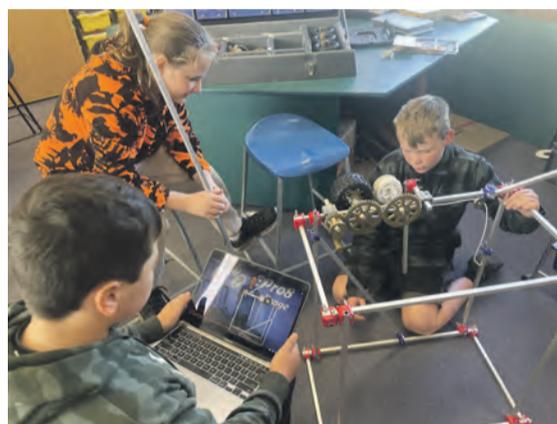


A day of movie making at Pioneer Village with Victor, Aiden and Kobe.

Our Kapa haka group, under the guidance of Matua Clive and whanau has flourished this year, showcasing the exceptional talents of our students at the Puanga Festival. Similarly, our band and choir, led by Mr. Monley, have demonstrated outstanding musical prowess, with students mastering various instruments and delivering stellar performances, including a collaboration with the combined New Plymouth Schools Choir.

This year witnessed the inauguration of our ESports Group, a venture embraced by 12 enthusiastic students who participated in an in-school event. The positive response has encouraged us, and we look forward to expanding this initiative in the coming year. Thank you to Brad Clarke and Daniel Barr for giving up many of their lunchtimes to run this event.

The success of our school is not only academic but extends to diverse activities, exemplified by our commendable performance in the EPRO 8 technology competition. Thanks to Ms. Ogle and Brad Clarke for their exceptional training of our students.



William, Ryan and Arnold preparing for EPRO 8 competition.

Sports played a significant role in our school's narrative this year, with active participation in various disciplines such as basketball, soccer, rugby, hockey, swimming, and cross country. The exceptional support from parents and whanau in coaching, managing, and providing transport has been indispensable. Our students, demonstrating commendable sportsmanship, have excelled, with a special acknowledgment to Victor Gibson, who not only represented the school in almost every sporting code but achieved a remarkable first place overall at the Taranaki Cross Country. A personal best for him and the school.



Max and Jaylin completing an engineering kitset.

As we approach the upcoming year, we are pleased to share that Opunake Primary School is fully staffed and equipped with an exceptional team, ready to operate eight classrooms.

Year 1: Mrs Sutton (the new room is named Pohutukawa)  
 Year 2: Mr Barr (Pohutukawa)  
 Year 2 and 3 Mr Sefton (Matai)  
 Year 4: Ms Laura Smith (Kowhai)  
 Year 5 and 6 Mr Smith (Totara)  
 Year 6 and 7 Mrs Remihana (Kauri)  
 Year 7 and 8 Ms Ogle (Kahikatea)  
 Year 7 and 8 New Teacher (Totara). A highly experienced Year 7 and 8 teacher to be named on the 19th December, when we complete

formalities.

School commences on the 29th January 2024. The school office will be open from 23rd January for any further enrolment or queries.

On 26 January at 9am till 10 we will be hosting a Meet the Teacher. For Year 1 and 2 (Mr Barr and Mrs Sutton) in Pohutukawa Rooms. At this meet and greet we will ask you to attend with your child. Mrs Sutton and Mr Barr will outline how the classes will run over the year. Teachers have the academic data on your child, but your child is more than data, so this is an opportunity for you to meet the teacher and introduce your child to the teacher and to share information about their strengths and interests. Teachers will likewise introduce themselves. They will take you through some of their plans for the year. Likewise other classes will run a similar format, and it would be great if you attended with your child.

Mr Sefton: 10.00 to 11am

Mr Smith and Ms Smith 11am to 12 noon

Ms Remihana/Ms Ogle/ New Teacher 12 till 1pm

On 14 February, we will be having a school powhiri at 10am. We would like to extend a warm welcome to any interested community members. Please keep this date free. We will send out further information at the beginning of the year.

We wish our students a very Happy Christmas, and we hope that you have a great holiday enjoying the beach and hopefully some sunshine.

*Nga mihi nui*

*Lorraine Williamson*



Spartan and Kaiomi who are the Leaders of the Kapa haka group.

# Bands from Opunake Primary impress

The Lakeside Theatre, Opunake was the place to be to experience the two talented bands from Opunake Primary School on Monday December 4 (at 6pm). The bands included Peace of Mind and Ruby Rocks.

Dr Nate Monley has been working with these student musicians for some time culminating in this event. "Wow these kids have some real talent," he commented. Nate has been one of the teachers of the senior students at the school during 2023, but has also nurtured talent in the musical sense, while engaged at Opunake Primary School in his one year position.

The concert opened with a karakia, featuring Peace of Mind, with lead vocalist Ciana Allardice, who gave



From left Maxwell Flanagan, Essina Smith, Ben Jensen, Caliyah McLachlan-Herewini, Ciana Allardice and Mayana Larsen.

a very good account of her singing. Also performing with excellence were Maxwell Flanagan (bass guitar), Ben Jensen (drums), and Caliyah McLachlan-

Herewini (keyboard). Ruby Rocks entertained next with such songs as Three Little Birds, Empathy and Tutira Mai Nga Iwi, with Ava Bennett as the lead vocalist, another talented singer. The band included Izzy Garvey (drums), Eva Smith (keyboard), Phoenix Ranapia (guitar), and Jakob Wasley (guitar).

Peace of Mind were back next, although with two changes; Mayana Larsen on guitar and Essina Smith on the xylophone. Ciana was once again the lead vocalist, and she explained that the number Paradise was written by Waimarie Smith who wrote the song

when she was just 15 and won a competition with it. For their next musical item Mayana took over on the drums, Ben on the xylophone as they performed Lost Boy. Ciana continued to delight the audience as the lead vocalist.

Jimmy Heke-Foot teamed with Ciana to sing Tiaho Mai Ra which Nate introduced as "our big challenge song." Ben (xylophone), Max (guitar), Mayana (drums) and Caliyah (guitar) provided the instrumental back up. Along with Ciana, Jimmy gave a strong vocal performance.

As the concert approached the end Ciana said, "You

may know this song so please sing along if you do." The words of Pepeha (by the band Six60) was sung in English and Maori, with many in

the audience joining in.

In a brief address, Principal Lorraine Williamson commended Nate for his musical leadership, commenting, "We've not had a band since Jacob Simmonds was a boy."

Finally, Deputy Principal Kelly Ogle had a special presentation to Mayana Larsen, who will be overseas next year. She was awarded the award as the outstanding student in Year 6, for 2023.

Nate thanked Sherrie Flanagan, Heather Jensen and Claire Jensen for helping to arrange the theatre and sound systems.

A delicious supper concluded the enjoyable entertainment from these talented young musicians.

*Rolland McKellar*



Talented vocalist Ciana Allardice.



Ava Bennett, another talented singer.

In our last column, we delved into the complexities of staff gifts during the festive season. As an extension in the spirit of giving, we explore another facet that not only warms the heart but also brings tangible benefits: charitable donations and the associated tax rebates.

Amidst the holiday buzz, individuals often find joy in extending generosity through charitable contributions. What might surprise some is that beyond the joy of giving, the New Zealand tax system offers a tangible incentive for those who contribute to approved charities and organizations: a 33.33% tax credit on every dollar donated.

This tax credit applies to all individual donors who give more than \$5 to approved charities. It's a straightforward process—for every dollar donated, a 33.33 cents tax credit can be claimed. This system aims to encourage philanthropy and support for charitable causes.

To claim this tax credit, individuals must ensure they have a valid donation receipt, which includes essential details such as the donor's name, the amount and date of the donation, a clear indication that it's a donation, the signature of an authorized person, and the organization's details, including its IRD number or registration number with Charities Services.

For those choosing to donate over the phone, it's crucial to obtain a receipt directly from the approved organization, as a copy of the phone bill won't serve this purpose. It's essential to note that not all pages on crowdfunding platforms like Givealittle qualify for a tax credit—only those contributing to eligible organizations enable donors to claim the 33.33% tax credit.

Claiming this cash donation rebate is a straightforward process. While Chartered Accountants can provide assistance in preparing and submitting annual donation rebates, the most convenient route is the online portal in myIR. Receipts can be submitted throughout the tax year or collectively at year-end, with the actual tax credit processed after the conclusion of the tax year.

In the spirit of this festive season, individuals have the opportunity to embrace the joy of giving with the added perk of a 33.33% tax credit for donations exceeding \$5 to approved organizations. Understanding the ins and outs of donation rebates ensures that charitable contributions not only make a real impact in the community but also contribute to a more tax-efficient financial outlook. So, as you open your heart to giving, know that you can also open the door to a little something back at tax time.



Contact Deb and the M&L team to chat further:  
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*From Phil & the team at Sandfords*

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## SCHOOL NEWS

Our **new logo** is founded on the local understanding of the word 'Ōpunakē' referring to the hidden underground water spring which in our logo also represent the four school values of excellence, humility, respect and integrity, with faith represented in the cross. The arching white shape is also similar to the shape of the nun's 'habit' worn by the mission sisters who established our school. This is all held by the strength of our Maunga Taranaki.

Our **new Acting Principal** for 2024 is Brook Murfitt. Mr Murfitt has taught our senior students for the past years and has an incredible heart for our school and community.

We are opening a **new classroom**. All six classrooms will have small class numbers to give our students an optimum learning environment.

Check out our **new website** [stjo.school.nz](http://stjo.school.nz)

**School office closed**  
Thursday 14 December 2023, 1pm

**School office open**  
Thursday 25 January 2024, 9am

For all enquiries please email [office@stjo.school.nz](mailto:office@stjo.school.nz) or leave a message when you call 06 761 8388. Thank you.

**Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou.**

## 2023 Prizegiving Results

### Diligence Awards

- Year 0** Elliotte Walsh  
**Year 1** Arthur Langton, Trelise Collins, Bodhi Clarke  
**Year 2** Rio Mumar, Edie Lynskey, Amia Diu, Will Lawn  
**Year 3** Ryan Taylor, Natalie Mullin, Aria Arora  
**Year 4** Regan Smith, Lucas Sta Maria  
**Year 5** Khiann Ramos, Kourtney Gulliver, Georgina Mullin  
**Year 6** John Marcella Asis, Frankie Campbell  
**Year 7** Kelsey Bevan  
**Year 8** Cade Carr, Renee Fleming

### Special Character Awards

- Theresa Anne Landers Memorial Trophy Year 0-4 Student: Living Commitment to Religious Education - **Amia Diu**  
Margaret & Jack Landers Trophy Year 5-8 Student: Living Commitment to Religious Education - **Kelsey Bevan**  
St Joseph's Ōpunakē Trophy Kaitātaki Tane - **Spencer Stevenson**  
St Joseph's Ōpunakē Trophy Kaitātaki Wahine - **Molly Stevenson**  
Duynhoven Arts Trophy - **Kelsey Bevan**

### Sports Awards

- Margaret Holmes Cup for Most Outstanding Netball Player - **Renee Fleming and Maddie Brown**  
David Fleming Cup for Most Improved Netball Player - **Skyler Hunn**  
Lawn Family Trophy for Most Valuable Basketball Player - **Erbano Germino**  
Most Improved Basketball Player - **Zion Aldridge**  
Drought Trophy for Most Valuable Rugby Player - **Mack Lynskey**  
Most Improved Rugby Player - **Albie Dorn**

### Year 8 Awards

- St Joseph's Ōpunakē Trophy for Excellence in Sport - **Maddie Brown**  
St Joseph's Ōpunakē Trophy for Excellence in Leadership - **Amy O'Rorke**  
Lawrence Joyce Memorial Trophy for Dedication to Agriculture - **Ellie Lynskey**  
Academic Excellence Runner Up - **Cade Carr**  
Quinnell Trophy Academic Excellence/Dux - **Molly Stevenson**  
Alan & Maree Drought Shield Outstanding Character - **Renee Fleming**

Farewell to our Year 8 students: Jacob Bartley, Maddie Brown, Cheska Capati, Cade Carr, Renee Fleming, Erban Germino, Skyler Hunn, Ellie Lynskey, Nathalie Navarro, Amy O'Rorke, Molly Stevenson, Nathan Stockhoff and Brianna Thomson-Cremen. It has been a joy to watch you grow. We are proud of you all. Have fun at High School!



**2023 Best All Round Students**  
**Stronge Cup**  
Maddie Brown and Molly Stevenson

**Pictured below:** Sienna Bourke, Katie Starr and Amy O'Rorke won the Gwen Crosby Memorial Cup - 'Best 3 calves from 1 school' at Stratford A&P Show / Our recent school visit to Oeo Pā / Cade Carr - Taranaki Surf Year 5&6 Champion in 2021 and Year 7&8 Champion in 2022 and 2023



# Vinyl has never stopped

No sooner did the doors open for the Record Fair than the punters turned up en masse.

Brian Wafer holds record fairs around the country and on December 1 it was Opunake's turn with traders welcome to come and show off their wares on a Friday afternoon at Everybody's Theatre. Brian says he's held his fairs in a variety of locations, including pubs and bridge clubs. This time round it's in Opunake's picture theatre, a venue he's obviously impressed with.

"I've never been here before but it works. It's a bloody cool room this," he says. "It's rolling along very nicely."

Peter White (Subtropix) from Hawkes Bay has set up his tables inside the theatre. He's into New Zealand music ("everything from 1978 till today").

"I've been collecting New Zealand music since I was 13. You're talking 45 years, record fairs-it's probably 20 years now I've been with Brian. I've been cruising around the North Island, but I've not done the South Island yet. For me vinyl has never stopped. Kiwi music, I love it. That's what it's all about."



Peter White attends to the customers at the Record Fair.

He says he enjoys the way record fairs bring happiness to people.

This may be his first record fair at Everybody's, but it's not his first visit to Opunake's iconic theatre. He's been here twice before to catch a movie.

"I love this town," he says.

Nick Stoneman of New Plymouth has set himself up in the foyer and has about 800 records with him.

He describes himself as a "student of music."

"I try to cover every genre," he says. "I was in hospitality for 20 years and this is a lot more fun than

cooking fish and chips on a Friday afternoon."

Ray Shand of Okato is looking over Nick's selection of the Solid Gold Hits compilations that were a staple of New Zealand record collections from the 1970s and beyond. He had already picked up a box of LPs and hold up a Roy

Orbison LP.

"I've probably got the biggest collection in Taranaki of vinyl," he says.

Mike Wells of Opunake has brought along "a couple of hundred" from his collection which he describes as "pretty eclectic."

"I've got some jazz, Motown, a couple of Aussie bands, some heavy rock and the odd bit of pop. It's fairly wide range-wise. I've gone from reasonably heavy stuff when I was younger to a bit of everything. I've just always had my private collection, but I think it's time for people to enjoy a few of them."

He says he bought most of his records brand-new from record shops although he does have some which he picked up second hand "which were in good nick."

Monica Willson said she had just picked up some New Zealand punk.

"I'm dipping my toes in for something I haven't heard before," she said.

Steve Bishop said he was looking for "any old New Zealand music," and was particularly interested in anything from Flying Nun, Sticky Filth or Nocturnal Projections.

Anita Jamieson made a point of thanking Peter White on her way out.

"This is brilliant. I come all the time," she says. "There's always something here. For the community this is great. You can spend hours here."

Brian says he's hoping to come back to Opunake in the new year, alongside a fair in New Plymouth, and another one in Hawera or Stratford.

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# Male mozzies may have once sucked blood too

Nowadays female mosquitos are only the ones that bite, but that may not have always been the case, according to international researchers. The team found the earliest known fossil mosquitoes – 30 million years older than the previously known oldest mozzie – in Lower Cretaceous amber from

Lebanon.

The mozzies are two males of the same species, and interestingly they have piercing mouthparts, suggesting they likely sucked blood.

While blood-sucking was previously thought to have arisen as a shift from nectar-feeding insects, the team says the current research

suggests the evolution may have been more complicated than expected.

The team says the research helps fill in some previously missing gaps, and they're now curious to explore why male blood-sucking mosquitos no longer exist.

Current Biology

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# Opunakē High School

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## Principal's Address



This kura stands upon the shoulders of giants, and those giants are community, home and school, and of course whanau.

**Te Kotahitanga** - we stand unified in our success.

**Ngā mihi nui ki a koe** - a huge gratitude to you all.

**To the BoT:** We need a high functioning board in a trail blazing school such as this. Also we need as many diverse people in our corner as possible who know about this school and are pumped to champion OHS. This we have in our BOT. Which makes me feel that I am never flying solo. This BOT is an army of engaged supporters always ready to mobilize, to volunteer, and to give of their time and expertise. Thank you To Liz Gasson, Presiding Member. Liz you fearlessly and unapologetically advocate for this kura in all you do. The time, and energy you dedicate to us is simply extraordinary. You make magic happen here. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Now to teachers and support staff who help to make this place rock: Your patience, understanding, and aroha for our students is admirable. I am honored and blessed to work alongside such a dedicated and

talented group of teachers and support staff. Our strength is through expertise, diversity, slight weirdness and aroha!

To this end we will be farewelling: Mr Mike Blackstock, our very own Richard Gere, Rimu Champion, hater of long trousers, expert Chemist, and Co-Science Head of Department. You will be truly missed by each and every one of us.

Now to our amazing Head of Social Science, Anne Englebretsen. You have introduced Aotearoa Histories seamlessly into our junior curriculum. You are an educational disrupter, with a passion for literacy, History, and all things Social Science. It is with such sweet, sorrow that we say farewell. But we wish you and your whanau all the luck in your future endeavours.

To farewell Mark Meyberg is like saying goodbye to a well loved piece of furniture. Mark has been a huge part of our kura for the last 27 years. He started off by exploding into the Science department, literally, but is finishing his career as the Teacher in Charge of IT. The ski camps won't be the same without him, however the slopes will be marginally safer, and Totara will miss him hugely. So to our very own, and well loved 'Mark-have you tried turning your computer off -Meyberg'. We salute you, and wish you all the best in the South Island with your gorgeous wife Karen, and wonderful twins.

And finally to the our curious, courageous collaborative Year 13s, farewell. We will miss each and everyone of you. You have brought love, light, laughter to our kura, not to mention eclectic poetry, immense mullets, and some seriously visually challenging dress up days, and for this we all thank you. Some thoughts to take with you all, as you all go out and be the change you want to see in the world.

Be interested in human people. People who laugh at their mistakes are those who are successful, who understand their calling and don't hide from responsibility. People who defend human dignity and want to be on the side of truth, justice, righteousness. These are the people to seek out.

Give no time to envious people who try to vilify the most capable to grab their positions, talents and achievements. Surround yourself with people who know how to touch the hearts of others. Even through the blows of fate, are able to rise and maintain the softness of the soul.

But hustle, hustle to live with the intensity.

Nothing happens without intention. Everything that has happened to our world is through human intent.

Be aware

Be brave

Be deliberate in living your best life with energy, care, and kindness. *There is a moment when we can change the world and make it better: this is the moment.*

So to quote, Max Ehrmann:

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

**Nō reira, kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui!**

**Be strong, be brave, be steadfast!**

Arohanui,

**Andrea Hooper Carr**

Principal

## Junior Prizegiving



It was a special way to end the 2023 Academic Year with our Junior Prizegiving. It was awesome to share with friends, whanau and the wider community present after a couple years of disruption due to Covid. Congratulations to all our award winners on all their achievements in 2023.

### SPECIAL AWARDS

OHS Junior Sportsperson of the Year  
**Lilly Bright**

OHS Year 9 Junior Dream Trophy  
DREAMS Values in  
School & Extra-Curricular  
**Will Plunkett**

OHS Year 10 Junior Dream Trophy  
DREAMS Values in  
School & Extra-Curricular  
**Tessa Cook & Lilly Bright**

Aveling Family Cup,  
Junior Character Award  
**Karys Jones**

Lena Sharrock Award,  
Runner-up in Year 9  
**William Plunkett**

Kaupokonui Cup & Mary Pohutukawa  
Award, Top in Year 9  
**Ambrose Sutton-Bedford &  
Ashley Symons**

Lena Sharrock Award,  
Runner-up in Year 10  
**Mya Caldwell & Sahan Larsen**

Phillips Cup & Mary Pohutukawa Award,  
Top in Year 10  
**Gerald Torres & Tessa Cook**



Junior sporting champions



DREAMS students (L-R); Karys, William, Lilly & Tessa



Top Year 9 students (L-R); William, Ashley & Ambrose



Top Year 10 students (L-R); Gerald, Sahan, Mya & Tessa

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# Paragliding and pylons...

A great paragliding meet at Back Beach cliff site, with seven pilots taking to the air having fun and adventures. As for the past few weeks power workers with little

fear of heights had been de-wiring and removing the huge ugly power pylons around the Paritutu Area and near our coastline area. Great not those ugly

structures ruining the views. Well done to those workers up there in the heights. Earlier in the demolishing the guys give great interest when they moved along the

high power lines with their sledges one on each line. Looked like fun high line races.

Ian McAlpine



A paraglider at Back Beach.

# ...and Christmas lights



Christmas lights aplenty adorn Lindsay Maindonald's house at 80 King Edward Street, Eltham.



Right. These power workers are not afraid of heights.



*Wishing all our Valued Clients a very Merry Christmas*



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What an amazing year we have had! There have been so many highlights - being the first early childhood education service in Taranaki to obtain green / gold Enviroschool status, winning the Environmental Action in Education Award from the Taranaki Regional Council, and having solar panels installed must be the top three!

We are really proud to be setting the Green-Gold standard weaving environmental goals into our entire curriculum. We were chosen for the Environmental Action in Education Award from the Taranaki Regional Council because:

- Our tamariki have helped built a 'food forest' accessible from the Ōpunakē Loop track.
- Our outdoor play space provides a habitat for native birds and insects.
- We grow our own food for afternoon tea.
- We use cloth nappies for those under two and a half.
- Our whānau provide healthy lunches with a focus on minimising waste.
- We spotlighted the township's waste for a Curious Minds project.
- We work with our community to clean-up the local beach.
- We are a destination for other early childhood educators too who come to be inspired along on their own environmental journeys.

Strengthening our empathy and aroha for Papatūānuku is so important to us. Thank you to our community for being so supportive and also inspiring. Ōpunakē is an amazing place.



Left: Suzie, Danni, Diane and Meera at the award ceremony.

We have been enjoying Christmas week here at Kindy and in the lead up to Christmas week where the tamariki got to take home something they have contributed to growing in the garden, the tamariki have been sowing seeds in egg cartons and nurturing them every day. They have been ensuring

they have enough sunlight and water and not too much of either! It has been fun sowing the seeds together as a group project - everyone is keen to check on their progress each day and see which ones have sprouted and at which pace - sunflowers, capsicum, peas, beans, sunflowers, cabbage..... The tamariki got to take home some seedlings (some were very small) to nurture over the Christmas holidays. It is so nice to see how the tamariki take such an interest in our gardens and food forest - a day doesn't go by without someone hunting out a red strawberry or someone picking silverbeet or parsley for guinea pigs and hei hei!



Above Left: Rhea wrapping sunflower seedlings with dad Jake at Whaanau Night to take home, whilst exploring how we can support oral language and literacy in our gardens.

Above Middle: Lennie and mum Pip having a conversation about the seeds and how to wrap them up.

Above Right: Diane in the Moana Room with The Owl Babies - Book, Puppets, Props and Owl Sounds to support engagement in acting out the story.

Whaanau night was a great night to celebrate our individual and collective progress this year and to come together as a whaanau unit. Together we explored what oral language and literacy looks like at Kindy and at home and how we can all support the tamariki with it in so many ways - whether it be through songs and nursery rhymes, stories - reading with tamariki, having them retell a story with and without prompts, artwork to express our ideas, playing with puppets, acting out stories, having reciprocal conversations wherever we are, adding in rich language, extending on our language and syntax use..... The list just goes on and on and we will be evaluating how we are doing this here at Kindy as we work through our internal evaluation.

The tamariki and whaanau enjoyed a sausage whilst exploring fun learning activities which are a normal everyday part of Kindy. Our Internal Evaluation which we have just embarked on is supporting tamariki with their oral language and literacy and will continue next year.

Below: The tamariki and Kaiako getting ready for their performance at whaanau night.



Below: Whaanau at whaanau night.



Pub Charities gave us a grant to support us purchasing and installing solar panels here at Kindy - this has been an amazing next step for us all supporting our green / gold Enviroschools status. This was on our wish list which we were working towards and we never thought we would have them so early on. Papatūānuku and Kindy thank you very much Pub Charities!

Diane Chapman is now looking after the Moana Room which is our learning space for our infants and toddlers. We nurture the learning and development of all tamariki in our care and we take enrolments from any age. The youngest we have had is just under five months. We have a great 1:3 ratio in the Moana Room and this allows us to ensure that our learning environment is warm, caring, supportive and inclusive of everyone's needs and wants - spiritually, emotionally and physically. The Moana Room also visits the Maunga Room and vice versa so the tamariki have the opportunity to be part of the whole Kindy. This supports tuakana-teina relationships. If you know of anyone who would like to enrol their child next year, please get in touch so we can facilitate a smooth and supportive transition to Kindy. We encourage lots of visits so that we get to know each other really well and establish a trusting relationship with the child and whaanau prior to starting Kindy - Moana and Maunga. We value whaanau contribution and always welcome all whaanau members to spend time here and contribute to our curriculum, enriching it and supporting all tamariki in so many ways only whaanau can.



Above Left: Evie carried back the worms from our Maunga Room worm bath to our one in the Moana Room.

Above right: Esme and Toby are recreating their knowledge of farming at the tuff tray.

**MERI KIRIHIMETE FROM US ALL AT  
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# Hawera goes art mad for Christmas

It may have been the economic climate, but this year's Arts in the Park in Hawera on Saturday 2 December offered excellent buying for the Christmas gift shopper.

A good selection of small artworks could be had for under twenty dollars, and even an original oil of the Forgotten Highway hinterland by Eltham painter Mark Bellringer could be obtained for \$350. Many of the wares on offer were practical as well as looking great, like the novel bird feeders by Midhurst couple Brian and Cherie Ward. At the other



Jean Finer (left) and Jennie Purdon of Hawera.



Sketching in the park is Ian Calloway.

end of the price spectrum, the ghostly figurines created in concrete by garden art sculptors Merv and Sandy Blair of Eltham would scare the pants off any interloper let alone the local magpies. Belinda Wakeling's soap made from 100 per cent goat milk would have stolen many hearts. She has only five goats, all with names, Spicy, Rosy, Macy, Poppie and Goaty, who devotedly supply milk to mould into various bars of soap. And of course, any young boy would be gladdened to receive a model truck-and-trailer unit from Peter Clough of Inglewood. The livestock transporters were the most popular buy in Peter's selection. Midhurst couple Brian and

Cherie Ward have worked out innovative ideas to attract birds to your garden using cup-and-saucer sets anchored to a stake and stuck in the ground. Birds can access liquid in the cup and seed in the saucer or any other combination. If you fancied something from these traders but were not quite ready to buy, they will most likely turn up in one of the many markets throughout Taranaki over

summer. There is no real winner when prices get this low, however, so spare a thought for these traders who traipse around from event to event peddling their wares for only average returns. But if you still want a quick sketch in charcoal from Ian Galloway of Inglewood, or a landscape from the good ladies of Hawera's art society, chances are pretty good of seeing them again.

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## 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 recovered. 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.

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Our first issue in 2024 will be published on January 25

# Taranaki included in Greenpeace map of nitrate levels

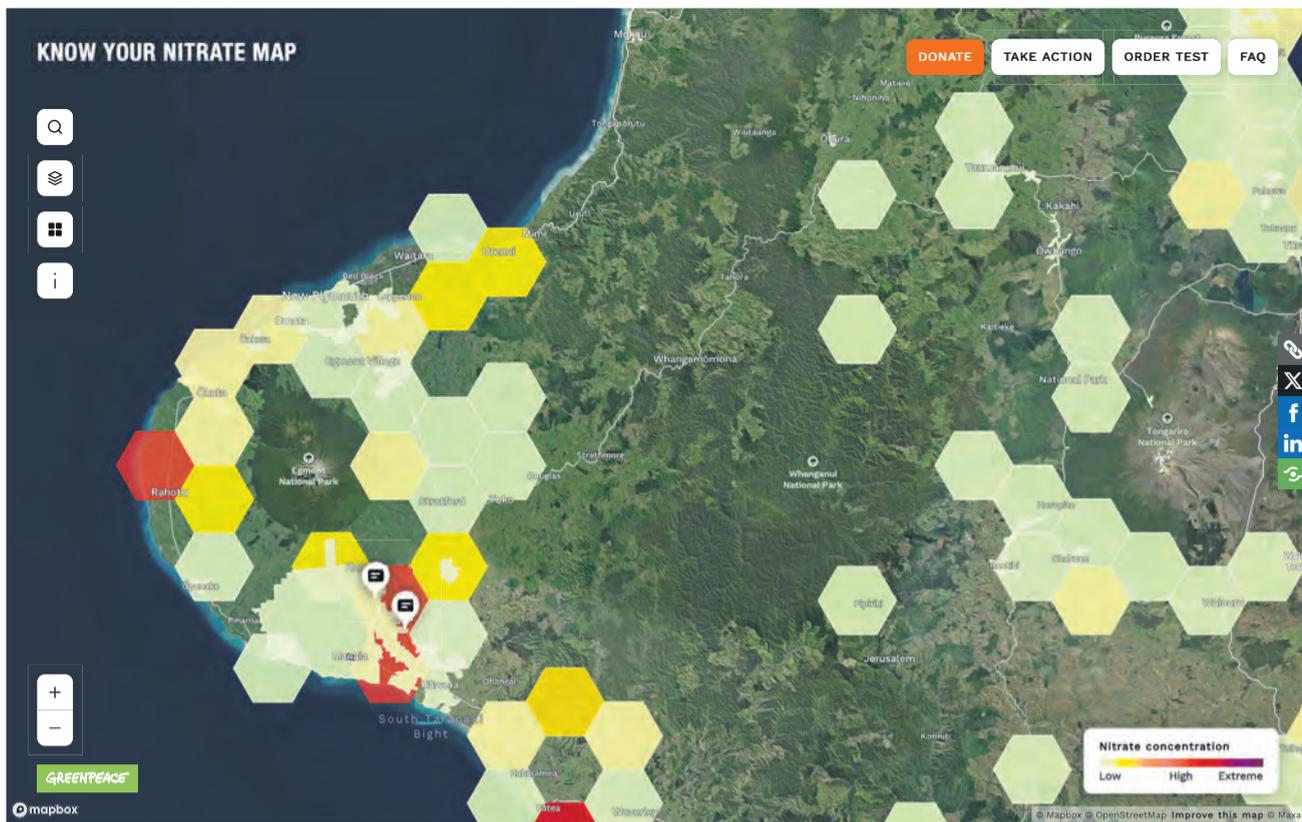
Greenpeace has launched a map of nitrate contamination levels in drinking water, which also shows Taranaki's nitrate levels. Called "Know Your Nitrate Map", Greenpeace created the map to point out the areas that have nitrate concentrations exceeding recommended health limits, particularly in some rural areas. The largest sources of nitrate contamination in New Zealand are from cow urine and synthetic nitrogen fertiliser.

The organisation says that it wants to put pressure on all political parties to take action to protect New Zealanders' drinking water sources from nitrate contamination by cutting the use of synthetic nitrogen

fertiliser and lowering dairy cow stocking rates.

The map is displayed on the Greenpeace website and covers the whole of New Zealand. Taranaki fares surprisingly well on the map except for two areas. The map is colour-coded to show different levels of concentration, ranging from yellow or light green to show less affected areas, and red for areas with high concentrations. Most of Taranaki has low areas of nitrate concentration except for red areas around the village of Rahotu and an area west of Hawera reaching as far as Manaia.

According to Russel Norman, executive director of Greenpeace New Zealand, "there are still significant



### Know your Nitrate Map.

data gaps due to the lack of official monitoring." He adds that nitrate has no odour, taste or colour "and is the most pervasive water contaminant in New Zealand."

"Rural people on self-supply household bore water are the most likely to be unaware of their exposure to hazardous levels of nitrate."

The map focuses on bore users in rural areas and does not cover water collected from tank water, or river or urban water supplies. Bore water is groundwater which drains into subterranean aquifers.

Norman says that only a test of one's tap water will show the level of a household's nitrate exposure. Greenpeace offers a service for bore users to receive a household test kit and the results added to a database. The testing programme has been running for two years to create "the largest dataset of its kind in New Zealand

showing nitrate levels in household bore water supplies," Norman says.

To obtain the household test kit, one clicks onto the "Know Your Nitrate Map" on the Greenpeace website and fills in a displayed form with their contact details and some additional information, along with a consent for their data to be used confidentially by researchers.

A water sample kit will then be sent with a container, instructions, and a prepaid courier envelope for returning the samples. Householders then take a sample of unfiltered water from their tap and send it back straight away. When the sample arrives, it will be tested for nitrate and the sender contacted with the results.

Those who want to test their water do not necessarily have to go through Greenpeace. Water test kits can be purchased for as low as \$43 and can be used for

testing several times. The Greenpeace test is a one-off, its main advantage being that the results are added to a database. Concerned householders could initially try the Greenpeace test and if the results prove to be high, they could continue monitoring their water using a commercially available test kit.

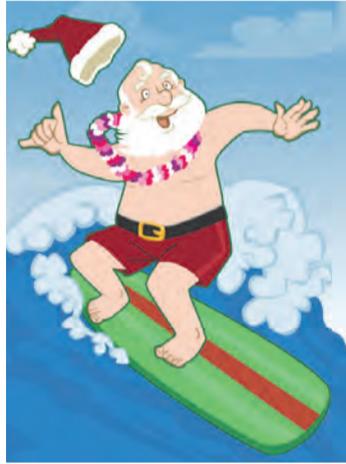
Taranaki Regional Council was asked for comment on the Greenpeace map. According to Abby Matthews, Director of Environment Quality, the Council regularly monitors nitrate levels in 32 groundwater bores across the region. Their monitoring has shown that nitrate, E. coli bacteria, ammonia iron and manganese are "occasionally found at levels considered unsafe for people or stock to drink, or at levels that can make the water look or taste unpleasant," she says.

"At certain concentrations

nitrate can pose a health risk to babies, particularly those under six months old." There is an official standard for drinking water which is set at a maximum acceptable level of 11.3 mg of nitrate per litre to protect against these risks. "In Taranaki, a recent analysis found only one site where median levels of nitrate exceeded this value," she says.

Mathews adds that the Greenpeace map shows that nitrate concentrations in Taranaki are generally low. Elevated levels were identified on the map in only a small proportion of groundwater samples, but further information is required regarding the methodology behind the research by Greenpeace, such as bore depth, surrounding land use or other activities. This information would provide more insight into potential sources of contamination at these locations, she says.

## Merry Christmas



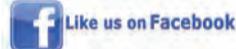
*Karam's Clothes on the Coast would like to thank their customers for their support throughout the year. Wishing you all a safe, happy and peaceful festive season.*

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Seasons Greetings from the Residents and Staff at the

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# Talking Taranaki

## 2023 review



January

Our Towards Predator-Free Taranaki programme received \$2.5 million in Government funding to more than double the size of its possum eradication zone. The original Zero Possum area in Ōākura/Kaitake was extended to the Hangatahūa (Stony) River, bringing about 5000ha and 120 extra farms into scope, including the Ōkato township. It's progressing well, with more than 2500 possums removed this year.



February

Our Coastal and Marine Science team took to the skies to monitor the rocky reefs around South Taranaki. Thanks to Beck Helicopters, they were able to get a bird's eye view of the reefs and then spent time monitoring the coastal water quality and marine habitats. The tests on mussels for E. coli and norovirus help tell us the state of environment in the marine areas.



March

Our Biosecurity team was on a moth plant mission after discovering several large plants in New Plymouth's eastern suburbs. Moth plant is a prolific seeder, with each pod containing thousands of seeds easily spread by wind. Subsequent inspections and public tip-offs helped us identify and control more than 50 infestations. Moth plant is one of 16 pest plants in our Regional Pest Management Plan.



April

Artist Maryanne Shearman.

Our first PredARTor Free Showcase opened at Pukeiti and featured works of art by New Zealand artists. The exhibition raised awareness of Taranaki and New Zealand's predator-free journey with the 50 artists drawing on their personal connection to the environment and nature. Towards Predator-Free Taranaki and conservation groups hosted walks, talks and information sessions.



May

We were stoked to secure \$3.6m in funding to continue our South Taranaki and Regional Erosion Support Scheme (STRESS) for the next four years. This initiative helps hill country farmers undertake soil conservation projects, with funding coming from the Ministry for Primary Industries. Our staff run the scheme, working alongside farmers to prevent sediment going into waterways.



Bee Card

June

There was good news for young bus users with those aged 5-12 now able to go free on buses in the region. BEE Card holders aged 13-24 travel half price. Figures for the 2022/23 financial year showed a 27.6% increase in the number of people using buses in Taranaki with nearly 700,000 passengers on public transport provided by the Council.



July

The redevelopment of Yarrow Stadium hit another milestone with the appointment of local contractor Clelands Construction to complete the \$42m East Stand build. After the completion of below ground civil works, construction could now begin on the new stand. The overall budget for the project moved to \$79.7m from \$70m due to the impact of inflation and rising costs.



August

Our regional gardens Pukeiti and Tūpare were named in Tripadvisor's top 10% of attractions worldwide. The Travellers' Choice 2023 accolades came after so many visitors had given the gardens glowing reviews after trips to the North Taranaki attractions. In 2022/23 nearly 125,000 people visited the Council-owned Pukeiti, Tūpare and Hollard Gardens.



September

We launched two major community conversations in September as we sought views on the next steps for freshwater in the region and Better Travel Choices for Taranaki. The responses will guide how we look after freshwater and the setting of limits and targets for our waterways while the transport feedback will shape the development of the Regional Land Transport Plan next year.



October

Port Taranaki Harbour Master Tony Parr reminded boaties of the importance of carrying lifejackets as the weather started to improve and seafarers began to head out for a trip on the water. The safety campaign is urging recreational boat users to carry properly fitted lifejackets or personal floatation devices on board and follow simple rules to keep everyone safe this summer.



November

Groups and individuals who have gone above and beyond in their mahi to protect the region were honoured at the 2023 Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards. The winners included a project to protect 70km of coastline, an innovative solar power farm, farmers and a group who have worked to safeguard freshwater and efforts to improve biodiversity in the eastern hill country.



December

Our work to let people know if it's safe for a dip in the sea, a river or a lake ramped up for the summer with weekly Can I Swim Here? monitoring at 41 popular swimming spots. The message is for people to wait three days after heavy or prolonged rain and check our website for warnings. Water users such as boaties, kayakers and jet skiers are being reminded to Check, Clean, Dry their equipment after use to stop the spread of freshwater pests.

### YOUR COUNCILLORS

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 Charlotte Littlewood (Chair): charlotte.littlewood@trc.govt.nz - Craig Williamson: craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz  
**North Taranaki Constituency** Mike Davey: mike.davey@trc.govt.nz - Donald McIntyre: donald.mcintyre@trc.govt.nz  
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**South Taranaki Constituency** Donna Cram: donna.cram@trc.govt.nz - Neil Walker (Deputy Chair): neil.walker@trc.govt.nz  
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# Gardening with Palmers Gardening Centre



The silly season is upon us – it's time for barbecues, picnics and festive gatherings outdoors. Before everyone piles into your backyard for Christmas celebrations, give it a spruce up so it's looking its best. You don't have to give it an extreme makeover, a few touches here and there will make all the difference on the big day.

# Spruce up your garden for summer



A colourful array of petunias.

Trim up hedges, trees and shrubs by cutting them back into shape and removing any overhanging or dead branches. This will instantly refresh the look of your garden and make it a nicer place to relax. There's nothing nice about looking at shrivelled up dead flowers, so get out the secateurs and cut off the deadheads. Cutting off dead blooms will promote new flower growth which is great news. You can easily liven up your backyard by planting

a selection of potted colour. Choose a range of seasonal flowers in store and replant them into larger containers, or straight into your garden bed. Mix and match colours to get that Christmassy look – try red geraniums and white petunias. If you have bare patches of

soil in your garden, cover them up by masses planting colourful flowers and mulching with Tui Mulch and Feed. This will pretty up the garden beds and give the garden a polished look. Tidy up your lawn edges by giving them a trim. Then give the lawn a mow, but

keep the blade on high. If the grass is too short the sun will burn the roots.

Tidy up any bare patches of lawn with a sprinkling of lawn seed and some TLC. Whatever you do will be repaid many times over.



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# OBITUARY Ronald George Gibson 11 October 1943- 15 November 1993

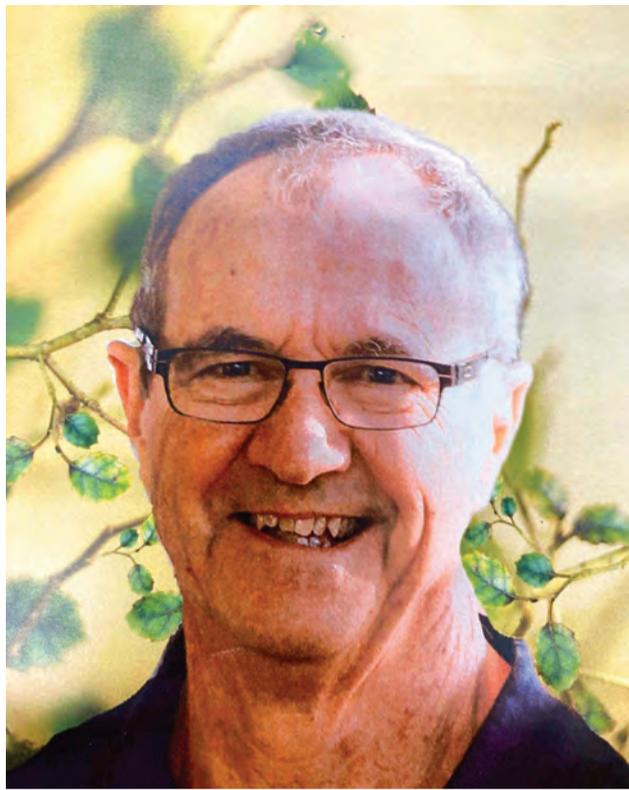
Ronald George Gibson, known to most as Ron, was one of life's true gentlemen. He was born on October 11, 1943, in New Plymouth. The second born son of Arthur and Tansie, Ron was brought up on the family dairy farm. Ron's oldest son Stephen said, "Throughout his life, Dad was deeply rooted in his Taranaki upbringing, and his love for the land. Growing up on the family farm instilled in him a strong work ethic, and a deep appreciation for nature."

Ron attended Rahoitu Primary School with his four brothers. During his early teenage years, he was a member of the Taranaki Boy's Brigade, serving at different points as both a corporal and as the company bugler.

He later joined the New Zealand Cadet Corps, learning, and eventually teaching, the junior Cadets how to use a variety of weapons, including a Bren gun.

His secondary education took place at Opunake High School and New Plymouth Boy's High School.

Ron knew from the age of ten that he would be a veterinarian, but in those early days there was no training facility for vets in



Ron Gibson.

New Zealand. He attended Victoria University in Wellington for two years, before attending the University of Queensland to complete his degree. He graduated in 1967. Some years later he was awarded an honorary degree, Bachelor of Veterinary Science, from Massey University. Ron was father to four

children. With his first wife Jane he raised Stephen and Jillian, and later when he married Jude two more children were born, Paddy and Sam. He always had a talent for working with his hands, at one point building a boat which the family used on many holidays, staying in a pop-up caravan. When his later children were

young, Ron studied for and attained his MBA through The University of Waikato.

Starting work with the local Morrinsville and District Vet Club in January of 1968, he soon became well known and respected for his veterinary work in the area.

As a new vet, he was allocated a rural area to cover, which included Mangateparu, Te Punga, Patetonga, Tahuna and Hoe-O-Tainui.

In those days vets had to provide their own car, and it would not be unusual, in the spring, for him to call on over 20 farms in one day, and average over 250 km of driving.

A former work colleague, John McCarthy, spoke at the funeral. "Ron was well liked by clients and staff alike. He was highly respected as a skilled and knowledgeable clinician, who had a reputation for doing everything at considerable pace," said John. "He was always happy to share his knowledge and expertise."

In 1984 Ron became Deputy Head Vet, and in 1989 took on the role of Head Veterinarian.

Ron continued with his clinical veterinary work until 1994, when he stopped

hands-on work to focus on the management side of the business as CEO.

He was very community minded and served on many committees over the years. He was on the committee, and later the president, of the local Jaycees.

He was also the chairman of the Morrinsville Primary School PTA, on the committees of the College Board of Trustees, and the Scout group. Ron was also involved with the local theatre.

He designed and built the prototype of the Morrinsville Primary School adventure playground, and the flying fox.

When his daughter Paddy took up sailing, Ron decided to join the Hamilton Yacht Club as well. He enjoyed sailing his Laser and driving rescue boats, continuing to be involved in the club long after Paddy left home and moved away.

A lovely, gentle, quietly-spoken man, his family meant everything to him. Together they travelled extensively; Vietnam, Tonga, the Solomon Islands, Myanmar and Antarctica, to name a few.

Ron served on the New Zealand Veterinary Council

for twenty years, acting as chairman for eleven years of that tenure. During his time as chairman significant advancements were made for the veterinary profession.

Ron was pivotal in the development of the Veterinarians Act 2005 which provided the Veterinary Council with new mechanisms to ensure the fitness and competence of vets to practice. He oversaw the implementation of the compulsory continuing professional development framework, and a major overhaul of the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinarians. Ron was also on the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council.

He was awarded an ONZM (Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit) for services to veterinary science.

In 2014 Ron was awarded the NZVA Outstanding Service Award for his significant contribution to maintaining and enhancing the standards of veterinary practice.

He strongly believed in the education and training of future veterinarians, and with another vet, he approached Massey University with a proposal that vet students

Continued page 31.

WE WISH YOU A

# Merry Christmas

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# Draft ten-year plan focuses on infrastructure, efficiency and environment

New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom has released NPDC's draft 10-year Plan focused on investment in core infrastructure to future-proof the district, improve efficiency, grow non-rates revenue and deliver measurable environmental performance.

Discussion on what to include in the \$3 billion draft 10-year Plan 2024-2034 was the focus of the Council meeting on 12 and 13 December, as the organisation grapples with the ongoing impacts of global economic turmoil that has seen costs skyrocketing for everyone. "We have a draft plan which we want people in New Plymouth district to read and understand. Then we want to hear what the people we serve think about our plans, what are our community's collective priorities and aspirations and where people believe we could do better."

Holdom said the Council's focus is on finding the balance between the need to keep rates affordable with investment in critical infrastructure and initiatives that help keep the district on course to achieving the vision of a Sustainable Lifestyle Capital.

"The global fiscal downturn, construction inflation at record levels, interest rates rising, and the cost-of-living crisis has put

huge pressure on everyone, and we have to strike the balance between rates affordability and the need to adequately maintain and grow our core infrastructure to service current and future generations.

"Council is restructuring to align our organisation with our strategy. These changes will ensure we are set up for the changes coming, can better deliver services and investments in our core infrastructure while achieving operational efficiencies of around \$100m over the next 10 years."

Based on current proposals, an average residential rate increase of 9.9% is identified in year one, and around 6.9% in year two. But the Mayor expects that is likely to change as tough decisions are made on what's in or out of the plan.

"We are reassessing our priorities, taking a more commercial approach by considering where can we generate more non-rates revenue, capture the benefits of growth, work in partnership with mana whenua and deliver better long-term community outcomes."

The Mayoral recommendation for the next 10 years is built around five objectives:

Future-proofing our district:

- Investing more in the district's water,

wastewater, stormwater and transport expenditure to almost \$1.9billion.

- Identify a route for a ring road to the port to get trucks out of town.

- Find new water sources for our growing population.

- Planning a second crossing over the Waiwhakairo River to improve our resilience.

- Ramp up investment in the district's disaster recovery reserve to help cover the costs of dealing with climate change and severe weather events.

- Lifting investment in Venture Taranaki to diversify and strengthen Taranaki's economy.

Efficiency

- Establish a Taranaki water entity with neighbouring councils.

- Restructuring our operations to maximise value for money and save \$100m.

- Ensure developers pay their fair share of infrastructure costs.

Community development

- Growing council's provision of social housing, boosted by a multimillion-dollar housing development fund.

- Supporting Iwi and hapu with capability as a partner, helping speed up consent processing and improving the quality of development in our district.

- Boosting funding to community boards to enable local decision making in Kaitaki, Inglewood, Bell Block, Waitara and Clifton.

Sustainability

- Wastewater project Urenui and Onaero to clean up our waterways.

- Tackle sewage overflows in Inglewood.

- Deal with flooding in Waitara.

- Plant our place and tap into the emissions trading scheme.

- Piloting a high frequency city bus route to grow public transport utilisation.

Paying something forward

- Building a multisport facility at the racecourse.

- Working with the Taranaki Foundation and businesses on Destination Play at Kawaroa and Otupaiia Marine Park Waitara.

- Finding new revenue sources to reduce costs.

- Establishing a sustainable lifestyle capital savings fund over the next decade by reinvesting a proportion of the dividends from the perpetual investment fund into a reserve to cover future infrastructure costs.

A copy of the agenda is available on the council's website.

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# OBITUARY Ronald George Gibson

Continued from page 29.

serve internships within the Morrinsville practice. This gave students exposure to large dairy farms, and the scheme is still running some twenty years later.

In 2011, after 44 years with the Morrinsville Veterinary Club (now Anexa Vets,) and 22 of those years as CEO, Ron retired.

In his retirement, he and Jude worked on native restoration of the Topehaehae Stream behind their property.

He kept busy, and together with Jude and a team of volunteers, they took on the restoration of the gully on Allen St by the ATC Hall in Morrinsville.

He and Jude have been involved in a wide range of Waikato biodiversity restoration projects, including native seed collection, restoration of lowland kahikatea forest fragments, and pest control at Te Miro.

“Ron gave so much, he achieved so much for us as veterinarians, he gave

generously to the wider community, and to the green environment he loved,” said fellow vet Catherine Smith. Ron had a long-term health condition, but it had been well-managed, and his sudden death from Covid-19 was unexpected. He had recently celebrated his 80th birthday and was fit and healthy.

“He strived to leave the world better than he found it, a goal he truly achieved,” said his son Stephen.

He passed away surrounded by his family, on 15 November 2023, aged 80 years.

He is survived by Jude, his wife of 31 years, his children Stephen, Jillian, Paddy, and Sam, and his grandchildren Devon, Savannah, Eloise, and Ben.

As funeral celebrant Sue Smith summarised, “Ron will always be admired for the man he was, and he set a great example for his family. With his love, and strength and support, he has left a wonderful legacy.”



Ron Gibson with family.

## Plastic bag ban could be working

A lower amount of certain microplastics on Auckland’s coast could be due to the plastic bag ban, but that was the only good news. Researchers analysed samples from coastal areas in Auckland and found that microplastics were still widespread.

They found that in beach sediments and seawater, a kind of plastic often used in plastic bottles, food packaging, and polyester was the most abundant plastic polymer. Other kinds of plastics were also predominant in the sediments around storm-

water drains, indicating the potential link between urban runoff and microplastic pollution in marine ecosystems. But the good news was that the researchers found that Auckland’s coastal environment had a lower amount of polyethylene pollution

compared to similar studies in other parts of the world. They say that this may be due to New Zealand’s 2019 ban on single-use plastic shopping bags.

*Science of the Total Environment*

## Contraceptive pills may impair fear-regulating regions in women’s brains

The oral contraceptive pill might be affecting fear regulation in women’s brains, according to international researchers. The team compared the brains of women who currently use the combined

oral contraceptive pill, women who had used it in the past, women who had never used them, and men. In women who currently use the pill, the team found the ventromedial prefrontal cortex was thinner than in men; this part of the

brain is responsible for emotional regulation, such as decreasing feelings of fear in safe situations. The team did not find similar effects in past pill users, suggesting the effects might be reversible. This kind of study cannot prove the contraceptive pill

directly causes these brain changes, only an association, and researchers say this study does not aim to stop people using the pill, but to help to better understand the effects they might have.

*Frontiers in Endocrinology*

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# Drier in south but wetter in north for November

On average November rainfall was 143.9 mm, 3% more than usual, ranging from 32% less rain at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd, and 39% more at Waiwhakaiho at Hillsborough, according to Taranaki Regional Council

(TRC) figures.

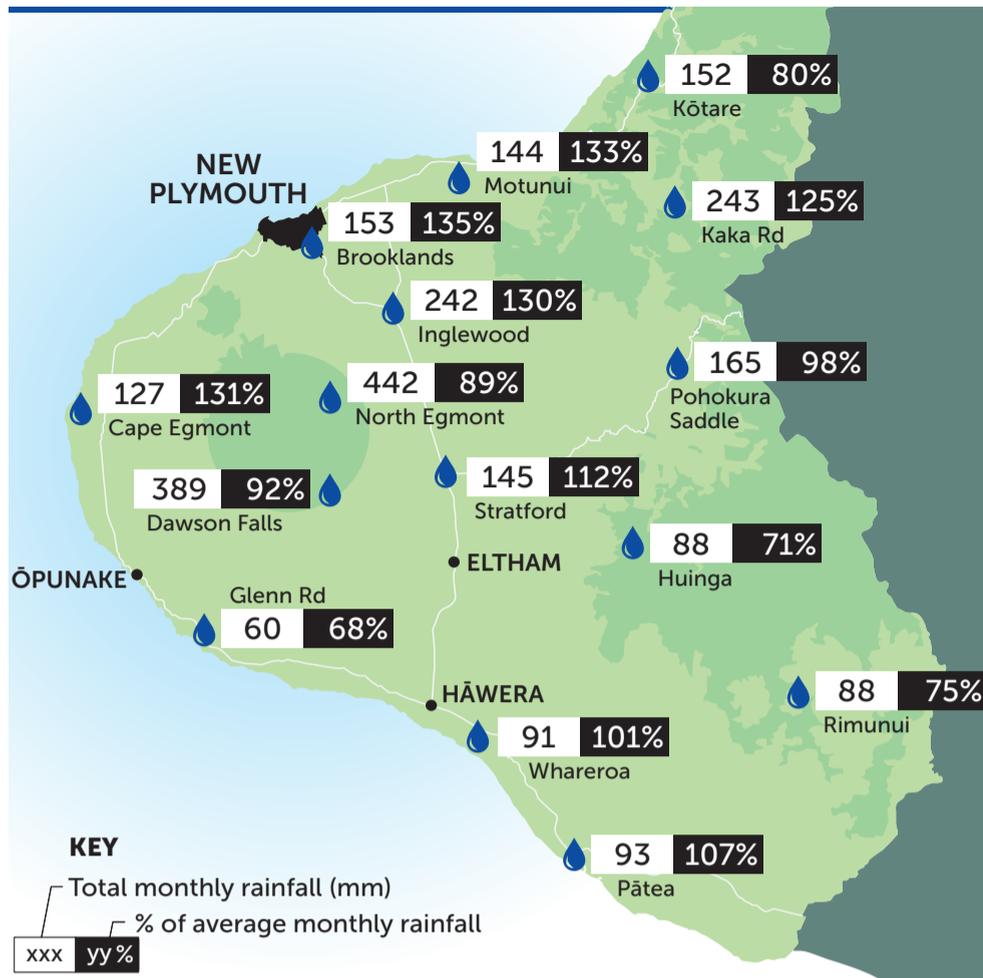
Year to date rainfall ranges from 11% less rainfall at Pohokura Saddle, and 12% more rainfall at Omaru at Charlies, with an average of 2% less than normal. Compared to typical full year totals, on average sites

have already received 89% of a typical year's rainfall, with the highest at Omaru at Charlies, 102% of normal, whereas Pohokura Saddle sits at 81% of the typical year's total.

Mean river flows for November were 26.6% lower than typical values, low flows were 19.8% greater, and high flows 30.1% lower than typical values.

The maximum river flow recorded in November was 370 m3/sec at Waitara at Bertrand Rd.

Mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 14.7 °C, an average of 0.2 °C cooler than long-term November values. Nighttime-low water temperatures were on average 0.3 °C warmer than historic lows, and daytime high temperatures were on average 1 °C cooler than historic highs.



The maximum river water temperature recorded in November was 22.2 °C at Kapoiaia at Lighthouse.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 13.5 °C, which is 0.6 °C cooler than long-term November averages. Low air temperatures for November were on average 0.3 °C warmer than the November average for previous years. Day-time high temperatures were on average 1.3 °C cooler than historic highs.

The maximum air temperature recorded in

November was 25.8 °C at Brooklands Zoo at New Plymouth.

The average soil moisture for November across sites in Taranaki region was 32.5%. Soil moistures were on average 1.4% wetter than typical November values.

On average, low soil moistures were 5.2% wetter than previous lows, and the highs were on average 0.9% drier than previous values for November.

November soil temperatures were generally 0.3 °C cooler than long-term averages. Average nighttime low

soil temperatures were 0.7 °C warmer than recorded lows, and upper day-time soil temperatures were on average 1.4 °C cooler than long-term November highs. The maximum soil temperature recorded in November was 24.6 °C at Waitotara at Rimunui Station.

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on January 25 2024.

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**SANDFORDS RURAL CARRIERS**

# Gumboot half marathon a life-changing experience

Two young dairy farmers hope they have created a domino effect – with farmers funding other farmers to challenge their limits and build resilience at Outward Bound.

After 21-year-old Lincoln University agricultural student Emma Blom attended her Outward Bound course and developed new skills useful for farm life and her personal life, she wanted someone else to have the same life-changing experience.

“I love dairy farming and wanted to support another young farmer to attend Outward Bound to unlock their potential and take what they’ve learned back to the farm,” Emma says.

During lockdown, Emma ran a half-marathon around the garden of her flat, wearing gumboots and milking overalls, to fundraise and sponsor another farmer. Farmers, families, friends, businesses and people she’d never met donated.

“The run was a lot of fun and tapped into the skills of endurance and perseverance I learned at Outward Bound. You’re challenged mentally and physically, and we help each other out. It inspired me to give back to the farming community.

“I hope I have started a ripple effect, with young farmers supporting each other to attend Outward Bound for many years to come,” she says.



Emma Blom.

Emma is finishing an environment and society degree at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, aligning with her commitment to sustainable farming. She plans to work on her parents’ Southland farm when she returns to New Zealand in the new year.

“I highly recommend other young people consider dairy farming. It’s a great lifestyle, including working outdoors with animals, and the opportunity to work towards owning a farm.”

Emma went on to select Southland dairy farmer Victoria Rundle to go to Outward Bound, saying her drive to grow and passion for the sector made her the perfect recipient.

Victoria says she knew nothing about Outward

Bound before she went, so it was an entirely new experience. The 30-year-old wanted to step outside her comfort zone and learn new skills she could apply to farming.

“Outward Bound helped me discover what I’m capable of. It’s something you don’t know until you are there living it, doing it,” Victoria says.

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Dairy farmer Victoria Rundle with her Outward Bound watch.

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# Slurry tankers a cost-effective way to spread effluent

Slurry tankers are an effective way to spread effluent, but is it a cost-effective solution for your farm? Let's walk through the benefits and costs that go into a system that could be beneficial for your operations.

**Benefits of a slurry tanker**  
A slurry tanker has many benefits that contribute to the effective spread of effluent across your farm.

**Unlimited reach**

Slurry tankers have unlimited reach across multiple paddocks and areas of operation.

A slurry tanker also allows you to reach a greater area without concern of toxic build-up over time that could create health problems for animals. Whether you have long or irregularly shaped paddocks, a slurry tanker is a great solution for managing difficult topography or reaching further away



A slurry tanker in action.

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paddocks.

**Nutrient Application**

Another benefit to consider is the ability to effectively apply nutrients. If you are managing effluent from a feed pad or slatted floor barn where you are getting a lot of nutrient rich effluent, a slurry tanker is able to take the effluent anywhere it needs to be applied. It also serves as a great way to reach crop paddocks that are outside the dairy platform.

Other effluent management methods, such as pipes, can cause a lower nutrient value to reach crop paddocks. We recommend utilising a Nevada Rainwave Applicator, where you can reach the plant root zone effectively, instead of losing nutrients to dissipation.

**Minimal Risk**

Slurry tankers have the added benefit of minimal risk involved. The most you could potentially lose if an issue occurred is a tanker-load of effluent. With more control, you can operate with better practices that ensure there is no risk to waterways or issues with ponding. While problems can occur with unattended travelling irrigators or pipes, a slurry tanker offers a straightforward approach that keeps in compliance.

**Are slurry tankers cost-effective?**

Slurry tankers are cost effective for several reasons that could benefit your farm operation efficiency.

**Quick set up**

There is no installation cost with a slurry tanker, and it has the assurance of getting

right back to managing effluent on your farm without delay. A minimal set up means it takes less time to spread effluent and offers a task that can easily be picked up as needed.

**Low application rate**

A slurry tanker can also apply effluent at a low application rate and provide proof of placement.

**Low running cost**

Slurry tankers operate at an extremely low running cost. It only requires the cost of diesel in the tractor, as well as one worker to manage the tanker. With virtually no repairs or maintenance required, slurry tankers can be in operation for a long time and retain their resale value if your operations ever change.

On average, slurry tankers distribute between 30,000 to

60,000 litres an hour. If you are operating over several farms, all you need is one investment for one piece of equipment that provides effluent management for all your farms, compared to having to put in infrastructure on each farm.

**Call our team to find a solution for your farm**

If your farm has some irregular-shaped paddocks less than 3.5ha in size, then a tanker is potentially the most cost-effective system. If, however they are larger than 3.5ha and regular-shaped, then an electric pump effluent system or drag hose system could be worth considering.

Call our team to find out more about the most 'cost-effective' solution for your dairy farm.

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# High volumes of imported pork flooding in

More than 40,000 metric tonnes (MT) of overseas pork from 22 countries has been imported into New Zealand during 2023, most of it from nations that allow pig farming practices banned in New Zealand.

An analysis of pork imports from January-October by NZPork shows the highest volume of imported pork was from the United States with 7,336MT, a 128 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2022 (3,216MT). Canada was the next highest, at 6,238MT, up from 3,824MT. Imports from Spain were down however, at 6,047MT compared to 9,685MT. Imports from Australia (3,551MT) and the Netherlands (3,418MT) also increased.

The next highest were Germany (2,962MT) a significant decrease from 10,042MT last year, Finland (2,775MT), Poland (2,406MT), Denmark (2,360MT) and Sweden (1,623MT).

NZPork chief executive Brent Kleiss says that while two thirds of pork consumed in New Zealand is imported, there is no requirement for the products to meet New Zealand's rigorous pig welfare standards.

"New Zealand has imported pork from 22 different countries this year. Although the European Union is currently reviewing animal welfare legislation, most EU members and other

countries exporting pork to New Zealand have lower standards of pig care and less rigorous enforcement regimes than we do.

"For example, gestation stalls are banned here but in Canada and most European countries sows can be confined in gestation stalls for the first four weeks of pregnancy and in the US they can be confined for their entire pregnancy.

"Our farmers do not castrate piglets at all but they are routinely castrated in Europe, the US and Canada – and in Spain, Poland and the US that is done without pain relief."

In New Zealand, sows are only housed in farrowing systems when it is time for them to give birth and care for their piglets – with a maximum of five days pre-farrowing and 28 days after. Yet most EU countries and the US have no limit on how long a sow can be confined in a farrowing system, either before or after giving birth. Canada allows up to six weeks.

Mr Kleiss says there has been a significant decline in pork volumes supplied from large European producers where new and proposed legislation around farming are making it harder to farm pigs.

"These pork imports have been replaced by product from the US and Canada where they are less stringent on environmental and welfare standards.



**Brent Kleiss.**

"New Zealand pig farmers deserve a level playing field. The new Government should demonstrate its commitment to animal welfare, the environment and local farming by subjecting imported pork to the same stringent standards that are applied to Kiwi farmers.

"The pork sector would also like to see Government departments backing local farmers through their food procurement. Government agencies such as the Department of Corrections, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education that are regularly providing food should be required to source that food locally whenever possible.

"We've been told by previous ministers that customers will pay more for pork, ham and bacon produced to more stringent standards, but the Government's own departments and ministries

whilst only disclosing that the product was made of imported pork in the small print.

"Kiwi shoppers can back Kiwi farmers by looking out for the 100% NZ Pork label and asking their retailer

where it's from if they're not sure. That way they know they are getting an excellent quality product from high health pigs born and raised in New Zealand to stringent welfare standards."

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## NZAEL chair thanked

New Zealand Animal Evaluation (NZAEL) chair Mark Townshend has stepped down as chair of from the board. He has chaired DairyNZ subsidiary NZAEL, the organisation responsible for ensuring New Zealand's rates of genetic gain are internationally competitive, since October 2020.

DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel says Mark's leadership, hard work and commitment has been greatly appreciated. "Mark has extensive farming and dairy cattle

breeding experience, along with dairy sector governance skills, which have enabled him to provide invaluable guidance and support to the NZAEL board in his capacity as chair. We thank him for his exceptional service and wish him all the best for the future."

During his tenure as chair Mark has also engaged with sector experts and partners to successfully progress the development of NZAEL's Breeding Worth (BW) to include genomics for bulls. This is expected to be available for the sector in mid-2024,

Other achievements have included updating the animal evaluation model and several traits that make up BW.

Mark is stepping down due to his other commitments and interests in New Zealand and internationally, and to spend more time with his family.

"New Zealand's genetics landscape will continue to evolve," he says. "Any changes need to be robust enough to be fit for purpose in the long term-and should consider what is best for dairy farmers."

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# Survey finds rural crime continues to rise

Sentencing judges need to stop going lightly on those convicted of illegal hunting and the killing or stealing of livestock, Federated Farmers rural policing spokesperson Richard McIntyre says.

And to keep pressure on the Government to ensure rural areas get a fair share of police resources, farmers need to report all instances of criminal activity.

These are two reactions from McIntyre to the findings of Federated Farmers' 2023 Rural Crime Survey.

Of more than 1000 farmers who responded to the questions, 67% said they had experienced a crime or suspected they had, in the instance of hard-to-prove incidents such as livestock killing or theft.

That is a 14.7% increase from the 2021 survey, and a 26% rise from the federation's first survey in 2016.

This year's tally was boosted by the inclusion of a question on illegal street racing, reported by just under 62% of farmers.



**Richard McIntyre.**

However, that accounts for only seven per cent of the rise and McIntyre says there is a marked overlap with 'boy racer' burnouts and dangerous driving, and instances of road and fence damage.

"The often-dangerous antics of sometimes hundreds of boy racers in isolated rural areas is very intimidating for families. Too many farmers are having to keep stock out of road-adjacent paddocks because animals are being

spooked and injured."

While the number of surveyed farmers reporting single incidents of crime has dropped slightly since the 2021 survey, McIntyre is alarmed that the number who have been hit by five or more criminal incidents has nearly doubled to 33.4%.

After illegal street racing, illegal hunting or poaching is the next highest reported crime at 47.1%, and property theft at 35.5%.

McIntyre is particularly

worried by the high rates of illegal hunting, as well as theft and killing of livestock (at 33% and 23% respectively), because they involve offenders coming onto farms with firearms.

He says when hunters ask the landowner for permission to come onto the property, there's an opportunity to let them know where houses are, where staff are working and where livestock are located.

"With people hunting

illegally, or looking to steal livestock, that whole safety element is out the window. We've got people shooting semi-randomly about the place without any understanding of the safety risks."

McIntyre also admits some exasperation that nearly half of those farmers hit by crime had not reported it because they thought police were too stretched or wouldn't be interested.

"All crime, and even suspicious vehicles and activity, needs to be reported. Police have told us time and again it helps them pick patterns of offending that boost the chances of an arrest.

"More importantly, unreported rural incidents mean a vast extent of the cost and disruption of criminal activity gets no notice, and the Government is off the hook on adequately resourcing police.

"Just 15% of farmers who experienced crime in the last two years said police had investigated and prosecuted the offender. It's only when we have more police dedicated to rural areas that we'll boost that figure," McIntyre says.

## Fewer emissions with just as much milk

Cows produce methane emissions as a by-product of their digestion - and this methane is the largest contributor from the agricultural sector to greenhouse gases in both Ireland and New Zealand. Irish and Kiwi researchers ranked 45 Irish dairy cows by their residual methane emission (RME). This trait measures the difference between a cow's expected and actual methane output. The cows in the low RME group produced 15% less

methane than the high RME group, while maintaining milk production and feed conversion efficiency. The authors say that reducing methane emissions from dairy cows has the potential to play a large role in achieving the emission reduction targets set nationally and internationally, and further analysis is needed to find out why cows have different RMEs.

*New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research*



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# Stratford has its first rumble

The TET Sports Complex was the place to be in Stratford on Saturday night as the Rumble came to town. The Stratford Rumble featured 20 boxers facing off against each other, and it was the first time it had been held in Stratford. The Coastal Rumble had been a popular annual event in Opunake, the brainchild of Opunake boxing personality James (Batman) Langton. Rumbles have also been held in Hawera.

"We have a full house sold out at 5 o'clock today and I'm really happy with that," said James (Batman) Langton shortly after the doors opened. "Mentally it's the most challenging thing anybody can do to get into the ring in front of thousands of people."

Organising the event had proved some challenges of its own, including rescheduling fights after some boxers had pulled out. This included the event's much anticipated main card which would have seen Opunake favourite Trish MacKenzie take on Talei Aldiss of Wellington. Talei had pulled out because of medical reasons.

"It's unfortunate because Trish put a lot of work into it, and so did Talei," said James.

The night's MC Ashtrin Haimona greeted everybody. "Boy, have we got a show for you tonight. Kick back and strap yourselves in, because this is going to be one hell of a night."



In the final fight ref Blair Reid declares Quinton Wilson the winner over Jack Hooper.

He was followed by James Langton.

"Thank you Stratford for turning out in such amazing numbers. We're definitely keen to come back here, me and Ange (Hapeta)."

In the first fight of the evening Barbwire boxer Bobby Katene continued his recent good form with a win over Ngatariki Te Awa of Clifton after ref Blair Reid stopped the fight in the third round.

"That's my second TKO in a row, hopefully I can have a KO in the next one," Bobby said later that night.

In the second fight of the evening Paul Waite who came in to replace Jason Bright had a unanimous decision over Rangiwetu

Robinson.

This was followed by another unanimous decision in the night's first female fight as Jorja O'Neil of Safari Boxing beat Sandra Gargan of Barbwire Boxing.

The next fight saw another win for Safari Boxing as David Leatherby beat Greg Hughes by a technical knockout.

"Are you going to do this again," Ashtrin Haimona asked Leatherby.

"Probably not."

This was followed by a draw between Whetu O'Carroll Leota and Prince Tutahione.

Liam Kupe who had won by a knockout at his last bout in Cambridge carried on his winning way with a unanimous decision against Zion Davis.

Kiara Katene got some sideline parental encouragement from her father Manaia identity George Katene when she took on Marika Laupane.

"One, two, three, get going," George was calling out. It may or may not have made a difference but Kiara won by a unanimous decision.

There was more sideline encouragement in the next fight, this time from James

Langton cheering on Beau Petley who lost against Rangi Wolland. Beau had made a good account of himself when he lost to James in the Online Fight Club night.

The last of the night's female fights saw Leilani Leatherby in her first Rumble take on Renee Wiki. Her split decision win proved to be a popular one.

At the end of the night Leilani said she had enjoyed the experience.

"I was confident in my training. I want to do it again, lots of times."

The night's penultimate fight was one Ashtrin

Haimona called "the battle of the rangatiras." Wayne Lewis knocked Craig Hemara Wananui down twice in the third round before the ref called the fight off, declaring Lewis the winner.

With the main card fight having been called off the night's final fight was the much-anticipated matchup between Quinton Wilson

and Jack Hooper. Wilson had previously been due to fight in the Hawera Rumble but had been unable to do so after this event had been abandoned.

Wilson won by a unanimous decision.

"I enjoyed that, thank you Jack," he said, speaking to Haimona after the fight. "Next year I want to be a pro boxer."



Winners Bobby Katene and Leilani Leatherby.

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Kiara Katene congratulated by her father George and family members following her win.



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# Opunake Surf Life Saving Club - bring on summer

We're stoked to be serving our community for another year... since 1923! We have a big team of committed volunteer lifeguards ready to patrol, a committee making sure things are ready for the beach, and a junior surf programme underway teaching water and beach safety and skills.

Where to swim? Between the flags of course...

Our beach will be patrolled Monday to Friday from 18th December to the end of January by our Regional Guards. This is between 10.30-6pm and our team are often the same awesome team of lifeguards who have been around our beach as volunteers too.

On the weekends, it's the trusty team of volunteer

lifeguards on patrol, 11.30-4.30pm. Make sure you come say hello.

Outside of these hours, you swim at your own risk. There are a couple things you can do though to reduce risk.

Firstly, swim in front of the clubrooms (this often has less rips) or if you look up on the hill behind the clubrooms, you'll see two big Norfolk pines. Don't swim at the south end/tail race end of the beach. Even better, if you see someone swimming in the wrong place, tell them too.

Secondly, never swim alone, and make sure someone knows when you are due home.

Thirdly, if you get into trouble, remember the Three R's - relax, raise and ride.



Members of the Opunake Surf Life Saving Club.

Relax (don't fight against current as you'll get tired quicker); raise your hand

- there is often someone watching the ocean, walking around the loop trail or playing at the beach; and ride, ride the rip until it releases you to swim to the

nearest shore. If you see anyone in trouble - ring 1-1-1 and ask for police. They have the number of our rescue squad team, and our contacts at the

club. If someone else is in the water e.g. a surfer with a board, see if they can go and assist keeping someone afloat - but only if it is safe for them too.

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# Opunake IRB racing results

Final 1. U23 Female Assembly Rescue Round 2. 1. Opunake A. 2. Opunake B. Final 1 U23 Male IRB Team Rescue Round 1. 1. Opunake 9. 2. Opunake. Final 1. U23 Male. IRB Team Rescue (3) Round 2. 1. Opunake 9. Final 1 U19 Male. IRB Team Rescue Round 1. 1. Opunake A. 2. Opunake C. 3. Opunake B. Final 1. U19 Male IRB Team Rescue (3)	Round 2. 1. Opunake A. 2. Opunake C. 3. Opunake B. Final 1. U23 Female IRB Team Rescue Round 1. 1. Opunake B. 2. Opunake A. Final 1. U23 IRB Team Rescue (3) Round 2. 1. Opunake B. 2. Opunake A.	2. Macy Sinclair, Caro Olliver, Melah Sinclair. Opunake B. Bella Pivac, Ella Griggs, Crystal Jordan. U19 Male. Opunake C. Harrison Martins, Ethan Jensen, Crystal Jordan. Opunake A. Liam Drought, Joe Edwards, Kate Midgley. Opunake B. Charlie Rankin, Alex Bengston, Mahlee Campbell.
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Teams. Opunake. Jacob Whittle, Jack Feaver, Melah Sinclair. U23 Female. Opunake A.

# First national title of season at Stratford Speedway

The M.C Fale Transport North Island Saloon Championship, the first of six speedway national titles to be held in Stratford this season, was run at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway on Saturday 9 December. With a few withdrawals in the days leading to the event, 24 of the original 29 entrants arrived to chase the glory of victory.

Local competitors were fast, used their home track knowledge and raced extremely well against some tough competition from throughout the North Island that included defending champion Trent Amrein and current New Zealand champion Jared Fletcher, both of whom are in brand new cars this season.

The competitors were drawn into three groups with each group racing each other in the qualifying rounds before the top-ranking competitors raced in the winner take all final over 20 laps.

Such was the form of the locals that they filled three of the four front grids in the final - Thomas Korff in grid one, Bradley Korff in grid three and Blake Hooper in grid four. Gisborne driver Daniel Cook was the odd one out, starting in grid two. New Zealand champion Fletcher was in grid five while defending North Island champ Trent Amrein was in grid thirteen after suffering from a DNF in a heat race when he had nowhere to go and slammed into a parked car.

At the race start, T. Korff led the field away, Cook dropped back several positions and Fletcher moved rapidly into second place with Blake Hooper running in third.

They stayed like this for almost half the race, Korff sitting on the pole line, Fletcher seemingly content to sit behind.

Hooper however, had



**Blake Hooper (12s) uses the outside line to pass Jarred Fletcher (1nz) and Thomas Korff for the lead in the North Island Saloon Championship final.**

started running wide around lap seven, setting the high line for his car and passed both Fletcher and Korff for the lead on lap ten.

Unfortunately for him, moments later Gisborne driver Hamish Moore, who was running mid pack, slammed into the turn two concrete, bringing on a caution and returning the grids to the last recorded lap, undoing Hooper's hard work.

On the restart Hooper again ran wide and made his way to the front with five laps to go. Fletcher was coming on form though and soon passed Hooper while Daniel Cook's car was coming to the track and he was quickly moving forward, passing Hooper to sit in second behind Fletcher while Korff had dropped back to fourth, and that is

how they crossed the line - Fletcher, Cook, Hooper, Korff.

At post-race scrutineering, Fletcher's car was found to be outside of spec with the rear spoiler sitting too high, so he was disqualified, making Cook the winner of the North Island Champs ahead of Blake Hooper and Thomas Korff.

Adult Ministocks raced for the Tool Hire Taranaki Champs, and it was Lukah Phillips who produced good speed to record a first, sixth and second placing over the three heats to win the title from Brayden Shaw while Loyd Clarke was third.

Modifieds made their first appearance of the season with a solid field of twelve cars and raced for their City of New Plymouth Classic trophy. Murray Gordge-built

cars filled the podium with Newton Gordge winning ahead of Carl Hinton with John Jackson third after beating Jamie Fox and Cody Hata in a three way run-off.

In the support class racing, Superstock races were won by Scott Joblin, Hamish Booker and Scott Willaims. New Zealand Champion Josh Walsh was in fine form

and won all three Stockcar races while Jared Pryce won all three Streetstock races.

The next event at Stratford Speedway is on Saturday December 16th.



**North Island Saloon Championship podium (from left, Second. Blake Hooper, First Daniel Cook, Third. Thomas Korff).**

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# A bus with no name.

A new role awaits a former Pickering's bus parked alongside The Wave Church in Opunake.

The Wave sees the bus as a safe space, a place to hang out, come alongside and show the love of Jesus.

There will be refreshments, games and companionship, and when it is open there will be at least two people there at any one time.

The Wave hope to get things going early in the New Year. Although they plan to run things alongside the school programme anybody of any age is welcome to drop in.

One thing that is missing is a name, so The Wave Church wants the community which the bus will serve to have an input. A competition to find a name will run until January 15. Entry forms can



The bus at The Wave Church.

be picked up and returned to Opunake Library Plus.

There is a first prize of \$100, second prize of \$50 and third prize of \$25.

As well as a new name The Wave Church is also looking to give the bus an artistic makeover. The new

artwork will reflect the dual meanings to the name Opunake- the Prow of the Waka and the place where springs have always been.

Competition winners will work alongside artists to bring their art to life.

# Pungarehu halfback to play in Utah

Rising rugby halfback Logan Crowley is off to the United States next month to play for the Utah Warriors. Logan, aged 27, is co-captain of the Coastal side and also plays in the NPC for Taranaki Bulls.

He currently alternates between playing professional rugby and working for Revital Fertilisers. When his agent mentioned that there were some openings for rugby talent in America, however, Logan seized the opportunity to broaden his horizons on a two-year contract with an option to withdraw after the first year if it does not work out.

"It will be an amazing experience," he says.

Major League Rugby, as it is called in the States, has been operating for six seasons and its 2024 season kicks off next March, which is an American spring.

Logan lives at Pungarehu, a small town on Taranaki's State Highway 45, which he will be swapping for Salt Lake City, population 1.2 million, but will be back in time to play for Taranaki Bulls when their season starts.



Halfback Logan Crowley from Coastal rugby Premiers.

**Congratulations and all the best to Logan in the USA, Coastal proud!**

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# Primo crowned Best Wireless Service Provider

In a resounding victory at the NZ Compare Awards on November 30th, 2023, at the Aotea Centre, Auckland, Primo emerged triumphant as the Best Wireless Service Provider. This accolade, acknowledging exceptional performance in customer service, product innovation, and sustainability, is particularly gratifying for Primo, a team of 23, competing

against larger businesses.

The NZ Compare Awards is an annual gala recognising excellence and innovation in New Zealand's telecommunications and utilities industries. Primo's win in the Best Wireless Service Provider category affirms its status as the strongest overall wireless service provider in the country, delivering

non-fixed technology solutions to consumers and organisations.

Since its inception in 2006, Primo has been an industry pioneer, providing cutting-edge technological solutions to businesses, homes, schools, farms, and marae. With a steadfast commitment to innovation, reliability, and outstanding customer service, Primo has become a household name in Taranaki.

Primo's recent expansions include broadening Rural Wireless coverage in Taranaki, extending the product range to include Fibre and Mobile Phone Plans, transforming into a full-service telco. These strategic moves are designed to benefit customers, aligning with Primo's dedication to providing the best solutions.

Daryl and Miranda Egarr, long-time Primo customers from Stratford, commend Primo's reliable wireless service and efficient customer support, highlighting the company's local focus and community contributions. "We've been with Primo's wireless service since we moved to a place in Stratford where there was (and still is) no reliable copper or fibre service. The Primo dish installation was quick and easy, and the internet connection has been extremely reliable. All my change requests have been actioned

quickly and accurately, and it's a relief to deal with a helpdesk team who are all technical experts rather than script-readers."

In November, Primo was also honoured as a finalist in the Southern Cross Insurance Wayfinder Awards in Auckland, celebrating workplace wellbeing leadership. This recognition aligns with Primo's ethos of prioritising people, from exceptional customer service to employee welfare and community service.

Founder and Managing Director Matthew Harrison, acknowledging Primo's outstanding team during the award acceptance speech, and emphasized the company's commitment to leader-

ship in the industry. The recent launch of Primo's Fibre network in Egmont Village this year also marks a significant milestone.

As Primo looks to the future, their commitment to excellence remains unwavering. Continuous investment in network infrastructure and expansion into rural areas underscores Primo's dedication to providing modern broadband connectivity where it's needed most.

Primo's network resilience, was showcased through a recent severe weather event. An example of how well their network is built, is that one of their towers had a near catastrophic incident

and broke in half. 99% of customers connected to this tower were reconnected to other towers within a few hours, while the remaining 1% were reconnected the following day. The network, designed like a spider web with backup towers and redundancy plans, ensures reliability even in challenging circumstances.

As Primo celebrates being named the Best Wireless Service Provider at the NZ Compare Awards, their mission is clear: to remain the backbone of progress in Taranaki and beyond.

For more information about Primo's services, visit [primo.nz](http://primo.nz) or contact them directly.

**BUNDLE YOUR FIBRE OR WIRELESS BROADBAND WITH A PRIMO MOBILE PLAN AND GET \$10 OFF EVERY MONTH**

**PRIMO**  
0800 123 774  
[www.primo.nz](http://www.primo.nz)

**BRIAN HILL**  
BD HILL BUILDING

*Wishing all our clients a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and thanks for your support throughout the year.*  
From Brian, Linda and Staff

**We are a licensed building practitioner and Master Builders member. Experienced in the design and consent process.**

0274 442 703

**Do you have any of these symptoms?**

- Fatigue
- Foggy brain
- Hot and shitty
- Headaches
- Depression
- Constipation
- Body odour
- Bad breath
- Insomnia
- Smelly wind
- Coated tongue
- Overweight
- Indigestion

**Bristol Stool Chart**

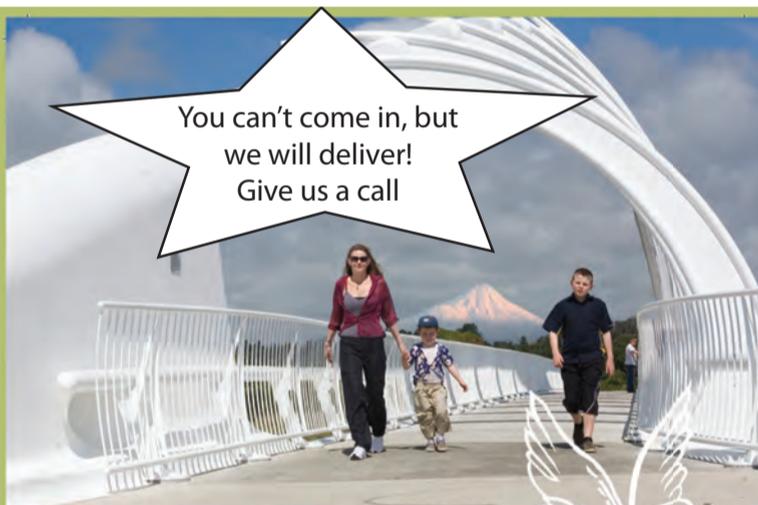
Type 1		Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
Type 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on the surface
Type 4		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7		Watery, 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.**



You can't come in, but we will deliver!  
Give us a call

## The Poo Brew

### NEW IMPROVED POO BREW

A combination of herbal powders to assist in healing the gut, nutritionally supporting the body and cleaning the bowel

**Heals the gut**

L-Glutamine is an amino acid which heals the gut. It is especially important for brain metabolism as it sustains mental ability. L-Glutamine has been effective in reducing the severity and incidence of very painful diverticulitis. It reduces sugar cravings, helps in fat reduction and in building muscle.



**THE HEALTH SHOP**

*We keep you healthy™*

Centre City Shopping Centre Ph: 06 758 7553

**Cleans the bowel**

Psyllium is proven to increase faecal size and moisture. The most common characteristic of stools following supplementation of psyllium are soft, sleek, and easily passable stools. Compared to other laxatives, psyllium doesn't cause wind. Psyllium goes sticky, pulling off the rubbish from the intestinal wall.

**Nutritionally nourishes the entire body**

Barley grass has no gluten as it is from the shoots of the barley plant. It is a natural detoxifier and boosts the immune system. It is also very alkalising to the body attributing to reducing acidity in the body which may cause acidosis damage. An imbalance of an acid/alkali ratio in the body may lead to problems like sleep disorders, cardiac pain, fatigue, constipation and fragile fingernails. Barley is a nutrient rich superfood loaded with vitamins such as all the B Vitamins, Vitamin C, Vitamin E and Vitamin K. Barley contains an abundance of electrolytes such as magnesium, phosphorous and potassium, along with other essential minerals such as zinc, iron and calcium. Barley grass is a powerful antioxidant, containing essential amino acids and beneficial enzymes.

# Actionaki



A classic day under the Mountain at Actionaki.



This keen lady smashing clays.

Actionaki is now part and parcel of what's going on around Taranaki. Since starting 13 years ago, all sorts 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 0800824836 Paddy Walsh



Preparing for paintball.



Sheer concentration.

**DO YOU WANT ACTION?**

**ACTIONAKI**

- 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 and hen do's
  - family gatherings
  - Birthday parties 10+
  - Surfcasting
  - BBQ'S

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

**FREE PHONE 0800 824 836**



**Advertise your event in the Opunake & Coastal News**

Call our sales team on 06 761 7016

**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*

# What's happening at Todd Energy Aquatic Centre



**Inflatable fun.**

The outdoor pools at the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre are now open for the summer season. Then of course there are the indoor pools at the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre, complete with one of the largest wave pools in New Zealand, as well as the country's tallest hydroslide. There's also the Aqua Climb wall, Tarzan swing and giant inflatables which are a hit with kids of all ages. The turboslide is popular with thrill seekers, and swimmers looking for a more relaxing experience can always take some time out in the sauna, steam

room or spa. The children's playground area outdoors which was funded by naming rights sponsor Todd Energy is sure to be popular with the younger visitors.

**After hours bookings**

The pools are a great place to have your Christmas function, a birthday party or work function. You can burn some energy on the inflatables and in the waves, get a thrill on the hydroslides, or relax in the spa pool. There are several options available. Contact the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre for more details or to make a booking.

**Retail Store**

A range of swimming products are available for purchase at the Aquatic Centre including goggles, caps and swimwear for all ages. We stock Spank, Adidas and Arena swimwear and we are also the exclusive retailer of the Funkita range for New Plymouth.

**Relaxation**

If its relaxation you're after, the aquatic centre has several options. You may prefer relaxing indoors in the dry heat of the sauna or the wet heat of the steam room. These are both beneficial forms of therapy for muscular aches and pains, and a wonderful

way to unwind following exercise or on cold days. If you want to pick a quiet time to visit the Aquatic Centre, come along before 10am or after 5pm. The times in between are the fun times when families and children are enjoying the pools, so things do get a bit lively.

**Swimming Lessons**

The aquatic centre offers swimming lessons for all ages and abilities from six month old babies up to adults. We have swimming lessons in the school holidays starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. Contact our swim school for more information.

For general enquiries about the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre or the district pools, phone 759 6060 or email

enquiries@npdc.govt.nz. More information is online at [www.newplymouthnz.com](http://www.newplymouthnz.com).

Weekdays 6.00am-8.15pm. Weekends/Public Holidays 7.00am-6.45pm. Fitness Centre. Weekend/Holiday Hours 7.00am-6.45pm. Kawaroa Park, New Plymouth Phone 06 759 6060 [www.newplymouthnz.com/AquaticCentre](http://www.newplymouthnz.com/AquaticCentre)

The Todd Energy Aquatic Centre welcomes all visitors to Taranaki. Freedom Campers are able to come and freshen up in our showers for the regular entry price of \$6.50 as well as the all day use of the pools and access to the yummy food available in our Cafe.



Indoor and outdoor pools at the Aquatic centre.

Todd Energy  
**Aquatic**  
CENTRE

**OPEN 7 DAYS.**

**DIVE INTO  
SUMMER**



**Summer fun for the whole family!**  
Swim, Slide, Spa & Fitness at the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre.

# Tiki Taane headlining Hawera's Concert in the Park this summer

One of the most well-known and diverse artists in Aotearoa, Tiki Taane, will be taking the stage at the Hawera segment of the 2024 Concerts in the Park.

Come along to Hawera's King Edward Park stage on Saturday 20 January to enjoy an evening of music and entertainment, starting at 4.30pm with local Cory Brooks kicking off the event with some of your favourite covers to dance and sing along to.

Tiki Taane will be on stage from 6pm, bringing his one-man band show to South Taranaki. Tiki has brought such magic as 'Always on my Mind' and 'Serendipity' and will impress with his powerful live performance.

South Taranaki District Council Events Co-ordinator Ella Tosland says she's looking forward to hearing Taane's music fill the Park.

"We hope whānau and friends take the opportunity to enjoy this event," says

Ella. "We encourage those attending to make an evening off it and bring along a picnic or take advantage of the food trucks that will be there on the night."

If we are experiencing wet weather on the day, the event will still go ahead inside the TSB Hub.

Concerts in the Park is part of the South Taranaki District Council's annual summer events programme which host a range of family-friendly, free events for our communities. This event is also supported by the Toi Foundation.

First hitting the stage in 1991, Tiki Taane went on to become the live engineer and eventually frontman of leading band Salmonella Dub in 1996, which catapulted Tiki to embark upon a life changing solo career that saw his music and production skills reach record breaking, award winning heights.

Tiki's 2008 self-produced debut solo release 'Past



Tiki Taane, will be at the Hawera segment of the 2024 Concerts in the Park.

Present Future' achieved double platinum sales and picked up a swag of NZ Music awards. His beautiful acoustic love ballad 'Always On My Mind' rose to Number One and broke two all-time NZ records – it sat

in the charts for a record 55 weeks and was also the first-ever NZ digital single to achieve platinum sales.

Tiki has produced multi-platinum, chart topping singles and albums, not only for himself but for NZ

artists such as Salmonella Dub, Six60 and longtime friends Shapeshifter - he's been their exclusive live sound engineer since 1999.

Renowned as much for his powerful, live performances as he is for the anthems he

writes and produces, Tiki's extraordinary ability to rock the mic as a hype MC, or as a one man band live looper, or through the collaborations he does with bands and orchestras, is something to be experienced firsthand. No matter the set he performs, or which country he performs in, the audience is always reminded of the sheer power of Tiki's ability to unify and connect as he seamlessly delivers a unique performance experience, making him the most diverse producer and performing artist in Aotearoa NZ.

Cory Brooks, the opening act, is from Normanby and will be sharing his take on some of your favourite kiwiana tracks.

The South Taranaki Summer Programme is brought to you by South Taranaki District Council. A range of activities that happen around the District, including Sounds on the Sand at Ōpunakē Beach, Concerts in the Park and Movies on the Big Screen (in Eltham and Hāwera). These, combined with our free seasonal Community Pools, make South Taranaki the place to be this summer!

# KING EDWARD PARK CONCERTS IN THE PARK

## SOUTH TARANAKI SUMMER



SUPPORTED BY:

TSB  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST

FEATURING  
**TIKI TAANE**  
AND CORY BROOKS

**SATURDAY 20 JANUARY, 4.30PM**

**FREE FAMILY EVENT**

**FOOD TRUCKS, ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC**

# Get boogielicious with Sonic Delusion this Summer

Sonic Delusion is returning to Ōpunakē Beach for Sounds on the Sand on Saturday 13 January 2024. “We are incredibly excited to welcome Sonic Delusion to Sounds on the Sand this year. We know André will have everyone up on their feet dancing in the sun,” says Event Co-ordinator Ella Tosland. The vibrant Swiss-Kiwi, high-energy performer, Sonic Delusion (André Manella) has played over 1,000 live shows at venues and festivals across Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia and Germany over the last decade. In his boogielicious live performances, Sonic Delusion uses his well-worn loop pedal with an array of instruments to skilfully layer and create an irresistible sound that is bursting with more funk than folk can handle. “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!” says Ella.

Sounds on the Sand is part of the South Taranaki District Council’s annual summer events where we host a range of family-friendly, free events for our communities. Sounds on the Sand featuring Sonic Delusion – Saturday 13 January 2024, from 12noon at Ōpunakē Beach. More about the South Taranaki Summer programme - The South Taranaki Summer Programme is brought to you by South Taranaki District Council. A range of activities that happen around the District, including Sounds on the Sand, Concerts in the Park and Movies on the Big Screen (in Eltham and Hāwera). These, combined with our free seasonal Community Pools, make South Taranaki the place to be this summer!

**Saturday 13 January 2024.**  
**“We are incredibly excited to welcome Sonic Delusion to Sounds on the Sand at Opunake this Summer.”**  
**Ella Tosland, Event Co-ordinator South Taranaki District Council**



# SOUNDS ON THE SAND

**ŌPUNAKĒ BEACH**

**SOUTH TARANAKI  
SUMMER**



FEATURING  
**SONIC DELUSION**

**SATURDAY 13 JANUARY, 12NOON**

FREE FAMILY EVENT

Tuia Taitonga ki Tai

# Southlink Coastal



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. Council wishes all residents a happy and safe festive season.

## Get boogielicious with Sonic Delusion this Summer



Tiki Taane will be taking the stage at the 2024 Concerts in the Park.

Come along to Hāwera's King Edward Park stage on **Saturday 20 January** to enjoy a free, family-friendly evening of music, starting off at 4.30pm with local Cory Brooks kicking off the event with some of your favourite covers to dance and sing along to.

Tiki Taane will be on stage from 6pm, bringing his one-man band show to South Taranaki.

Bring a picnic or enjoy the food trucks.



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"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!" says Ella.

**Sounds on the Sand featuring Sonic Delusion – Saturday 13 January 2024, from 12noon at Ōpunakē Beach.**

## Community Summer Pools



If you're feeling the heat this summer, then cool off at one of Council's free community pools! The free community swimming pools in Waverley, Pātea, Manaia, Rāwhitiroa, Kaponga and Eltham, are now open. Bring the family, the sunscreen and don't forget your togs!

*Council gives an annual \$54,000 grant to the Ōpunakē Community Baths.*

## Upcoming Meetings

Meetings scheduled between now and the end of February 2024. Please check [www.southtaranaki.com/meetings](http://www.southtaranaki.com/meetings) for any updates and agendas.

**Taranaki Coastal Community Board** - Wednesday 24 January, 2.30pm, Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre

**Policy and Strategy Committee** Wednesday 7 February, 1pm, Council Chamber

**Ordinary Council** Monday 19 February, 4pm, Council Chamber

## Check if it's Safe to Swim



Water quality in our rivers and at our beaches is pretty good over summer, except in poor weather conditions. Heavy rain flushes contaminants from urban and rural land into waterways and we strongly advise you not to swim for at least three days after heavy or prolonged rainfall. Before heading out check which popular South Taranaki swimming spots are safe to swim, on our website [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com).



## Ōpunakē Pump Track

Recently, vegetation along Tasman Street and Longfellow Road was cleared to allow more space to build a new Pump Track at the Ōpunakē Recreational Grounds.

Council Community Development Advisor Fran Levings says pump tracks have proven to be popular throughout New Zealand allowing bike, scooter and skateboard users to test their skills. "It's like a condensed BMX track but faster with short bumps and curves, all covered in asphalt," she says. "A big thanks to Toi Foundation for the bulk of the funding, along with support from Taranaki Coastal Community Board, OMOV and Council to make this project happen. We're looking forward to seeing the construction happen, hopefully around March next year."

## Temporary Liquor Bans

In accordance with the South Taranaki District Council's Alcohol Control Bylaw 2018, a temporary liquor ban will be in place in:

### Manaia:

South Road (SH45) Manaia, between Hassard and Kaipi Streets. All public places adjacent to these streets and within the area including the Band Rotunda. The temporary ban will start on Friday 22 December 2023 and ends on Sunday 7 January 2024.

### Ōpunakē:

Ōpunakē Lake Reserve, Ōpunakē Beach and the surrounding cliff tops (excluding Ōpunakē Beach Camp). The temporary ban will start on Friday 22 December 2023 and ends on Sunday 7 January 2024.

## Council facilities festive open hours

Head to [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com) for a full list of all Council facilities and open hours.

### Ōpunakē/Manaia LibraryPlus

Fri 22 December	9am - 3pm
Sat 23 - Tues 26 December	Closed
Wed 27, Thurs 28 December	Usual hours
Fri 29 December	9am - 3pm
Sat 30 Dec - Tues 2 Jan	Closed
Wed 3 January	Usual hours

### Ōpunakē/Manaia Transfer Stations

Sat 23, Sun 24 December	1pm - 4pm
Wed 27 December	1pm - 4pm
Sat 30, Sun 31 December	1pm - 4pm
Wed 3 January	1pm - 4pm

# Great places to go Golfing



House Golf starts on January 10th (see advertisement). On January 21st 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.

**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



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

*Our Greens fees are:*  
**\$25 for 18 holes**  
**\$15 for 9 holes**



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.

Kaitake 5th Fairway at Oakura.

**CG Fleming Ltd**

Oxidation cleaning, Muck Spreader, 5000lt Drain Cleaner, Ploughing, Discing, Rototilling, Harrows, Blading, Levelling, Rock Rower, Stone picker, Tractor Trailer and Rock Trailer, 5T Drain Digger



*We would like to thank our clients for their continued support and wish them all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year*

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

**OPUNAKE GOLF CLUB**  
Opunake Open Tournament

**Sunday 21st January 2024**

**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 10th January 2024**

**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 Karl Stanley on 027 330 1875

**Everyday Play Available**  
\$20 Green Fees - Affiliated Golfers  
\$30 for Non Affiliated  
Students \$10

**Pungarehu Golf Club**

6199 Main South Road, Pungarehu  
Green Fees \$20 - 18 Hole Course

Subs: Full Member \$280, Limit \$150, Students \$75  
Twilight Golf every Tuesday from 4-6pm

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



**Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from our team**



**We will be closed for the stat holidays. 24 hr breakdown service available over these days**



**Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration**  
Okato 752 4084 | Opunake 761 8084 | Stratford 765 4499



**OPUNAKE OUTDOORS & SERVICE**

**FABULOUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS IN STORE**

From lawnmowers and garden equipment to special stocking stuffers. Great outdoor games for summer. Check out our range.

*Proud to support Take a Kid Fishing on 4th January Register in store on the day*

Chainsaw sharpening | Lawnmower servicing  
Fishing gear and bait | 50% off all Black Magic products

Ph 021 306 668

**Opunake Beach Carnival 2024**



Mr Muscles will again feature at the Opunake Beach Carnival.

The 2024 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 6 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. Then the Opunake Talent Contest carries on. 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](mailto:opunaketalentcontest@gmail.com) or register on the day if places are still available.

depending on the tide. 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 kebabs, Thai and Turkish food, ice-cream, coffee, hot dogs and chips, to name a few. Back by popular demand is the hourly raffle.

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](mailto:opunaketalentcontest@gmail.com) and get yourself ready to take your turn.

**Country Connections**

Leigh & Patrice & family would like to wish everyone a safe & happy holiday period

**Sponsors of the Opunake Beach Carnival**

**Year round stockists of Speedo swimwear**



Closed stat days only

**Best Little Gift Shop On The Coast!**

**80 Tasman St, Opunake • Ph (06) 761-8171**



**ŌPUNAKĒ BEACH CARNIVAL**



**SATURDAY 6th JANUARY**

**10AM START - FREE ADMISSION**

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

**10 am start:** On Dell Stage - Babies 0-2, Tots 3-5, 5-7, 8-12 Muscles and Mini Muscles  
Opunake Beach Carnival Talent Contest  
*Open to all ages. Pre register: [opunaketalentcontest@gmail.com](mailto:opunaketalentcontest@gmail.com)*

**Great contests:** Pie eating, Lolly or the bag, Bottle flip, Tik Tok medley

**2pm:** MISS OPUNAKE  
OPUNAKE LIONS BIG DIG: Sponsored by Campbell Contracting. Three Sections- everyone gets a prize. **THREE MAJOR PRIZES.**

*All day fun for all ages: Activities include Tinka the Train, Kids Cars, Laughing Clowns Shooting gallery & Bouncy Castle.*

Carnival-goers will be spoilt for choice with food trucks including kebabs, Thai & Turkish food, ice cream, coffee, hot dogs and chips

The Beach Road will be closed. The Pickering Shuttle will be available - Koha donation.

Miss Opunake (13 years +) will take place after the Big Dig. 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 Campbell Contracting. The Big Dig is scheduled for around lunchtime,



Simon and Stacey would like to thank you for your continued support over the past year. Along with the team at Coastal Agri we 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.



**Coastal Agri**  
Your Performance Partner

# Opunake Beach Carnival 2024



The Opunake Lions Big Dig is a great event held each year at the Carnival.



**CAMPBELL CONTRACTING LTD**

*Proud to Sponsor the **Big Dig** since 2010*



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

 Rusty 027 280 0743

 Nadia 0275552038

 [www.campbellcontracting.nz](http://www.campbellcontracting.nz)

**DINING & ACCOMMODATION GUIDE** *Taranaki*

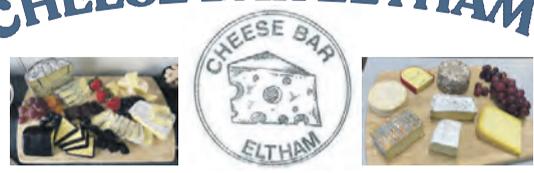
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THE BAKERS  
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Yarrows would like to wish the local community a very merry Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year!

SHOP CLOSSES AT 3.30PM ON FRIDAY 22/12/23 AND RE-OPENS AT 7AM ON MONDAY 8/1/24



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Come and hang out at The Rooftop Bar. The Good Home New Plymouth. Great views, Great Food, Excellent Service.



# DINING & ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

Taranaki



Thank you for supporting us during 2022.

We will be closed 19th to 28th December.

Opening 6 days a week - Tuesday to Sunday through to the end of January 2023.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Enjoy with your family and friends. Open 8am-4pm.

Call 06 761 7062 for bookings

## UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

### SUMMER HOURS

Wed - Fri 4.30-8pm

Sat & Sun 12 - 2pm & 4.30-8pm

Dec 24 : 4-7pm; Dec 25, 26, 27: Closed

Dec 28, 29, 30, 31: 12-2pm & 4.30-8pm

Jan 1, 2: Closed

From Jan 3 -

Wednesday - Friday: 4-8pm

Sat & Sun : 1-8pm

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Okato  
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serialgriller.nz

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NEW SUMMER HOURS  
DINE IN & TAKE AWAY

**SERIAL GRILLER**

**Open 7 days  
12pm-8pm  
from the 28th  
Dec.**

**The perfect spot  
for a family meal,  
a quick bite or a  
drink with friends**

**At the carriage in Ōakura**

Dave and Keren Kurth From Serial Griller Oakura call in and try one of their beautiful Smash burgers.



# History Snapshots



1

**Lord Ernest Rutherford** (1871-1937) is generally considered to be the greatest New Zealander of all time. The scientist won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1908. He is best known for 'splitting the atom'. His family lived in **Lower Parihaka Road, Pungarehu**; the homestead was demolished in 1980. Coming from Surf Highway and nearing the sea, two Norfolk pines (one diminished by a lightning strike) mark the site - on the left. The Rutherfords had a flax mill near their home and also in **Warea**

up on a farm near **Rahotu** (in Opuratu Road) and attended Rahotu Primary School and Opunake High School. He farmed in the area until 1965 when he bought a sheep and beef farm near Te Kuiti. In 1972 he entered Parliament and was soon elevated to cabinet minister status - he was Minister of Maori Affairs and, later, Minister of Labour. After leaving Parliament he was NZ's Ambassador to the US and, later, Kiwibank's CEO.



4

**Dame Malvina Major** (1943-). The famous classical singer was born in Hamilton, but lived on a dairy farm near Opunake (**Lower Kina Road**) with her husband Winston. Sadly, Winston died suddenly when he was in his 40s. Earlier, Dame Malvina studied under Sister Mary Leo. She won the 1963 NZ Mobil Song Quest, beating Kiri Te Kanawa in the process (Kiri came second). She has taken breaks from her singing career - in 1985 she returned to the international stage in Brussels with 'La Finta Giardiniera'.



2

**Te Whiti-o-Rongomai III** (1830-1907) was born in **Pungarehu**. He lived in **Parihaka** and practiced non violence and passive resistance to the confiscation of Maori land. He is as close a figure as we can get to the great Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi with his principles of non violence. Te Whiti spent some time in prison for his stand on land confiscation. His memorial in Parihaka says: "He was a man who did great deeds in suppressing evil so that peace may reign as a means of salvation to all people on earth".



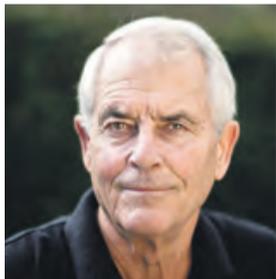
5

**Dr Peter Snell** (1938-2019) is generally considered to be NZ's greatest sportsman of all time. He won three Olympic gold medals and two Commonwealth gold medals and set eight World Records as a 1960s middle distance runner. He twice broke the World Record for the mile. As a child he lived in two houses in **Opunake**, including **14 Dorset Street**. In his biography 'No Bugle No Drums' by Garth Gilmour, he talks about running through the Opunake Beach sand dunes as a child.



3

**Jim Bolger** (1935-) became NZ's 52nd Prime Minister in 1990. (He eventually lost the National Party leadership to Jenny Shipley in 1997). He was born in **Opunake** and grew



7

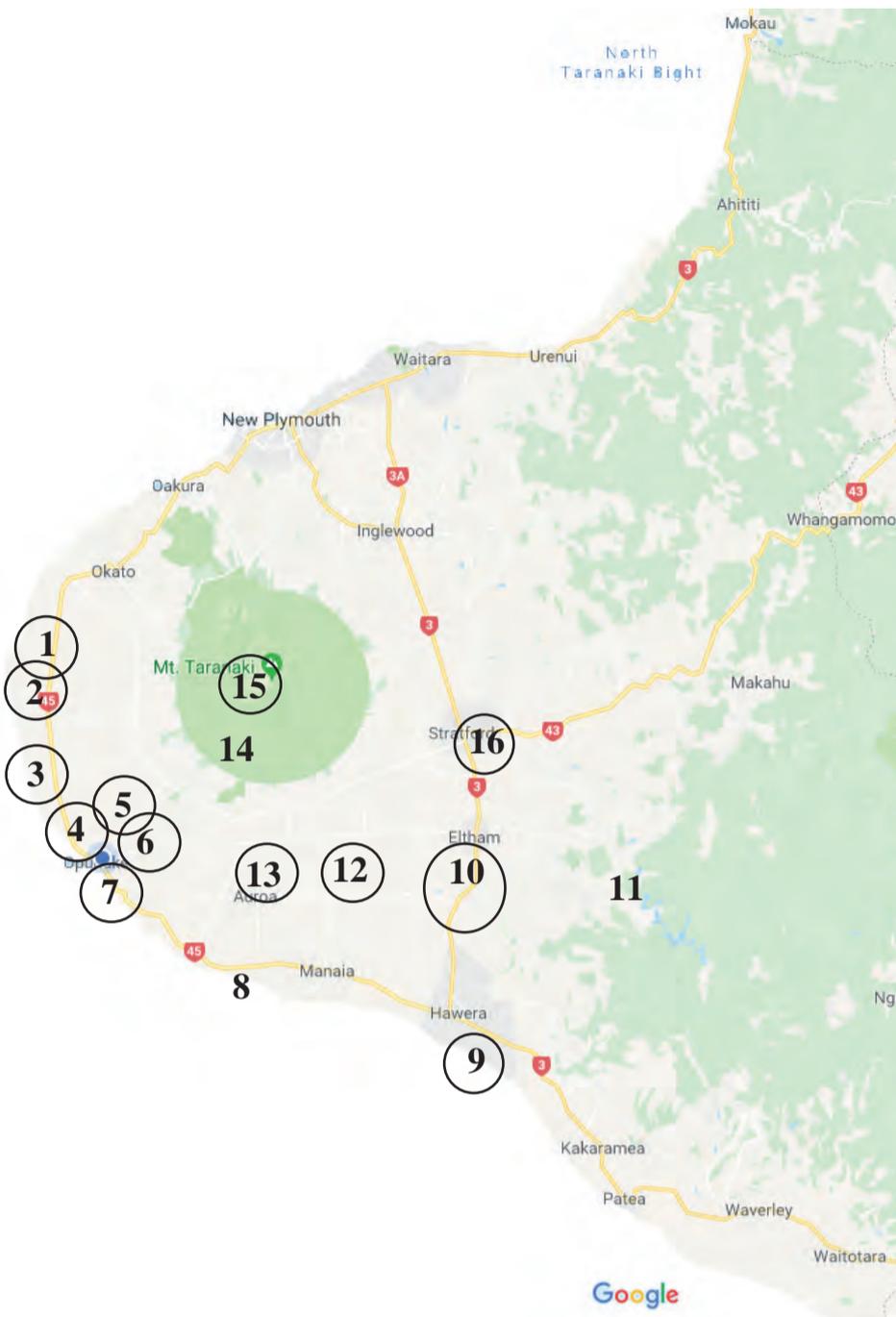
**Don Clark** (1933-2002) played at fullback for the All Blacks between 1956 and 1964, scoring 781 points. He is described as the "greatest goal kicker of his time". He could kick goals huge distances - even from deep in the opposition's half. As a child he lived in **Pihama** and attended Pihama School, which was recently closed. He emigrated to South Africa and established a tree felling business.

6

**Graeme Lay** (1944-) was born in Foxton. He is a well known writer. As a child he lived at **31 Ihaia Road, Opunake** and his parents had a shop in **Tasman Street** where the Opunake Op Shop is situated. He was inspired by the short stories of Frank Sargeson and eventually became a friend of the great writer, often visiting him in his Takapuna home (He is Secretary of the Frank Sargeson Trust). His novel 'The Mentor' was loosely based on Sargeson. We have published some of Graeme's short stories in this newspaper.



# A map of Taranaki



redesigning the cups so the cows could be milked in a quarter of the time. Neighbours liked what they saw and asked John to design cups for them. The manufacturers of the machine didn't like him doing this and claimed his improvement was an infringement of their patent rights. They forced him to buy back the cups he had made for his neighbours and to stop using the design on his own machine. Undeterred he built his own machines from scratch, which he marketed from 1907 as the Simplex Milker. It quickly took on and he gave up farming to concentrate on making more of them.

He sold his patent rights in 1910 and they began to be marketed worldwide.



9

**Ronald Hugh Morrieson** (1922-1972) has been described as "the most

original novelist NZ has produced." He wrote such books as 'The Scarecrow', 'Predicament', and 'Come a Hot Friday.' He is the only New Zealand writer to have all his books made into films. He lived in his **Regent Street, Hawera** house for most of his life.

Three biographies tell his story including Peter Simpson's **Ronald Hugh Morrieson** (1982), Julia Millen's (same title, 1996) and **A Towering Talent** (2022) by Rolland McKellar.



10

**Charles Wilkinson**

On a trip to the United States in 1902 Charles Wilkinson liked what he saw of their tar-sealed roads and thought they could work in New Zealand.

As a member of the Eltham Borough Council he persuaded his fellow councillors to give tar sealed roads a go and in 1906, Bridge Street in Eltham became New Zealand's first tar-sealed street.

Charles Anderson (C.A) Wilkinson was a dominant figure in Eltham throughout the first half of the 20th century as a businessman, civic leader and as an MP who almost became the first leader of the National Party. Born in Oakura in 1868 he moved to Eltham in 1884 to manage Chew Chong's store. He later set up in business himself and C.A. Wilkinson Merchants would have branches in New Plymouth, Hawera and Stratford.

He was an Eltham borough councillor and in 1912 was elected Reform Party MP for Egmont, retiring in 1919. In 1928 he was back again as MP for the same seat, this time as an independent.

In 1931 he was a member of a committee which recommended setting up a national coalition government, the forerunner of the National Party. In 1933 he was one of the leading lights behind the Coinage Act which gave New Zealand its first national coins. Before then British money had been used.

After the coalition government was defeated by Labour in 1935 he took part in plans to form the National Party and narrowly lost out to Adam Hamilton who became the party's first leader. After that Wilkinson went back to being an independent and retired from parliament in 1943.

He went back to local politics for a time, being

8

## Pioneering milking machine

Dairying in New Zealand got a boost with the introduction of refrigerated shipping and the opening up of the UK market. At that time the existing milking machines from Britain were not highly regarded so there was a rush to develop something better suited for New Zealand conditions.

One of those who gave it a go was Otakeho farmer John Blake who improved on the existing machines,

mayor of Eltham from 1941 to 1947. He died in 1956.

He is also remembered for a number of buildings with which he is associated, including his own imposing home on High Street, the Wilkinson Building on the corner of High and Bridge Streets and Wilkinson's Castle at Pukearuhe.



11

**Lake Rotokare**

Twelve kilometres east of Eltham is Lake Rotokare. A landslide-dammed lake it is New Zealand's largest wetland. The Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve was created in the early 1870s but it wasn't until 1914 that it could be accessed by road.

Today the Reserve is administered by the South Taranaki District Council and the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust which was set up in 2008. Entry to the reserve is through a double gate system and is free. Just push the entry button for the gates to open automatically.

Take a stroll around the loop track and relax at the

picnic area. Take in the lakeside views and the local birdlife.

The lake is a stopover for many different migrating birds.

In the forest the species include bellbirds, tui, kereru, grey warbler, fernbirds and spotless crane. Water birds can be seen around the lake edges and often around the tracks.

Species that have been reintroduced include the western brown kiwi, the tieke (saddleback), hihi (stitchbird), pateke (brown teal) and titipounamu (rifleman).



12

**First rotary shed**

Milking cows on a rotary platform had been tried before but it was a Mangatoki farmer who made rotary cowsheds simpler, usable and mainstream. An American had designed a Rotolactor in the 1930s but its size and expense meant it was only practical for large herds.

In 1967 a dairy inspector told Merv Hicks from Mangatoki near Eltham that he had two years to upgrade

his old walk-through shed or shut down. The idea of a herringbone shed didn't appeal so with the help of Eltham firm Hotter Engineering he came up with a 14-bail rotary shed that had its first spin on September 2 1969.

The new shed had cows walk forwards on to the rotating platform and then backwards after a full turn.

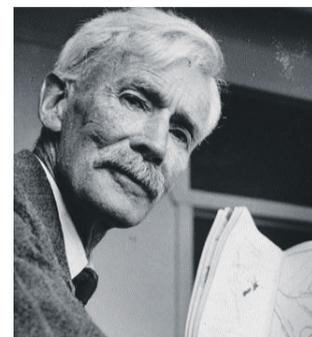
Merv set up a company Turn Styles Ltd to market his new invention. He sold thousands of these around the country before selling up to DeLaval and shifting to Tauranga where he owned a kiwifruit orchard. In 2004 he received a lifetime achievement award at the Dairy Awards. He died in 2006 aged 80.



13

**Gustavus Von Tempsky** (1828-1868) Born in Prussia, he travelled the world and arrived in NZ in 1862 - attracted by the

Coromandel gold rush. He joined the Colonial Defence Force in 1863 and his Forest Rangers were involved in European-Maori clashes. He was promoted to captain - then major. He was killed fighting Titokowaru's warriors at Te Nguto-o-te-manu. He is not only remembered as a brave soldier, but also as a painter; some watercolour pictures are held in the Alexander and Hocken Libraries.



14

**Sir Alfred Reed** (1875-1975) He is better known as AH Reed. He is remembered for founding NZ's biggest publishing company, writing over 70 books (the last one when he was 98), walking huge distances while in his 80s, and his Christian and philanthropist kindness and donations. As regard walking, he walked from Sydney to Melbourne in his 90th year. At 86 he walked

the entire length of NZ. He twice became the oldest person to climb **Mount Taranaki**. Stratford's Mountain House has a photo of his achievement at the age of 86. He also, at this time, walked right round the circumference of Mount Taranaki.



15

**Sir Edmund Hillary** (1919-2008) He is known as the conqueror of Mt Everest, a feat he achieved in 1953 with the Sherpa Tenzing Norkay as part of John Hunt's expedition. He continued to take an interest in the people of the Himalayas throughout his life. He considered his building of schools, hospitals, bridges etc for the Nepalese people as his greatest achievement.

He was also active in Lions.

In 1975 he entered the political arena as one of the

group known as Citizens for Rowling which supported Labour prime minister Bill Rowling in the general election of that year.

Among the many peaks he has climbed is Mt Taranaki.



16

**Janet Frame** (1924-2004), who is generally considered to be NZ's best writer (with Katherine Mansfield), lived in **Stratford** from 1976-79. One house, in Juliet Street has been demolished, but her **124 Miranda Street** still exists.

In 1990 her award winning three volume autobiography was adapted into the movie An Angel at my Table by Jane Campion.

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on January 25 2024.

# Meri Kirihimete from everyone at Tui Ora

**During the festive season;**

**Tui Ora Hauora ā-Whānau (Family Health) and Pharmacy, New Plymouth** will be closed from 12:00pm noon on **Friday 22 December 2023** and will reopen at 8:30am for enrolled patients on **Wednesday 3 January 2024**

**Tui Ora Hauora ā-Whānau (Family Health), Waitara** will be closed from 12:00pm noon on **Friday 22 December 2023** and will reopen at 8:30am on **Monday 8 January 2024**

**Tui Ora and Heartland Services, Ōpunake**, will be closed from 12:00pm noon on **Friday 22 December 2023** and will reopen at 8:30am on **Monday 8 January 2024**

**Tui Ora New Plymouth** will be closed from 12:00pm noon on **Friday 22 December 2023** and will reopen at 8:30am on **Monday 8 January 2024**

**Tui Ora Hāwera** will be closed from 12:00pm noon on **Friday 22 December 2023** and will reopen at 8:30am on **Monday 8 January 2024**

For details of support services available during these times, please visit [tuiora.co.nz](http://tuiora.co.nz) or call **0800 TUI ORA (884 672)**

**TUI ORA**



# New developments ahead for Loop Trail

As the warmer weather approaches we look forward to the opportunity to get out and utilise our wonderful loop trail more.

It's been a busy year for the trail, improvements continue as funds and volunteer time allows, with the current project being the realignment and widening of 'Dudley's Bridge' over the Hihiwera Stream. Work began in late November after weather delays and it has been project managed and staffed by the Opunake Lions.

This development will be a huge asset to the loop trail, allowing easier access for bikes (previously many would get stuck due to the narrow width) and a gentler

gradient for entry and exit. The bridge has been widened to two metres, with the new sides expected to be in place before Christmas once the concrete is cured.

Other work has been undertaken at various spots thanks to nature where realignment of the track has been necessary for safety requirements.

Thanks to a generous \$22,000 grant from Pub Charities we will be able to now fix some 'problem' areas of the track including concreting under the Otahi Bridge, repairing and adding sides to the wooden bridge over the Opunake lake outlet, and sorting the piping causing washouts on the track below the Barbwire Boxing Club.



A tranquil part of the Loop Trail.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped progress the Loop Trail – those who looked after planting areas,

who turned up to working bees, donated their time and funds to beautify the loop, with a special thanks to our

committee and the Opunake Lions for their tireless efforts to improve the Trail for everyone.

Wishing everyone a happy biking/running/walking holiday season!

## Legends of the Coast

### Take a Kid Fishing Day

Thursday 4th Jan, 2024

7am-5pm

Opunake Main Beach

Prizegiving to follow.

\$2 per child. Register at Opunake Outdoors and Sport, Tasman Street. Open to Primary School and Pre-School children.

Prizes kindly donated by Cleenasz, Legends of the Coast & Opunake Outdoors and Sports. Get the family together for a fun day out.

Contact: Leah (027) 334 7304



## More suspect chemicals found in stone benchtops

Multiple chemicals in engineered stone could be a silicosis risk, raising questions about alternatives.

not just be the quartz, or silica, in engineered stone that is causing the lung disease silicosis, raising questions about the safety of alternative products.

Australian researchers have found that it may

The researchers found that

aluminium and cobalt in the engineered stone were associated with cell toxicity.

The authors say the outcomes of this study challenge the common view

that reducing the crystalline silica in engineered stone benchtops will eliminate disease risk.

Respirology

## On this month in history Ronald Hugh Morrieson dies

On December 26, 1972 Taranaki's best known writer James Ronald Hugh Morrieson died aged 50 at his Hawera home in Regent Street.

He has the distinction of being the only New Zealand writer who has had all his novels made into feature films. His four novels were *The Scarecrow*, *Came A Hot Friday*, *Pallet On the Floor* and *Predicament*.

**SAVVYGAS**  
PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS!**

We will be closed from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2023 and re-open on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. However, we will be available for any urgent plumbing or gas fitting needs during this time on 0800 SAVVYS or 06 765 5336 and one of our team will be able to assist.

P 06 765 5336 | E info@savvygas.co.nz  
191 Broadway, Stratford

Thank you for your support this year see you in 2024

**EXCAVAT**

**SUMMER WORK TO DO?**

info@excavat.co.nz | 0800 314 437

# Exhibition chronicles popular Taranaki band from 1966-83

Temporary Gallery, Ground Floor, Puke Ariki Museum  
9 December 2023 – 8 June 2024



## Kount Five Plus Two.

Step into retro Taranaki and discover Stratford's own, Kount Five Plus Two, the iconic covers band of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Puke Ariki Museum's newest exhibition Kount Five Plus Two: Pop Culture in Retro Taranaki 1966-1983 invites you to hit rewind this summer and take a nostalgic ride through the local music scene in this pop culture extravaganza!

Originally from Stratford, Kount Five Plus Two were an iconic Taranaki covers dance band, playing regular dances, cabarets and hotels. With five men and two women, the band played regular nights at the Westown Motor Hotel.

Follow Kount Five Plus Two as they started out playing country dances in the 1960s, a regular Saturday night staple back in the day. Through to when they backed famous

celebrities of the era like Ray Columbus, and continued performing all over the region, from the Opunake Mardi Gras to the Bowl of Brooklands in the 1970s.

They had a taste of the 1980s as the band finished up their hay-day throughout

their regular hotel spots.

At this exhibition you can explore what was big on the radio, try on the retro clothes, or break out your dance moves for the light up floor!

If you remember the good ol' days, were a regular at

the country dances or the Westown Motor Hotel, be sure to bring the family along to share in the laughs and nostalgia as you explore your memories with the whole family.



Kount Five Plus Two performed with Ray Columbus.

**Farmlands**  
co-operative

2 Aytoun St,  
Opunake  
Ph 06 761 8773

## A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday December 17, 7pm  
St Barnabas Opunake, 141 Tasman Street

At this time of the year we often reflect and remember people and events that were important in past years.

Join us to take time out in a simple reflective service and to light a candle in remembrance of those milestones.

At the conclusion we will share Christmas Cake and refreshments

**Foodbank**  
New Zealand

### OPUNAKE AND DISTRICTS FOODBANK

Due to the economic climate at present, we have elected NOT to have a community collection drive. However, this year we have been fortunate to receive funding we can utilise towards Christmas Parcels so we will still be sending Christmas Parcels out via the schools and other community groups.

If you wish to donate any goods towards this, you can leave them under the Christmas Tree at CoastalCare from 1st December until 24th December.

**If you know someone struggling, they can call 06 761 8488** to collect a food parcel – leave a message if they get the answerphone.

Thank you and Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Safe Holidays.



## KOUNT FIVE PLUS TWO POP CULTURE IN RETRO TARANAKI 1966-1983

Hit rewind with Puke Ariki this summer and enjoy an exhibition for the whole whānau!

**EXHIBITION ON NOW!**

Puke Ariki



# Santa to visit Opunake on Christmas Eve



Planning is underway for the annual Opunake Christmas Parade. The parade which is organised by the Opunake and Districts Business Association is traditionally held on Christmas Eve and this year is no exception. The Stratford Highland Pipe Band will be there and Opunake High School students fund raising for next year's trip to Japan will act as marshalls. And of course no Christmas Parade would be complete without the man in the red suit himself, on one of his last assignments before heading off on his world trip.

## Cost of building a home up 4.9% this year

The average cost of building a home in New Zealand's main centres has increased since last year. More than 42,000 rates were updated in November by QV CostBuilder, which creates a database of construction costs, with the average cost of building a standard three-bedroom home increasing by 4.9% annually. This compares to an average annual increase of 11.3% at the same time last year, and an average annual increase of 14.7% at the end of November 2021. CostBuilder spokesperson and quantity surveyor Martin Bisset commented: "Construction costs have almost stabilised throughout the second half of this year, reflecting a somewhat improved economic outlook internationally and an easing in the global supply chain issues that arose throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. "Fuel costs have largely stabilised for the time being, inflation is in slow decline, and interest rates are expected to be at or near their peak now. These factors and others closer to home – including increased migration helping to fill labour shortages – are currently keeping rising costs in check." However, Mr Bisset warned that there was still a great deal of uncertainty at home and abroad, which made it difficult to predict how construction costs would continue to evolve into 2024 and beyond. "Economic conditions remain highly volatile – not least because of the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas conflict." "There's still a question of whether interest rates will ease at all next year, and by how much will depend on inflation being contained. As we rely on importing a lot of building materials in this country, a lot also depends on the buying power of the New Zealand dollar," he added.



OPUNAKE AND DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
Presents

### Opunake Christmas Parade 2023

Sunday 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2023 PARADE ENTRY FORM

My printed name or signature below is my bond that I understand the rules and guidelines for the 2023 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 2023

### 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 2023 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 18th December 2023.  
Entries received after that time will be placed at the end of the parade.

Please email your completed form to [agrimecauto2022@gmail.com](mailto:agrimecauto2022@gmail.com)  
Or drop it into Agrimec Auto, Ihaia Rd, Opunake.

# Your summer at the Bowl of Brooklands



## Christmas at the Bowl

Sunday 17 December 2023

A variety show with all your favourite carols, sing-alongs and a spectacular finale, this is a jam-packed evening of fun for the whole family to enjoy.

A Christmas at the Bowl Trust event - gold coin donations are appreciated.

## Dire Straits Legacy & Nazareth

Wednesday 3 January 2024

This summer, Dire Straits Legacy bring back the iconic music of Dire Straits, performed by the original musicians who recorded and toured as part of the band. Headlining is Scottish rock act Nazareth, along with support from Hello Sailor and Taranaki band Dark Water. It's set to be the ultimate Summer's Day!

## Matchbox Twenty with Goo Goo Dolls

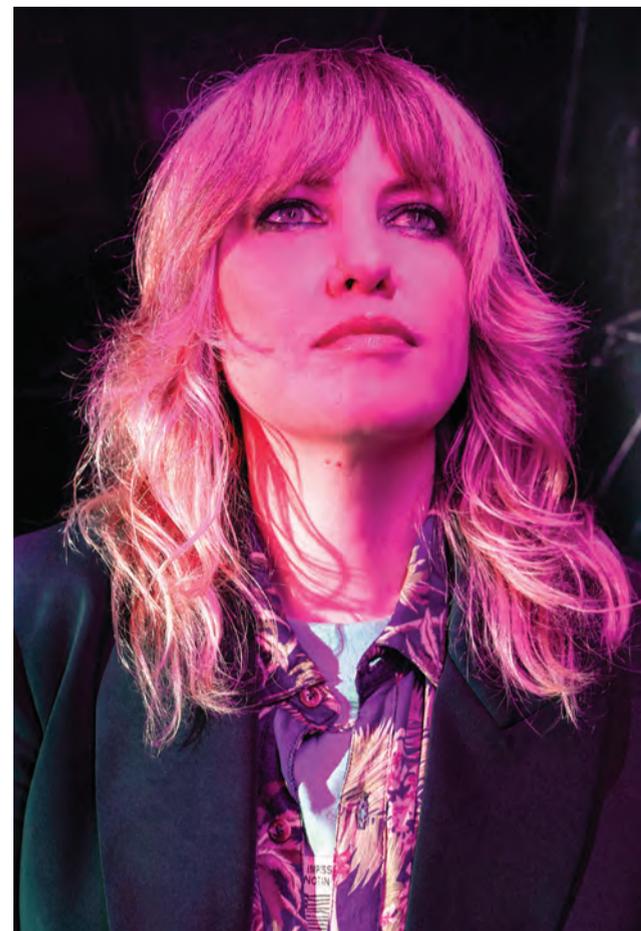
Saturday 2 March 2024

Matchbox Twenty make their long-awaited return to New Zealand with this North Island exclusive show. Expect to hear crowd-pleasing hits including 3AM, Push and Bent.

## WOMAD

15-17 March 2024

A festival unlike anything else in New Zealand – multiple stages, workshops, DJs, retail and food stalls from around the globe. Loved by all ages, WOMAD is your gateway to the world!



## Rock The Bowl Festival

Friday 29 December 2023

This massive lineup includes Australian rockers Ocean Alley, Aotearoa icons Shapeshifter, Californian ska-punk legends Sublime with Rome, band of brothers Coterie, award-winning Ladyhawke, Melbourne raconteurs The Grogans, and Raglan indie-groove band Masaya.

With a stellar musical line-up and stunning setting, this

**CHRISTMAS AT THE BOWL**  
17 DEC

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**ROCK THE BOWL / 29 DEC**

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**DIRE STRAITS LEGACY**  
3 JAN

---

**MATCHBOX TWENTY**  
2 MAR

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**WOMAD / 15-17 MAR**

[npeventvenues.nz](http://npeventvenues.nz)



# Entrepreneurs needed for PowerUp Business Ready programme



A Power Up Business Ready Workshop.

Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki, the regional development agency, is calling for the next wave of individuals with an entrepreneurial mindset, early-stage business or startup, to submit an application to take part in PowerUp Business Ready.

Kicking off in March 2024, the eight-week PowerUp Business Ready programme is designed to empower aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills, resources, and guidance needed to transform their innovative ideas and early-stage businesses into thriving ventures.

This is the second year of PowerUp Business Ready, following the programme's successful launch in 2023 that supported a cohort of 13 trailblazing Taranaki entrepreneurs, spanning a diverse range of sectors including food, rongoā Māori (Māori medicine), HR, tourism, fashion, and energy.

"Participants come together each week for an interactive workshop where they gain knowledge and resources to level up

their business capability, and also provides a unique opportunity to build their networks as they connect with a community of like-minded entrepreneurs," says Jennifer Patterson, GM Economic Development, Venture Taranaki.

"PowerUp Business Ready also includes valuable presentations from expert local guest speakers, with our first cohort hearing from the likes of BDO, GQ Law, Design Garage, and Juno Gin, who each shared their insights into building a successful business," Patterson adds.

The programme is delivered in partnership with Soda Inc., and topics covered include understanding

your customer and value proposition, business structures, financials, marketing, and pitching fundamentals.

Selected participants will also benefit from a one-to-one business mentoring session to identify the next steps for their business and to support their ongoing learning and business growth.

"We want to hear from entrepreneurs in the early stages of their business, people interested in starting their own enterprise, and entrepreneurs with ideas to develop. It's a great opportunity for active, engaged, and invested entrepreneurs and business owners in Taranaki and we

encourage them to apply. The only cost will be people's time and commitment," says Patterson.

"Taranaki is rapidly becoming known as a place of entrepreneurs, and PowerUp plays an important role in supporting the vast range of local enterprises to nurture connections, innovate and accelerate their growth," Patterson concludes.

Applications are now open for PowerUp Business Ready and will close Sunday 11 February 2024. Places are limited and applications will be reviewed by a panel. Successful applicants will be notified no later than 20th February 2024.

*Season Greetings from*  
**The Village Gallery Eltham**  
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PowerUp Business Ready is an 8-week programme, where you will:

- Develop, build, and grow your business capability
- Gain tools, knowledge, and confidence to progress your business or innovative idea
- Connect with other entrepreneurs and develop your network

And it's FREE! It will only cost you your time and commitment.

PowerUp Business Ready kicks off Tuesday 5 March – to find out more and apply today, visit [venture.org.nz](http://venture.org.nz) and search 'PowerUp'.

Applications open now, closing 11 February 2024. Spaces are limited.

**venture**  
 TARANAKI  
 Te Puna Umanga

**The Hideaway**

**Everything is open from Boxing Day until Jan 7, 2024**

**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**

# Face to face at Lysaght-Watt

Artists who reside in Taranaki and Manawatu-Whanganui are invited to participate in Lysaght Watt Gallery's upcoming Face to Face: A Portrait Exhibition, to be held March 4-30 in their current premises at 4-6 Union St, Hawera. Shining a light on the remarkable qualities and possibilities of portraiture, the event is open to regional artists working in a range of mediums to include painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture and mixed media.

Creatives are asked to each submit one original artwork only. The entry fee is \$10. Works of art need to be submitted ready for hanging/installation; and offered for sale (25% commission) unless by special prior arrangement. A cash prize of \$200 will be awarded to the winner of a People's Choice Award on the final day of the exhibition. Artist enquiries and other information available by contacting secretary.lwg@gmail.com Registration forms due February 1, 2024, and artworks delivered to Lysaght Watt Gallery, February 26 – March 1, 10-3 pm.



Jim McCarty and Ian Bright was taken in 1969. The trophy is the Western District 1st division trophy won by Okato in the 1968-69 season.

## FACE TO FACE: A PORTRAIT EXHIBITION MARCH 4-30TH, 2024

Artists residing in Taranaki and Manawatu - Whanganui are invited to enter one artwork into the Gallery's upcoming 2024 exhibition.

\$10 entry fee  
\$200 cash prize for winner of the People's Choice Award.

All enquiries to:  
secretary.lwg1@gmail.com

Registration by February 1, 2024

*Lysaght Watt*  
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40th Jim McCarty

Ian Bright

Memorial Cricket Match



Auroa Primary School

30th December

10am start

BBQ meal supplied post match

Former players, friends, family and colleagues very welcome.

Contact John 027 689 8937

Kindly supported by Auroa cricket club

## Changes to smoking and vaping laws criticised

A group of clinical leaders is urging the Government to seriously re-consider changes to smoking and vaping legislation after hearing of its plans to axe laws put in place to protect the health of New Zealanders.

Respiratory and cardiology clinicians from the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ, Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) and the Cardiac Society of Australia and NZ (CSANZ) are deeply concerned about the coalition's intentions to revoke legislation banning

the sale of cigarettes to future generations, reducing nicotine levels and limiting the number of tobacco retailers.

Foundation Medical Director Dr James Fingleton says he is extremely worried about the direction the new coalition is taking when it comes to lung health.

"If they were to proceed with the repeals, it would be a massive step back in respiratory health for Aotearoa.

"This move not only undermines the progress we, as a country, were making in safeguarding the

respiratory health of our New Zealanders, but also places a heavier burden on our healthcare system."

Foundation Chief Executive Ms Letitia Harding says: "Not only do the proposed changes jeopardise the well-being of countless New Zealanders, it also places our communities at an increased risk of debilitating lung and heart conditions."

"I was hoping that this government might be different and actually listen to specialists in this field rather than big tobacco and the vape industry."

Respiratory Physician and TSANZ New Zealand Branch President Dr Paul Dawkins says the Government cannot afford to compromise the health of New Zealanders for short-term gains.

"It is their duty to prioritise the wellness of New Zealanders, and healthy lungs are at the forefront of a healthy active life.

"I ask our new leaders to re-think their agreement - now - before it's too late," Dr Dawkins says.

Asthma and Respiratory Foundation

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# Christmas at Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park



ABOVE: Star a Valais Black nosed lamb sporting her new hairdo.



Danish White deer. From left Pearl and Groenbaek checking out Christmas presents.



LEFT: Charm our miniature Highland Heifer.

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356 Kaimata Rd, Inglewood, Ph 06 756 7624 for prices and directions

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**24TH DECEMBER**  
7 PM - TASMAN STREET, OPUNAKE

# The Art of Summer

This summer the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery | Len Lye Centre offers a great lineup of exhibitions, events, cinema and more – a perfect destination whether you're staying local or showing off the best of the region to visitors. Here's your guide to the art of summer.

Connect with Toi Māori from the Govett-Brewster Collection

Catch Te Hau Whakatonu: A Series of Never-Ending Beginnings - toi Māori from the Govett-Brewster's permanent collection. Stand kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) with fifty years of practise, in a show that celebrates the diversity of Māori creative expression, with artists including Brett Graham, Ralph Hotere, and Ana Iti, alongside new commissions by Ngahina Hohaia and George Watson. Talk to the Gallery team in the exhibition to unlock the stories within each of the works.

Art That Moves in the Len Lye Centre

The Len Lye Centre presents 3 new shows spanning Len's creativity: Kineticisms: Len Lye & Howard Wise Gallery explores his kinetic sculpture in New York in the 1960s, with



Youngsters enjoying an art display at the Govett-Brewster Gallery.

beloved works Fountain, Roundhead, and Universe. A new reconstruction from the Len Lye Foundation, Storm channels the forces of nature, while Shelling Out is an adventure into Lye's pioneering stop motion animations from the 1930s.

Drop into the Kaleidoscope Studio

From 3 – 28 January the Gallery's Kaleidoscope Studio is open to all! This family-friendly, drop-in art space will let you explore and experiment with colour, light and shapes - open all Gallery hours, free, and pushchair-friendly.

Whatever the weather – there's the Len Lye Cinema

Whether you're escaping the heat or dodging an

unlikely summer storm, the Len Lye Cinema has you covered, with intriguing International films, new releases from top filmmakers, and cult films from the past and present.

Free holiday Kids Flicks also screen daily throughout January at 10.30am.

The Gallery is open every day (except Christmas Day), 10am – 5pm. Visitors \$15, all under 16s free, 65+ years and students \$10. New Plymouth District residents, Gallery Friends and Foundation members: Free.

Stay updated with the Govett-Brewster Art

Gallery | Len Lye Centre at [govettbrewster.com](http://govettbrewster.com), or

follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

## NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

### WANTED TO BUY

Dairy Herds and Dairy Heifers for the coming season

Contact:

Bryan Goodin - 027 531 8511

Sheldon Keech - 027 222 7920



### Community Carols

Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>

at 7pm

Gibson Hall, Manaia

ALL WELCOME

Christmas Day service at 9am



### Opunake Combined Churches

St Barnabas - 17th December 2023, 7pm

Blue Christmas

St Barnabas - Christmas Eve 2023, 9pm

The Wave - Christmas Eve after the parade: Carols in the square

St Patrick's, Okato - 23rd December: Vigil, 6pm.

Our Lady Star of the Sea - 24th December 2023, 10am Mass

St Pauls - 24th December: 9.30am

St Pauls - 25th December: 9.30am

Combined Services in January 10.am

7th - St Pauls

14th - The Wave

21st - St Barnabas

28th - Our Lady Star of the Sea



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## NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

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# Festival to light up Pukekura Park



The "Spectrum of Happiness" light installation designed by a Thai studio.

More than 80 events and 11 light installations are set to light up summer when the TSB Festival of Lights summer season kicks off on this weekend.

New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) has today unveiled the entertainment line-up for the 37-night festival at Pukekura Park, which includes light installations from New Zealand, Peru, Thailand and Australia.

The entertainment line-up showcases a range music and activities for all ages and interests with local bands and singer-songwriters, and top national and international acts, such as Allen Stone, taking to the stage.

"We work really hard to get a wide variety of performers and activities to cater to the interests of as many people as possible and this year is no exception," says NPDC events lead and festival manager Lisa Ekdahl.

"There are not many events like this where you get to see world-class performers, spectacular light installations and take part in fun activities in such a stunning location, all for free."

Musicians are set to grace the stage, offering

a diverse array of tunes for every taste from the New Zealand premier retro rockers "Boom! Boom! Deluxe" early in the mix on 22 December while on 13 January the alt-pop rock sounds of Rodney Fisher (best known in NZ as the singer from "Goodshirt") is collaborating with producers

"The Response".

You'll be dancing all night long with the soul-fuelled funk grooves of "Black Comet" on 14 January or the festival's closing act "Beacon Bloom" on 20 January, with their electric touch of melodic house.

The festival's children's calendar includes their

be able to burn off some energy with Bumper Bubble Balls (18 December and 2 January), yoga for kids at "Little Yogis" (27 December), and "Roam Under Foam" (20 Jan).

Music lovers can enjoy some awesome music with the "Tots to Teens Music Night" (11 January) which features seven artists back-to-back, and "Let's Glow Crazy: Neon Rave" (13 January).

New Year's Eve is always a big night at the festival, and you can ring in the new year with the "Light Up the Night" event with entertainment on the Hatchery and Fred Parker lawns, including a special line-up for children earlier in the event.

From 16 December to 21 January the festival also includes several special events, an outdoor cinema, comedy shows and more.

The full entertainment line-up can be viewed by logging into "festivaloflights".



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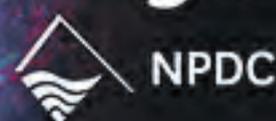




# NZ'S LEADING LIGHT FESTIVAL



**TSB**  
**Festival of Lights**



16 Dec 2023 - 21 Jan 2024

Festivaloflights.nz

**TARANAKI**  
like no other

# Tawhiti Museum



A new display at the Tawhiti Museum, opening in time for the summer holidays, is based on a 1920s photo from up the Mokau River. Coal mining was a major industry for many years, with this new diorama depicting the 2 foot gauge track to the 'Mokau Mine', three miles up a side gully from Awakau - or 16 miles from the river mouth. With a sawmill in the background, the little railway brought both coal and timber down to the river bank.

The Tawhiti Museum is open every day from Boxing Day to the end of January ph 06 278 6837



## Fun for all the family in 2024!



### TŪPARE



487 Mangorei Road,  
New Plymouth

#### Turkey the Bird + Food Truck Fiesta



Sunday 11 February, 11am to 2pm

Local folk trio Turkey the Bird are fast making a name for themselves with their catchy folk songs that feature stunning rich melodies and effortless smooth lyrics. Join them for an epic Sunday session with delicious street eats and refreshments. Turkey the Bird from 12.30pm on the river flat. *Free entry. Picnic blankets recommended.*

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 30 March, 10am to 11.30am

Celebrate Easter with an epic Easter egg hunt at Tūpare! Explore the grounds and find the Easter egg cut-outs hidden by the Easter Bunny himself. Each egg found has a number on the back. Swap it at the end for your Easter egg.



### HOLLARD GARDENS

1686 Upper Manaia Road,  
Kaponga

#### Stories Beneath the Stars

Friday 19 January, 8pm to 9.30pm

Enjoy an ultimate evening of dreamtime storytelling and stargazing. Be enchanted by storyteller Lesley Dowding and be inspired for your own stories and poems. Bring a blanket and a cushion, snuggle up and keep warm as we delve into space and explore the night sky.

*Suitable for children aged 5 to 12.*

#### Marvellous Magic Show + Food Truck Fiesta



Sunday 3 March, 11am to 2pm

Josh from Magic Works brings his quirky antics, amazing tricks and interactive entertainment to our Main Lawn. Kick back on your picnic blanket and enjoy the show and kai from a selection of food trucks. Free family fun in one of Taranaki's best settings. *Magic show starts at 12pm.*

### PUKEITI

2290 Carrington Road,  
New Plymouth

#### Summer Story Time with Waffle

Monday 15 January, 10am to 11.30am

Come on a magical adventure with renowned children's author and illustrator Hayley Elliott-Kernot as she launches her new interactive book, Whetū and Waffle Explore Taranaki – featuring our very own Pukeiti. Face painting adds to the fun.

*Bring a picnic, sit back and enjoy.*

#### Survival Skills

Wednesday 17 January,  
10am to 12pm or 1pm to 3pm

Reconnect with your wild side! Bring the whānau and venture into the Pukeiti rainforest to learn new and exciting survival skills.

*Suitable for children aged 5 to 12. Wear suitable outdoor clothing and bring a water bottle. Spaces limited - register via EventBrite.*



For more information:

 [www.trc.govt.nz/events](http://www.trc.govt.nz/events)

Free entry to gardens - open all day, every day

 0800 736 222

# Egmont Country Music Festival

Egmont Country Music Festival is an annual event held in a very sheltered venue with plenty of parking for motorhomes or caravans, unpowered sites only, and for those wanting to attend for the day there is loads of car parking.

This festival was put together by four sisters, myself being one of those, and over the six years I

now have a team that works closely with me to make sure you all have an enjoyable time. Seating is supplied under our marquees, but you're most welcome to bring your own comfy chair and sit out on the grass and take it all in. Blankets over the ground if that is what you would prefer.

There will be food and drinks (hot and cold) on sale, eftpos available, (no cash

out, no credit cards)

This festival is held outside under the stars. Over the three days there will be time for you to take the stage and sing or play your instrument.

Open mic sessions are happening each day so make sure you get your name in quick as these sections fill very quickly. Please remember to bring with you chord charts (5) for our live band to back you.

Our guests come from all over New Zealand. There will be something there for everyone. If line dancing or rock and roll is your dance, then come join us.

Our guests this year include a comeback from Roger Tibbs from Wellington. Craig Robertson, Glen Carley, Carylann Martin, Mark Corbett, Mike Ratu, Shamika Hoeta just to name a few.

Our live bands will keep your toes tapping and hands clapping. The one and only pedal steel player, Joe Martin will be on stage Saturday afternoon and Saturday night.

As we have no control over the weather, we run with whatever Mother Nature presents us with. Pop the jacket in and the sunscreen.

You can keep up to date with the full program

by going to the Egmont Country Music Festival Facebook page or "Loving Country Music". Book in or just drive in, you will be all very welcome.

We start at 1pm on Friday the 5th of January with "Country Roads" from Te Awamutu.

Lynn Crawford, co-organiser

## Luminous Lines from Virtual Tart

You're invited to be part of an open exhibition 'Children of War'. Any medium - send the image(s) and any text to Dale Copeland. And \$10 if you can. The exhibition will be on the Virtual Tart website during January ... send images by Christmas if you can.

The exhibition on the Virtual Tart website for December is 'Luminous Lines', drawings in goldpoint and silverpoint - a medium seldom seen nowadays. Beautiful images of birds by Janet Marshall of New Zealand.



LEFT: One of the exhibits to be seen.

## Taranaki Maunga in all its glory



An inspiring glimpse of Taranaki Maunga from the centre of Stratford. Thanks to Stratford District Council for this picture.

## CoastalCare

Haumaru ki Tai Health and Community Centre  
Delivering essential community health and social services now and into the future....



Thank you for your support throughout 2023

CoastalCare would like to wish everyone a safe & happy Christmas!

### Holiday Hours

#### OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE:

Closed December 23rd - 26th December - Open January 3rd 2024  
Open for acute appointments only on 27th, 28th, 29th December

#### COASTAL PHARMACY:

Closed from Midday 23rd December - Tuesday 26th December.  
Open with shorter hours on 27th, 28th, 29th December 8.30am-3pm  
Closed 1st, 2nd January 2024 - Open from 3rd January

#### NZ POST/NZTA

Closed on weekends and Public Holidays only

#### COASTAL PRINTERS:

Closed December 23rd - Back on January 10th 2024

#### TARANAKI DENTAL:

Closed December 23rd - Back on January 11th 2024

#### TARANAKI PODIATRY

Closed December 23rd - Back on February 14th 2024

#### GWENYTH RICHARDS:

Closed December 14th - Back on January 16th 2024

#### LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY:

Closed December 21st - Back on January 10th 2024

#### MATTHEWS OPTOMETRIST

Closed - Back on February 29th 2024

#### ACTIVE PLUS PHYSIOTHERAPY

Closed from 19th December - Back on 16th January 2024

#### DR. ROBERT SHAW - COUNSELLOR

Closed - Back on 16th January 2024

#### PLUNKET

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Contact Plunket line 0800 933 922

For opening dates for our other service providers, please contact them directly.

# EGMONT COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

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Glen Carley - Sharmika - Mike Ratu - Mark Corbett - Joy Adams - Carylann -  
- Craig Robertson - Roger Tibbs -

# Film Review : One Life

Nicholas Winton kept the names of the 669 Jewish children he helped rescue from the Nazis prior to World War II but always had on his conscience those he wasn't able to save. These included the children due to leave by train the day the Second World War broke out.

Fifty years later living in England he is expecting a

visit from his family. His wife is on at him to get the house tidied up and get rid of some of the clutter. This includes his scrapbook of what he did in Prague in the 1930s from the time the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia. He feels he needs to do something with it beyond leaving it somewhere where it will gather dust and nobody will read it.

From this premise the plot of the movie One Life rolls into action. While taking away nothing from the other stellar performances, Anthony Hopkins as the older Nicholas Winton is very much the star of the show. At the age of 85 he still has the talent and charm he has brought to movie roles for the last six decades. On a Kiwi note, he once said

that his role of Burt Munro in The World's Fastest Indian was his favourite and also his easiest as the two men shared the same outlook on life.

One Life alternates between the 1980s and flashbacks to the 1930s where the younger Winton, an English stockbroker is played by Johnny Flynn. For Winton, who has Jewish grandparents, the plight of the Jewish children caught up in the Nazi takeover of Czechoslovakia is personal.

Among those he enlists in his campaign to ensure the children have somewhere in Britain to go to is his mother Babette played by Helena Bonham-Carter.

Despite the horrors of the Holocaust the movie still manages to end on a feel good note as Winton achieves the recognition he deserved. The local newspaper editor who initially wasn't interested in what Winton (Hopkins) had to say as he couldn't see the "Gateshead angle" suddenly wants to do something on

him as he's a hero. "It's not about me," rebuffs Winton.

Other cast members include Lena Olin as Grete Winton and Jonathan Pryce as Martin Blake, an old friend of Winton, who he uses as a sounding board.

Well worth the price of admission.

*Bryan Kirk*

Showing Everybodys Theatre. 1pm. Sunday 31 December 2023.



SAVE ONE LIFE, SAVE THE WORLD.



ANTHONY HOPKINS JOHNNY FLYNN and HELENA BONHAM CARTER

## ONE LIFE



BBC FILM and MOK PRODUCTIONS present in association with CROSS CITY FILMS, FILMATION ENTERTAINMENT and LIPSYNC A SEE-SAW FILMS PRODUCTION A FILM BY JAMES HAWES  
 ANTHONY HOPKINS JOHNNY FLYNN LENA OLIN ROMOLA GARAI ALEX SHARP with JONATHAN PRYCE and HELENA BONHAM CARTER \*\*\*PINA GOLD and LUCY AMOS \*\*\*KAREN HARTLEY THOMAS  
 JOANNA FAYWELL \*\*\*VILKER BERTELMANN \*\*\*CHRISTINA MOORE and LUCIA ZUCCHETTI \*\*\*JACOB ZAC NICHOLSON \*\*\*MARK HUBBARD NICKY EARNSHAW \*\*\*SIMON GILLIS EVA YATES  
 BARBARA WINTON MARIA LOGAN ANNE SHEEHAN PETER HAMPDEN \*\*\*JOANNA LAURE P.S.A. IAIN CANNING P.S.A. EMILE SHERMAN P.S.A. GUY HEILEY P.S.A. \*\*\*LUCINDA COXON & NICK DRAKE \*\*\*JAMES HAWES  
 LIPSYNC \*\*\*WARRIORS

IN CINEMAS JANUARY 1 LIPSYNC

### EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

72 Tasman Street, Opunake | www.everybodystheatre.co.nz

<p><b>Wonka</b> 1hr 56mins   PG Fri 15 Dec 7PM   Sat 23 Dec 7PM   Sun 24 Dec 1PM</p>	<p><b>HeadSpace</b> 1hr 25mins   PG Sat 16 Dec 1PM</p>
<p><b>Freelance</b> 1hr 48mins   R16 Sat 16 Dec 7PM</p>	<p><b>Journey to Bethlehem</b> 1hr 39mins   PG Sun 17 Dec 1PM</p>
<p><b>The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snak</b> 2hr 37mins   M Sun 17 Dec 7PM   Fri 22 Dec 7PM   Thu 28 Dec 7PM</p>	<p><b>Next Goal Wins</b> 1hr 44mins   PG Thu 21 Dec 7PM   Fri 29 Dec 7PM</p>
<p><b>Trolls Band Together</b> 1hr 31mins   G Sat 23 Dec 1PM   Sun 24 Dec 10AM</p>	

**Wonka**  
1hr 56mins | Rated: PG  
Fri 15 Dec 7PM

**HeadSpace**  
Violence | 1hr 25mins |  
Rated: PG  
Sat 16 Dec 1PM

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### EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

*We would like to thank you all for your support throughout 2023.  
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

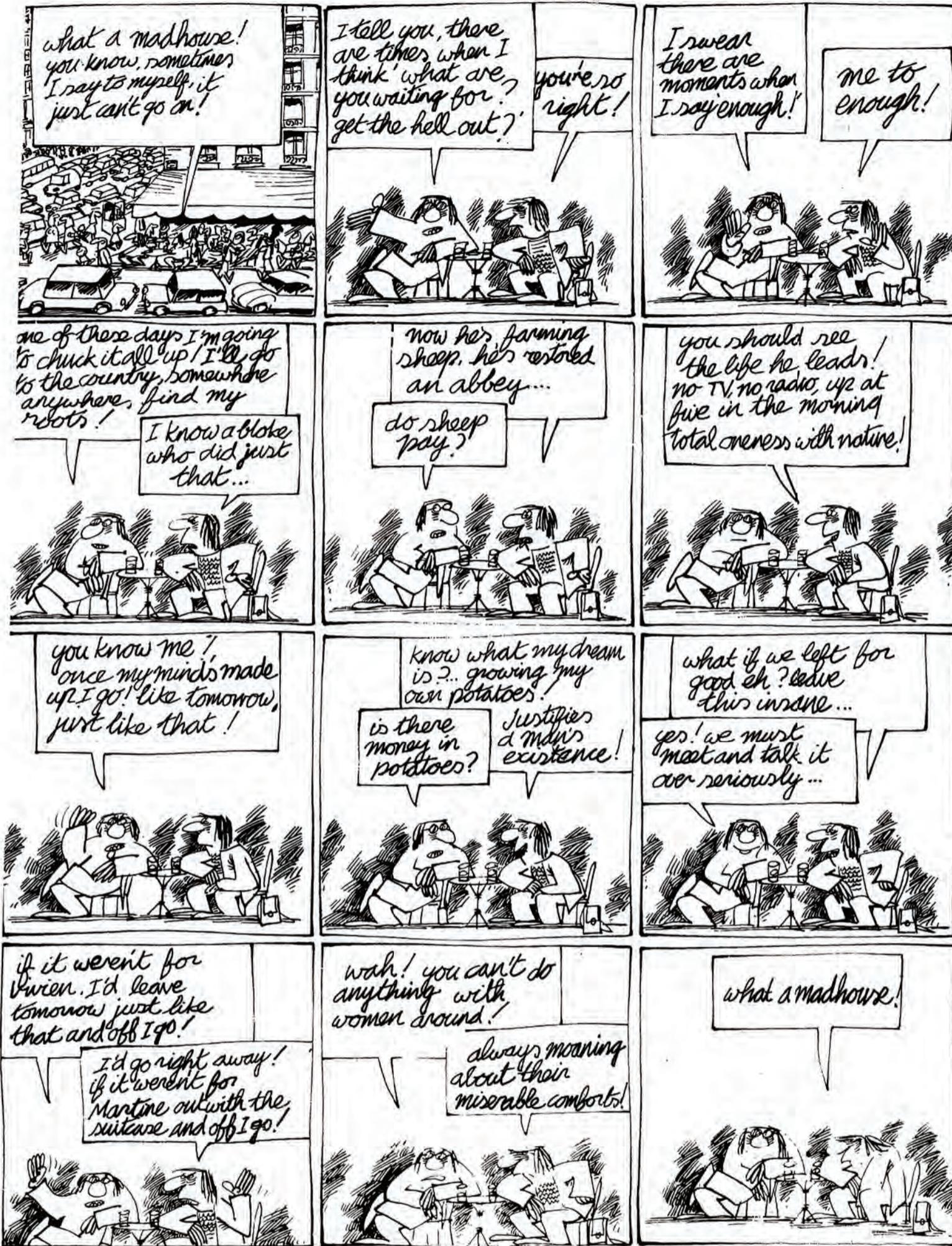
<p><b>Next Goal Wins</b> 1hr 44mins   PG Fri 29 Dec 7PM</p>	<p><b>Migration</b> 1hr 21mins   PG Sat 30 Dec 1PM</p>
<p><b>Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom</b> 1hr 55mins   TBC Sat 30 Dec 7PM</p>	<p><b>One Life</b> 1hr 48mins   PG Sun 31 Dec 1PM</p>
<p><b>Freelance</b> 1hr 48mins   R16 Sun 31 Dec 7PM</p>	

**Next Goal Wins**  
Coarse language | 1hr 44mins | Rated: PG  
Fri 29 Dec 7PM

**Migration**  
Some scenes may scare very young children | 1hr 21mins | Rated: PG  
Sat 30 Dec 1PM

frustration page

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

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.

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 8277 or 06 761 8337

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:

Monday: Pizza - 2 for \$20; Tuesday: Order online for 30% off; Wednesday: Pizza night- 2 for \$20;

Thursday: Pensioners Lunch, \$15, Steak Night for \$20; Friday: Pensioners Lunch, \$15, Fish & Chips \$20. Saturday: Chicken Schnitzel \$20. Club Hotel Pairs Cup; Sunday: Roast Night with complimentary dessert for dine-in customers.

DECEMBER 16

Stratford Speedway: At Stratford Speedway, Stratford. See advert in Sports section for more details.

DECEMBER 17

A Blue Christmas Service: At St Barnabas, Opunake. 7pm.

Christmas at the Bowl: Bowl of Brooklands, New Plymouth

DECEMBER 24

2023 Opunake Christmas Parade: Parade starts at 7pm, Tasman St, Opunake.

DECEMBER 26

Stratford Speedway: At Stratford Speedway, Stratford. See advert in Sports section for more details.

DECEMBER 30

40th Jim McCarty Ian Bright Memorial Cricket Match: At Auroa School, 10am.

JANUARY 3, 2024

Dire Straits Legacy & Nazareth: Bowl of Brooklands, New Plymouth

JANUARY 6

Opunake Beach Carnival: Opunake Beach

DECEMBER 12 & 13

Stratford Speedway: NZ Stockcar Championships

At Stratford Speedway, Stratford. See advert in Sports section for more details.

JANUARY 13

Sounds on the Sand: Opunake Beach

FEBRUARY 28

Fight Club Online with Barbwire Boxing: See ad in this issue for details

MARCH 2

Matchbox 20 with Goo Goo Dolls: Bowl of Brooklands, New Plymouth

MARCH 15-17

WOMAD: Bowl of Brooklands, New Plymouth

**MOVING?**

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

**06 761 7016**

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



# Management of Customary Fishing:

## Notification of Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki – Ngāti Haumia – Orimupiko Marae

Orimupiko Marae has notified **Aroha Stewart** to the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries under r 5 of the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998 as a tangata kaitiaki/tiaki to manage customary food gathering in an area between the Rahuitoetoe Stream and the northern extremity of Waiwiri Bay, and extending seaward 5 km.

Enquiries about this notification may be made to the Ministry for Primary Industries, Ruakura Research Centre, 10 Bisley Road, Hamilton, or by phoning 027 553 2925.

Submissions in response to this notification are invited from people who belong to:

- The tangata whenua on whose behalf the notification is made.
- The iwi, rūnanga, tribal trust board, or other organisation representing the relevant iwi interest.
- Any other whānau, hapū, or iwi claiming manawhenua manamoana in respect of customary food-gathering in any part of the above area.

A submission may indicate a dispute if it relates to:

- Who should be tāngata kaitiaki/tiaki; or
- The boundaries for the area/rohe moana concerned; or
- Who are tangata whenua.

Submissions must be made by 29 January 2024 and be addressed to:

Orimupiko Marae Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki Notification, Fisheries New Zealand, PO Box 966, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240.

*This is the first publication of this notice, which is made under the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998.*



MPI 5304

**TRADES & SERVICES**



06 757 4483  
 taranakisales@milestonehomes.co.nz  
 milestonehomes.co.nz

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

**LAWNMOWING,** and section maintenance by local contractor SOS. Free quote. Ph 027 605 8437.

**CARPETS** second hand, large selection After Disaster Ltd 223 Devon St West, NP. Phone (06) 769 9265

**WANTED TO BUY**

**SCRAP METAL** - for all scrap metal Taranaki wide, give us a call. Molten Metals (06) 751 5367. www.moltenmetals.co.nz

**GRAZING**

**GRAZING AVAILABLE** for Weiner Dairy Heifers. Phone Richard 027 510 9667.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

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

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

**Opunake Catholic Church**  
 St Martins, Pungarehu: 8.30am every 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month  
 Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday  
 Other areas  
 Manaiā - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera’s St Josephs)

**St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga**  
 2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays of the month Mass at 6pm. However during winter the time will be 5pm i.e. Saturday 10th June, 24th June and 8th July. After this date the time will revert back to 6pm.  
 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month Liturgy of the Word with Communion at 8.45am.

Thursday Mass 9.30am (subject to change).

**St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato**  
 Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays

**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

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

**Friend & Fellowship Group**  
 Thursdays @ Manaiā  
 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

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



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS  
 06 761 7016

# THE OPUNAKE BEACH CARNIVAL



SATURDAY  
 6 JANUARY 2024

FOODSTALLS – RIDES – TALENT QUEST – SHOPPING – ACTIVITIES – FREE SHUTTLE BUS – HOURLY RAFFLE

10AM – 3PM



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS:  
<https://www.opunakebeachcarnival.co.nz>

PICCOLLAGE

**Grey Power**  
 NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION INCORPORATED



## GREY POWER SOUTH TARANAKI

Public meetings resume  
 19th February 2024.  
 Senior Citizens Hall, 10am.  
 81 Victoria St Hawera  
 All welcome.

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and happy, healthy 2024.  
 Jackie Morrow - Secretary.

**TO LET**

**HUGHSON & ASSOCIATES**  
 Accounting for the future, today  
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 clare.moss@hughson.co.nz



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**2010 Toyota COROLLA**  
 NZ New 6 Speed Manual  
 2WD, Stability Control, VVT-i, 1798cc, Petrol,  
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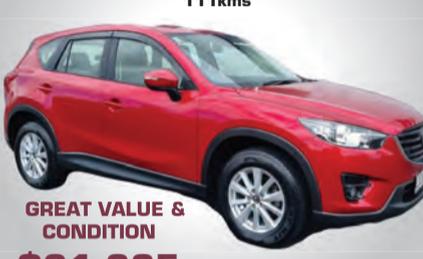
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**2009/14 Toyota YARIS YR**  
 LOW KM NZ NEW ECONOMICAL HATCH  
 Traction & Stability Control, Steering Wheel  
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**2015 Mazda Cx-5 GSX**  
 NZ NEW POPULAR 4WD SUV,  
 Collision Avoidance, AWD, Keyless Entry & ignition,  
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**2017 Mazda CX-5 GLX PTR**  
 Collision Avoidance, Traction and Stability Control,  
 Autonomous Emergency Braking, i-STOP, Keyless  
 Start, 1998cc, Petrol, 6 Spd Auto, 47kms



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**NOW \$29,995**

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 1.8 Petrol, Auto Full Option Alloys and Spoiler 97km



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 2WD, Petrol, 155kms. Many Extras.



**ON SPECIAL**  
**NOW \$14,995**

**2013 Volkswagen GOLF TSI 66KW**  
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**\$12,995**

**2015 Mazda CX-3 GLX SW**  
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 5 Door, 5 Spd, 1.6, M S:  
 Full optioned alloys, Spoiler, Manual, Petrol



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