



## Inside

# New Year honour for Ross

Ross Dunlop's years in local government have been recognised by being made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in this year's New Years Honours List.

When he first entered local government it was as a member of the Hawera District Council. In 1989 this was subsumed into the South Taranaki District Council and Ross was one of its first elected members. He went on to lead the Council as mayor for 12 years stepping down in 2007 after 33 years in local government.

"I got the notification a couple of months before New Year," says Ross. "It was a nice surprise to get a letter from the Governor-General."

He recalls standing for and being elected to the Hawera District Council back in 1986.

"I was reasonably young with a young family in my early thirties and I was concerned about the direction of Council," he says. "There had been some particularly high rate increases over a number of years and I thought things could be done better. Rather than complain I thought I would put my name forward."

After the South Taranaki District Council was set up he represented the Tangahoe Ward and when Mary Bourke stepped down as mayor in 2007 he again put his name forward, this time for mayor. In a field of seven candidates he was elected.

He has enjoyed his time as mayor.

"South Taranaki is a really good place and there are always opportunities for the



Ross Dunlop.

people of the district," he says. "You don't do these things on your own."

Ross says his wife Jan has always been very supportive of what he has been doing.

He was asked what he sees as the high points of his time as mayor. He says these include the building of the Hub and Sports Centre and the upgrading of the water supply throughout the district.

"This had been a major concern over the years," he

says.

The boundary of the TSB Charitable Trust was also extended so that the residents of Patea and Waverley could benefit. This was something which as mayor he had advocated for, along with others including the late MP Chester Borrowes.

Ross says he is pleased that projects where the planning had begun during his time as mayor have progressed under his successor as mayor Phil Nixon. These include

the Hawera Industrial Park and the new library, Te Ramanui o ruaputahanga which opened last year.

Ross has a long association with South Taranaki and this has continued since leaving the mayoralty.

Members of the Dunlop family have farmed in South Taranaki since 1890, and Ross lives on the farm which his father Ian bought in 1948 after returning from World War II.

He has lived by the Waingongoro River all his life and concern for the state of the river led to his involvement in starting the Waingongoro Catchment Group, the first catchment group in Taranaki. There are now 14 such groups under the umbrella of Taranaki Catchment Communities (TCC), which Donna Cram who is now a Taranaki Regional councillor had been the driving force in getting going.

Ross has stepped down from the TCC committee but is still involved with the Waingongoro Group. While he says there is still work to do, he is pleased with what has been done with the state of the Waingongoro River.

"Over the years we

have seen a dramatic improvement in the quality of the water. Years ago it was not good. You had dairy effluent, factory waste and banks of the river were not fenced. There's still work to be done but the river is in a much healthier state than it was 20 years ago."

He also helped set up Te Paepae o Aotea, which was formed from a merger of the Hawera Intermediate School and High School.

"When Hawera Intermediate had the fire I thought this was maybe an opportunity to do something different," he says. "I thought Intermediates had run their course. It took a while for the Ministry to agree but it was good to put the two together."

Local history, both Maori and Pakeha is another interest and he has hosted events during Taranaki Heritage Month.

The Dunlops have made their woolshed and garden available for charitable events, and in previous years the Dunlop garden was a regular fixture during the Taranaki Garden Festival season with funds raised going to the Lysaght Watt Art Gallery.



History of iconic site unveiled. See page 5.



Honours for brigade members. See page 7.



Suzy the entertainer. See page 11.



Remembering beloved club patron. See Page 17.

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Ross Dunlop says upgrading the water supply throughout the district was one of the high points of his time as mayor.



# Letters to the Editor

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

## Sole charge

As a former Okato person it's pleasing to see there is a local person Constable Stacey Lamb appointed to be the community's sole charge constable. I remember when living in Okato we had Doug Mills who was in charge. I've no doubt that Constable Lamb was initially apprehensive at first as he could have worked in New Plymouth, but after listening to some extremely wise people he took on this position. Well, good for him as already he's advising people to instal surveillance cameras into their homes as nowadays all types of crimes have been happening in our cities, but also in our rural areas throughout our province and countrywide.

I'm quite aware that the Okato area covers an extremely vast and huge area, so I do hope that everyone who lives in or within these

areas and beyond becomes more and more vigilant at all times, even if everyone communicates with each other and with the help of the police constable work out a secret area code which may help to catch anyone, a group of crims or anyone suspiciously driving around in these areas or beyond in a vehicle.

Constable Lamb may have lived in Okato itself for some time but he still needs everyone's help, and if working together could easily stop your areas being infested by crims from other towns or from anywhere else.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth.

## Industrialised sadism

In his seminal novel '1984', it remained a mystery to this

reader, that George Orwell would identify 'Emmanuel Goldstein' as the hero of the resistance, given his experiences fighting in the Spanish Civil War and what was known of the Zionist 'grand strategy' from 1897 onwards, leading to the horrors of the NAKBA in 1947 - horrors now repeated, magnified and documented by Israeli soldiers themselves in the genocide of Gaza, 2024. Documentation that provides ample evidence for future war-crimes trials.

With his wife, Eileen O'Shaughnessy, who had worked in the censorship section of the Ministry of Information during World War II, Orwell developed 'reversal' and 'the big lie' among his literary devices explaining the mechanics of propaganda and information control, used to savage and subjugate populations. The lie so big and exactly opposite of the truth, that it simply does not occur to

most people to examine it. In this dystopia, hope and love and freedom are lost. 'Up is down' 'war is peace' 'black is white.' So it becomes reasonable to argue, that Orwell incongruously naming the 'leader' of the resistance, was actually naming the leader of the tyranny. Ultimately identifying Zionism.

In this light, reported on December 23, 2024, in Israel's oldest and most influential media outlet Haaretz by Yoel Elizur, under the headline: "When you leave Israel and enter Gaza, you are god. Inside the minds of IDF soldiers who commit war crimes," we read of the savagery of tyranny in Gaza, where it is quoted: "The power they received in the army was intoxicating: "It's like a drug ... you feel like you are the law, you make the rules. As if from the moment you

Continued on page 3.

## ADELPHOS

I recently drove past a house I used to own and the first thing I noticed was that the new owners had painted the front door. The new colour was a standout rich reddish plum; compared to the old dull white paint it made a bold statement. Red doors in some churches historically symbolised a place of safety or sanctuary. But doors are interesting in more ways than just colour.

Doors also symbolise a state of transition or metamorphosis—changing from one state to another, like a caterpillar changing into a chrysalis and then to a butterfly. Doors are boundaries for the familiar

and strange, sacred and blasphemous, light and dark, life and death. We don't tend to think about walking through doors as we go about our days: We just do it, because we want to get from one place to the next.

Emotional and spiritual transitions, on the other hand, can be a different story as they are often more confusing and unclear. Courage, decision-making and faith are often required for both emotional and spiritual transitions to happen.

The present scientific belief system or paradigm does not recognise the spiritual aspect of being human, although

## Doors

this is being challenged by a part of science known as biocentrism: a new "theory of everything." Within Christianity, spiritual growth is an integral part of the faith journey. After all, does a person physically remain a baby forever? So it is with our spiritual nature as Christians and non-believers. Just as with our physical growth, we're meant to transition to spiritual maturity in Christ and not stagnate (1 Corinthians 3:1-2).

The Bible uses the word "door" about 400 times. Psychologically doors can represent decisions that shape our life. Sometimes God will open a door but

there's no guarantee the opportunity will be problem-free. Jesus used a metaphor with a door in it to help our human minds understand a spiritual concept: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me" (Revelation 3:20, NIV).

Opening the door to spiritual growth isn't always easy: Especially in a scientifically-biased and secular culture, claiming that over one hundred supernatural and miraculous events in the Bible are myths, fairytales or exaggerations for the naïve and gullible. Oh yes, Jesus never promised Christians an easy or popular life; it's just the opposite for many Christians (John 15:18; 16:33). He simply promised, "I am the door..." to receiving forgiveness to enter into eternal life starting now and forever (John 10:9, King James Version).

Maanakitanga,  
Adelphos

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## Letters to the Editor

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leave the place called Israel and enter the Gaza Strip, you are God." They viewed brutality as an expression of strength and masculinity. "I have no problem with women. One threw a slipper at me, so I gave her a kick here (pointing to the groin), broke all this here. She can't have children today." "X shot an Arab four times in the back and got away with a self-defence claim. Four

bullets in the back from a distance of ten meters ... cold-blooded murder. We did things like that every day." "An Arab just walked down the street, about twenty-five years old, didn't throw a stone, nothing. Bang, a bullet in the stomach. Shot him in the stomach, and he was dying on the sidewalk, and we drove away indifferently." Some followers who committed atrocities reported moral injuries: "I felt like, like, like

a Nazi ... it looked exactly like we were actually the Nazis and they were the Jews." "A new commander came to us. We went out with him on the first patrol at six in the morning. He stops. There's not a soul in the streets, just a little 4-year-old boy playing in the sand in his yard. The commander suddenly starts running, grabs the boy, and breaks his arm at the elbow and his leg here. Stepped on his stomach three times and left. We all stood there with our mouths open, looking at him in shock ... I asked him: "What's your story?" He told me: These kids need to be killed from the day they are born. When a commander

does that, it becomes legit." Israel's finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich summed it up: "We won't let them build (Gaza)...Nothing moves, and what moves - dies. That's all. And is attacked and annihilated," and "Don't be impressed by their forced joy" (at the release of the Palestinian hostages) "This is an animalistic society that sanctifies death. Very soon, we will erase their smiles."

The cruelty of this tyranny cannot be overstated. It must be studied and understood as a conscientious and industrialised sadism.

Roger Morris.  
Oeo



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# An assault on our soul

A small group of us joined the Hikoi: Toitu te Tiriti.

Reflecting on that day has led to reflections on some recent decades of Treaty history.

Up until 50 years ago Maori held fast to Te Tiriti o Waitangi pretty much on their own.

Meanwhile the Crown continued to act as it has since the mid-19th Century, with its soul-less and disciplined forgetfulness, carefully maintained inside its moral vacuum.

However, on Tuesday 19th November 2024 probably the largest rally ever witnessed in our Capital seemed to show something promising, about the state of this nation's soul.



Rob Ritchie with Hikoi: Toitu te Tiriti..

## Correction

The Opunake and Coastal News apologises for a couple of errors in the Seafood ban extended story which appeared on page 3 of the December 12 issue.

MPI media manager Eric Janssen writes

"An old map (of 2022) is included, rather than the new one sent out. Your text states that the closure is for 1km, but it is in fact 1 nautical mile (the previous closure was 2 nautical miles, not 2 km)."

Was it our largest rally ever? It was certainly the largest I've ever attended; and over the years I've seen quite a few. For example, I recall a very large march opposing the 1981 Springbok rugby tour, when around 10,000 people gathered in Queen Street.

It now seems the '81 tour was part of a change in our

sense of who we are - as a nation.

Queen Street 1981 was one of the last Springbok Tour protests. Up until then, there'd been some sort of protest every week. These were held on Wednesdays or Saturdays - sometimes both - to keep up with all the provincial games. Opposition to the '81 Tour

had been happening all over the country; and when the weeks of protest were finally over an end-of-tour gathering in Auckland was held at Takaparawha / Bastion Point.

This was to be a debrief, after which we'd all return to quieter lives - or so we thought.

I went in a group of theological students from our college nearby. Following that meeting we gathered with Hau Kainga for karakia at the grave of one of their children: Joanne Hawke, who'd died in September 1977 during the Bastion Point Occupation.

Then, as we walked back to the marae, we were challenged by a Ngati Whatua friend who told us how jealous and angry they were about the Queen Street rally, asking us:

"When will there be 10,000 people marching to protest all the wrongs done to us?"

Most New Zealanders knew very little about South African apartheid - until 1981.

So, our friend was right to challenge us, for we knew almost nothing of Bastion Point, and of the decades Ngati Whatua had spent, opposing aggressive colonial legislation.

Continued page 4.



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# An assault on our soul

Continued from page 3.

Their opposition had

culminated in 1977 with the occupation of that beautiful headland, later chronicled by film-maker Merata Mita

in a documentary: "Bastion Point: Day 507".

Back at College as we watched that film, I think our eyes began to open.

In Wellington last month it seemed that in the last half-century, many Pakeha New Zealanders have realised the significance of Bastion Point and other breaches of Te Tiriti. Back then, events like the Springbok Tour, Bastion Point in 1977 and the Raglan Golf Course occupation in 1978 served to create a disruption in our Pakeha self-image.

And because of those disruptive events, it seems widespread Pakeha recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi finally began to occur. Treaty educator Ingrid Huygens says that in 1984 a major gathering of Māori elders and activists at Turangawaewae noted that a key aspect of Pākehā resistance to Māori protest was Pākehā ignorance about the Treaty.

Some Pakeha attendees took note and soon, all around the country - in media, in businesses, in local bodies and even in churches Treaty education began to occur, led by initiatives like Project Waitangi with its adult community education work in 1986.

In 1981 the churches had protested. I recall Tim Shadbolt observing that you can be sure some real change for the better is happening, when the most conservative citizens [i.e those of us found in our churches] start coming out onto the streets.

Many churches encouraged Treaty of Waitangi discussions and in a pastoral letter Catholic Bishop Peter Cullinane quoted High Court judge Paul Temm who said: "... what we have going for us is the extraordinary patience of Maori New Zealanders and the tremendous sense of fairness of Pakeha New Zealanders... and it is reasonable to say

that when New Zealanders know what the facts are, they always try to do what is fair..." [1989]

While church missionaries were closely involved with the Treaty at its inception, from 1860 Crown aggression saw intolerable strains between the churches and Te Ao Maori. Church voices are still notably absent from high level decision making. Perhaps a time will come when the churches return to the Crown's conversations with Hapu and Iwi?

Knowledge of our nation's history has been accelerating since 2022 with the Land Wars curriculum in schools. Now younger Pakeha may become better informed than their parents.

Not that anyone can hold and retain more than a minimal knowledge of everything Hapu and Iwi have endured. Recently a Pakeha historian friend asked me if I'd ever heard of the Crown legislation of 1865 which became known as the "10 Owner Rule"?

I said I hadn't. So, my friend explained that under this rule the Native Land Court was required to name only 10 Maori owners for a block of land - no matter what size that block might be.

Those named would then own the land individually, rather than collectively and could choose to do with it as they wished.

Suddenly singled out, the new owners became prey to land-dealers' seductive trickery.

The point being made by my historian friend is that so much devious legislation has now been passed, that even a professional historian can only know a small measure of it. Yet I have noticed there is also great affection and trust in my friend from the Hapu and Iwi for whom they work - particularly for the fair-minded and humble attitude they bring.

Despite endless deceptions, it's as if some cautious optimism about Pakeha now exists amongst Maori. And on 19th November, we were

not only welcome; we were expected.

All the major political parties and churches came - their leaders having endorsed the Hikoi as well as urging members to give it their support as it made its way to the Capital.

Joining in that day, we noticed some groups under banners identifying themselves as Tangata Tiriti: a name Judge Edward Durie has used, to describe descendants of the people of the British Crown.

This is now becoming an inclusive name for anyone who has come here under Te Tiriti; and our little group of Pakeha/Tangata Tiriti felt an immense sense of gratitude to be able to join such an astonishing event. Feeling such warmth among the flags and the sunshine, we were able to keep up the gentle pace set by the many thousands who'd arrived from Cape Reinga, bringing what felt like a newfound hope in our nation's future.

ACT's Treaty Principles Bill is certainly a threat to this hopeful future. And it's serious - because if the Article Two Treaty guarantee of Tino Rangatiratanga is removed [and this is what the authors of this Bill intend] then we as Tangata Tiriti will also lose terribly.

How tragic when after 50 years we've just begun to find a more secure sense of identity.

In a radio interview recently, the sponsor of the Treaty Principles Bill lapsed into counselling-speak by using a psychotherapy expression: 'self-actualization,' to emphasise what their political party plans for us all, if their Bill is passed.

That expression [self-actualization] neatly captures the sponsor's libertarian view that everyone is self-interested; and the mistaken idea that self-interest is good for us all.

Coined first by psychiatrist Kurt Goldstein, self-actualization was then developed by psychologist

Abraham Maslow. While Goldstein's phrase had resonated with Maslow, it soon became clear it made no sense at all to indigenous people. Nor did it resonate for women, or anyone blessed with having some sense of collective identity.

In essence, a collective identity requires the spiritual quality often referred to as 'soul.'

Self-actualization leaves little room for this; yet the idea remains an appealing one, particularly in the West and those westernized cultures where people come to see themselves as 'self-made' or 'rugged' or simply successful, enterprising individuals.

Our situation is very precarious. Even if the Treaty Principles Bill should fail, its sponsor has gained the attention of many citizens who have little or no understanding of Te Tiriti.

Should a referendum on the Treaty be held, recent polls suggest about 30% of citizens would support ACT, 30% would vote against, however up to 40% are undecided.

ACT and its leader advocate individual rights, with little apparent regard for the rights of others, particularly those whose profound and unshakeable sense of collective identity, arises through land to which they will always belong through their Maori ancestry.

While the Bill's sponsor makes frequent reference to race, the policies of the ACT party are essentially White, Western racism - still seeking to privatize public assets along with removing regulations protecting land inherited over centuries of indigenous ancestry.

ACT's Treaty Principles Bill seeks to draws us all into its moral vacuum, in which no consideration is given to the wellbeing of the home, land and sea, which is Aotearoa.

Rob Ritchie.

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# A place to linger and learn

Jack Davey has always been fascinated by Te Namu Pa and believed that its stories are worth telling. On Saturday his three years of research received their first public viewing with the unveiling of a sign outlining the stories of Te Namu and the surrounding area.

The sign was set up by the Te Namu Iti Ahu Whenua Trust and Jack, who is a trust member has been researching the history for the last three years.

The sign overlooks the sea where the pa once stood and can be approached via the footbridge across the Otahi Stream which was built in 2020.

Nearby is a urupa with headstones bearing names of whanau members with links to the area. Further up the hill are unmarked graves of forebears who were buried earlier.

“My grandfather wanted to be buried here,” says Tui Rangi. “My parents and my grandparents are here because of the older people who have gone before them.”

Among those at the ceremony were iwi members as well as representatives of the South Taranaki District Council and the Opunake Loop Trail.

It’s possible to spend a lot of time reading everything that’s on the two-sided sign. There is a timeline outlining the area’s rich history which includes the repulse of the Waikato attack in 1834, the wreck of the Harriet and subsequent destruction of the pa, the wreck of the Lord Worsley, the setting up of the Opunake Redoubt and beyond. A map shows where the pa sites around Opunake were located and there is a biography of the man long associated with Te Namu. Wiremu Kingi Moki te Matakatea, and information on other sites of interest.

“It’s something I’ve always wanted to do,” says Jack Davey. “It’s always intrigued me, the place itself and the history. I did come here as a schoolkid



On Saturday a sign outlining the colourful story of Te Namu was unveiled.

and it amazed me how it would have looked back then, with gardens down there, and all this had people living there. There was a pa over there overlooking Opunake Beach, and another overlooking the Waihua and another at Opua, and people would have lived in them and moved between them.”

All this could be read about on the new sign, he says.

“There was an earlier sign here. I’m not sure who put it up here. It didn’t tell us much and there was a lot missing on it. I came back here in 2001 and it was here then. The sign just deteriorated

over the years and I always wanted to replace it. This picks up after that, and I’m sure that we missed a bit as well.”

After being welcomed by kaumatua John Hooker various people read different passages from the sign.

Mahara Okeroa spoke about Wiremu Kingi Moki te Matakatea who had been given the te Matakatea name because of his exploits with the gun in repelling the Waikato attack of 1834.

“This person was one of the outstanding and inspiring leaders of Taranaki. I call him a man for all seasons.”

He said that such was the calibre of the man that when he was arrested for his part in ploughing up land at Manaia during Te Whiti’s campaign against land confiscation he refused an offer of a pardon saying he preferred to join the others who were being sent to slavery in Otago for what they had done.

He said the sign presented for the first time a balanced view of what happened.

“What we’ve got here is an outstanding presentation and taonga to the period and I’m honoured to be standing here.”

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon spoke about another sign placed further towards the sea which explained the Tauranga Waka where hapu had set rocks aside to enable waka to be moved to and from the sea. He said it was time to have more signs like these to make people think.

“People walk across the bridge and say this is a urupa and a sacred area and think no more of this.”

The formalities ended with refreshments at the Sinclair Event Centre. John Hooker noted that Wiremu Kingi Moki te Matakatea’s three guiding principles had included Kotahitanga or unity and having tangata whenua and tangata te tiriti together for an occasion such as this was an example of this happening.



The sign’s historian Jack Davey (centre) with Snapper Young of Te Namu Iti Ahu Whenua Trust (left) and Andrea Leadbetter of TGM Creative.

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A vehicle was left the worse for wear after an early morning crash at Otakeho.

# Lines down after Otakeho crash

Power lines were brought down after an accident at Otakeho early on Sunday morning.

A Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ) spokesperson says one crew from Manaia and two from Opunake were called to a single-car motor vehicle crash at 12.10am and

assisted with scene safety due to a power pole being damaged.

The last truck left just after 2am.

A police spokesperson says they had been advised that a car had collided with a power pole on SH45 between Omururangi and

Taikatu roads bringing live wires down across the roads.

A Hato Hone St John spokesperson says one ambulance and their crew assessed and treated one patient in a minor condition at the scene.

The police spokesperson

says the driver had minor injuries and was given a ride home by police.

The power company was notified about the lines being down, and it appeared traffic management was stood down around 2.30am.

# Restricted fire season for Taranaki

All of the Taranaki District moved to a restricted fire season as of 9am Thursday 23 January, until further notice. This restricted fire season means anyone wanting to light an open-air fire will have to apply for a permit. You can

apply for a permit at [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz).

Taranaki District Manager David Utumapu says the continued warm and dry weather has seen the fire danger increase across the District.

“The conditions are now getting to the point that it will be very easy for a fire to get out of control. Managing these fires now will prevent problems later,” he says.

“We want everyone lighting fires to be safe and aware of

the weather conditions. If it's hot and windy, please don't light a fire, even if are granted a permit.”

For more information around lighting fires in a restricted fire season, go to [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz).

# Scandinavian blue rings could mark eruptions continents away

‘Blue rings’ in the stems of trees and bushes in Norway could be a result of volcanic eruptions in Central and South America, according to international research. The team studied Norwegian pine trees and juniper shrubs, dyeing wood samples to reveal ‘blue

rings’, which represent years where the plant did not grow properly, likely due to a particularly cold summer. The researchers say across the plants they sampled, blue rings were most common from the years 1902 and 1877, with 96% of pine trees and 68%

of juniper shrubs revealing blue rings from 1902 and 84% of trees and 36% of shrubs in 1877. They say previous research has linked cold 1902 temperatures in Scandinavia to the volcanic eruption of Mount Pelée in the Caribbean, and the cold summer of 1877 aligns with

the eruption of Cotopaxi in Ecuador, although there is no other evidence to link the Cotopaxi eruption with temperatures in Norway that year.

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# Service to brigade honoured

A long serving chief fire officer and a gold star recipient were among those receiving awards at a recent Manaia Volunteer Fire Brigade awards evening.

Shane Taylor who has been chief fire officer (CFO) for the last 17 years and Stewart Symes who received his gold star for 25 years service earlier this year were awarded life memberships. It was also announced that another long serving fire officer Haney Kahu is being made a life member.

Four officers including the brigade's deputy chief fire officer Jimmy Greenough who has been with the brigade for 21 years received good conduct medals. The others were senior fire fighters Caleb Symes and Dale Symes who have both been with the brigade for 14 years and Jade Symes who has been with the brigade for 15 years.

Shane who joined the brigade in 2000 was made chief fire officer seven years later.

"It's been a challenging time in the brigade. There have been some good things and some bad things, but most of the time it's been pretty positive," he says. "It's all been about joining up to help the community and the camaraderie within the service which has kept me here," he says.

He says he has been to several major fires, including a couple at Taranaki By-products, the Hawera Intermediate School fire, and the fires which destroyed the Commercial Hotel and the original Waimate Hotel building.

Stewart Symes comes from a family which has had five generations in the Manaia Brigade, including his grandfather and one of Stewart's own grandsons who has joined up. The Taylor family can claim four generations.

Brigade life member Ben Julian who was chief fire officer from 1979-1996 recalls persuading Stewart to sign up.

"The Julians and the Symes are first cousins, and I said to him your grandfather was in the brigade."



**New life members of the Manaia Brigade were Haney Kahu, Stewart Symes and CFO Shane Taylor.**

He also recalled getting Haney Kahu to join, who was well-known in town for his 21 years playing senior rugby.

"My catch phrase used to be there's life after rugby and that life's in the fire brigade."

The Manaia Fire Brigade has been going since 1908. The original fire station was a former church building that

had been shifted on site. "There was a quarter acre section out back and that's where the horses were," said Ben.

He was CFO when the current station was opened in 1980. It was also under him as CFO that Manaia became the first brigade in Area 3 which covers the lower North Island to take on a female firefighter,

something of which Ben says he was very proud.

"I took absolute crap from my fellow fire chiefs," he says. "I took five years of stick from various fire chiefs, but now it's commonplace. I was lucky that the girl I took on was a qualified nurse, so she was used to getting stuff thrown at her."

The Manaia Fire Brigade has gone through its ups and downs in its 116 years of firefighting. Ben says coming under the Fire Service Commission in 1976 was "the best thing that could have happened for small rural brigades."

"In 1975 we had to survive on \$3200 for a year. When the Fire Service Commission started we had double that and we thought we were millionaires."

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon praised the work done by the Manaia brigade, who he said are

increasingly called upon to act as first responders.

"For me to come here and spend some time here is nothing compared to

what you guys do for the community. What you do for us as volunteers is absolutely brilliant. So keep up the good work."



**Other members were honoured for their long service. From left. Dale Symes, Jimmy Greenough, Caleb Symes. Absent Jade Symes.**

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# A productive year ahead

Welcome to 2025. I hope you had an opportunity to relax, enjoy summer events and activities, and spend meaningful time with your loved ones during the break.

Taranaki is going to be roaring with activity over the coming months with Americarna, Te Matatini and WOMAD bringing in thousands of visitors to the region. I know the coastal community will be out to see the display of classic American cars on Wednesday 19th of February, and we can't forget the Opunake Lions Mountain to Sea Bike Ride coming up too. We are back on deck and the stage is set for a very productive year ahead. Economic growth is priority number one for 2025.

Because a growing economy means giving Kiwis more choices and the confidence to find a new job, hire a new staff member, open a business, or start a family. Last week, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon addressed the nation and announced part of our plan to grow the economy. First, we're taking action to make New Zealand a much more attractive destination for investment. More investment means we can deliver better roads and energy infrastructure and build a strong economy to help us pay for better health and education.

And secondly, we want to incentivise our scientists to make major breakthroughs that make our country wealthier and give researchers a greater



DAVID MACLEOD MP  
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commercial share of their own research. We're resetting New Zealand's science sector to create a more dynamic system that can respond to priorities and keep pace with technological advances. 2025 will be another massive year for New Zealand and our Government will be doing everything it takes to unleash the growth, innovation,

and investment we need to thrive. Locally, I'm looking forward to engaging with our communities, working to find solutions to local issues, and championing our electorate.

Don't forget to be sun and water-safe as you continue to enjoy these warmer months. I wish you all a very productive and fruitful year.

As always, please reach out if you need information or assistance. 06 759 2580 or david.macleodmp@parliament.govt.nz Follow facebook.com/davidmacleodmp to see when I'm next in Opunake and for my regular updates from our electorate.

David MacLeod  
MP New Plymouth.



South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon and David MacLeod judged the Opunake Parade on Christmas Eve.

## Privatisation and asset sales puts profits ahead of people's needs

Privatising public services like health that we all rely on will move the focus from delivering for people in need to cutting costs to boost profits of companies, say the Public Service Association Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi. They say they strongly oppose increased delivery by private providers of public services like health and education, and asset sales as mooted by ACT leader David Seymour. Acting PSA National Secretary Fleur Fitzsimons says the ACT proposals would take money from public services and funnel it towards private providers. This defunding of public services would see the interests of private companies and a limited number of shareholders

prioritised over the common good in the provision of vital services. "Privatisation will inevitably mean syphoning money off from providing services for all to pay profits to private corporations, says Fitzsimons. "This will result in only those who can pay being able to access adequate health care and other vital services. "Just look at the health system in the USA where the private sector dominates and sick people without health insurance are left at hospital doors. We don't want that here. "Assets sales have been tried and failed in New Zealand. The only winners are private companies. "Public services and assets belong to all of us and are

there to deliver for people not shareholders. "Privatisation will also mean that the workers who deliver quality public, health and community services will see their livelihoods threatened by redundancies and reduced pay and conditions," Fitzsimons says. "The coalition

Government's savage attacks on, and funding cuts to public, health and community services, are clearly aimed at destroying trust in these services as a step towards privatisation. "The PSA calls on Prime Minister Luxon rule out privatising public services now and in the future," Fitzsimons says.

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# Taranaki Offshore Partnership welcomes bill's introduction

Taranaki Offshore Partnership, the offshore wind joint venture between Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and the NZ Super Fund, welcomes the introduction of the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill to Parliament, as an important milestone in progressing the development of offshore wind in New Zealand.



**Giacomo Caleffi.**

The Legislation to establish a permitting regime for offshore renewable energy projects is a significant step towards giving New Zealand households and businesses access to a world-class fuel source: the country's offshore wind. Taranaki Offshore Partnership director Giacomo Caleffi says the introduction of the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill to Parliament is an important element in the Government's plan to double the supply of affordable, clean energy and enable New Zealand to become a low emissions economy.

"Offshore wind is one of the fastest-growing renewable energy technologies globally, because it enables renewable energy generation at scale. This is critical to address the current shortfall of electricity generation and to meet long-term demand growth from the decarbonisation of the economy and development of new industries," says Mr Caleffi.

Taranaki Offshore Partnership's proposed offshore wind farm in the South Taranaki Bight would produce up to 1GW of electricity, comparable

to some of the largest hydroelectric power plants in the country. The development of offshore wind at scale in the upper North Island (where the first offshore wind farms are proposed) would help mitigate energy security risks for the areas of greatest demand such as Auckland, which currently rely heavily on South Island-based hydro and the integrity of the HVDC cables across Cook Strait.

"As well as enhancing the overall resilience of New Zealand's electricity system, our studies show that there will be regional economic benefits, including a significant number of new direct and indirect jobs as well as supply chain opportunities," says Mr Caleffi.

Taranaki Offshore Partnership is continuing

its feasibility investigations in New Zealand, in parallel with the ongoing development of the regulatory framework. "The introduction of the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill is a first signal of confidence for investors and key to meeting our target of commissioning our proposed offshore wind



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**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

farm in South Taranaki by the mid-2030s, subject to feasibility. "We look forward to reviewing the Bill in detail and preparing a submission to the Select Committee," says Mr Caleffi.



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Principal Anna Hauparoa at the new site for the Hawera Christian School.

## New home for Christian School

The Hawera Christian School have moved on to their new site and are looking forward to the start of term next week.

The Hawera Christian School had been based at

the former Tokaora Primary School since 2013. Before then it was known as the Belmont Christian Academy and was based on the same site as the Belmont Christian Centre in Hawera.

took just one trailer load and we were done. Then we had some wonderful people who stayed to unpack as well."

Sam agrees. "It shows that our community is behind us, from the churches and people in general," he says.

He says that in November Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) wanted vacant possession and the school would have to leave the Tokaora site.

"We always knew that we were part of the treaty settlement process, but we were always under the impression that the iwi wanted on as a tenant, but obviously things have changed."

The school was given 7-8 weeks to find a new site.

"God provided us with this paddock," says Sam. There is a basketball court and the 1.2ha site "gives plenty of room for the kids to run round in."

Anna says one advantage of

the site is closer proximity to swimming lessons. They have also booked in for lessons at the Park Croquet Club.

The two-classroom school which has a roll of around 50 students is looking for a more permanent site which Sam says would be closer to 2-2.5ha.

The school currently caters for Years 0-8, and they hope to go up to secondary school level.

"We would love to go up to Year 13," says Anna. "We know other schools that have done that who we can tap in with."

Sam says to do that they would need to secure their own site, and they are looking to raise \$3.6 million for that purpose.

"We know there's a need for it in our community but we know that it's a process we have to work through with the Ministry."

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# Summer Blast tour ends at Opunake

Suzy Cato has been a familiar figure to children of all ages hosting TV shows like You and Me and Suzy's World, as well as writing books and making videos. Many of her earlier fans have grown up and have children of their own who are just as keen on Suzy as their parents were.

Last week she completed her tour of South Taranaki district libraries promoting the South Taranaki District Council Summer Blast reading programme with a visit to Opunake.

"We've had fantastic numbers at every library," South Taranaki District Council outreach librarian Katherine Bosworth said. There had been widespread support from the wider Taranaki community, with some coming from as far afield as Whanganui.

"She's been promoting books and reading while chucking in a bit of nostalgia for the adults" says Katherine.

A large audience of fans young and older had already assembled and made themselves comfortable at



Charlie and Indie Davy with Suzy Cato and their mum Kathryn Andrews.

which I'm going to give to your library," she said.

Suzy took her audience through The Kauri Family with all the birds, insects and animals which made up the family, including the kiwi, weta, tui and tuatara which she says were here when the dinosaurs were around.

"In this library there will be books about the tuatara and you can find out more about them," she said.

As promised, there was

also an aside for older members of the audience who may have recalled her stint on the Dancing with the Stars TV programme.

"I wrote this song when I was on Dancing with the Stars. I was so unfit that I had to write a song to say that I can do it," she said.

There was a plug for the Council's Summer Blast reading programme and the day ended with a chance to have photos taken with Suzy.

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The Kauri Family went down a treat with Suzy's fans when she visited Opunake Library Plus.

the Opunake Library Plus before the show got going.

Suzy began by leading her audience through a series of action songs.

"Has anybody come further than Opunake today?" she asked. "Everyone has come from everywhere. We're all united in this together."

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# Service to St John honoured Local minister ordained



**Order of St John Prior – Her Excellency, the Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro GNZM QSO DStJ (left) and Hato Hone St John Taranaki Area Committee Chairperson – Heather Brokenshire (right) at the Napier Investiture ceremony.**

Heather Brokenshire, current chairperson of the Hato Hone St John (HHStJ) Taranaki Area Committee has been admitted into the Order of St John.

She was joined by 13 others who were also recognised at an official investiture ceremony held in Napier. HHStJ is the only organisation in Aotearoa, outside of Government, with its own royal honours system, and admission and promotion into the Order is based solely on exceptional service, not age or length of service.

Heather is considered the face of HHStJ in the Hāwera district and has been involved with the organisation for approximately 20 years. She began alongside her then young son in the St John Youth Cadets programme and is still an active youth leader in her community. Heather then joined the Hāwera Area Committee as a chairperson and recently joined the Taranaki Area Committee.

She was asked what a standout moment during her long service was, and she said it was the new Hāwera ambulance station that was officially opened in March 2024. She spearheaded the extensive fundraising process and significantly contributed to the project's success.

'Having worked with Heather closely, I have seen the dedication that she has for St John,' says Peter Keller, Hāwera Area

Committee member, 'the hours spent on planning, preparation and checking details which most people wouldn't see. I admire her work ethic, leadership, and jovial manner in all that she does for the organisation. This award is certainly well deserved.'

Heather says, 'being admitted was totally unexpected. I don't volunteer for recognition, I volunteer to

give back to the community that has supported me all my life, and to help our cadets get the best start they can in life. However, I felt very privileged to have been nominated for this award and was honoured to accept it.

'I would like to acknowledge my family and Hato Hone St John for supporting me through this and my many years as a volunteer.'

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (30 May 2024) Michael Lemanu has been co-ordinating the nine Methodist churches around the maunga.

Since then he has since been ordained and received into Full Connexion at the Methodist Conference 2024 in Pōneke Wellington. "Having begun my probationary period here in Taranaki, in a new home and with a new ministry role, I was humbled to be considered for ordination a year earlier than the typical time period.," he says. "I have felt long called into ministry since being inspired into a relationship with Christ from a young age by one of my mentors, the late Rev. Andre LeRoux. I have tried, with God's help, to faithfully respond and live out what this calling means and how I might be able to love God and my neighbour in every sense. To be ordained is to have the affirmation of our Haahi of this calling, and its support in such a commitment to God, church and people. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to practice my first ministry as an ordained Presbyterian of Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa in the beautiful Taranaki. "On behalf of Eseta, Amorangi, Rāniera, Tohunga and myself, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the people of Wesley and St. Mary's for their prayers, support and encouragement as we have adapted to our new home. I am excited for the next stage of ministry in our region and for whatever it is that God has in store for us."



**Michael Lemanu with his wife Eseta.**



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## KINGHITTER

# TRC chair resigns

Taranaki Regional Council Chairperson Charlotte Littlewood has announced her resignation as chair.

Mrs Littlewood confirmed her intention to see out her term as Councillor, and resign from the chairperson role, effective 18 February 2025.

“Due to changes in my personal circumstances, I am relocating to Christchurch. This makes it untenable to fulfil the responsibilities of the chairperson role, so I am stepping down,” she says.

“I am incredibly proud of the accomplishments we have achieved during my time on the Council and as chair – in particular securing additional external funding and undertaking the Yarrow Stadium rebuild project without increasing the burden on ratepayers. Last year’s community engagement to help shape the future of our freshwater plan was also a real highlight for me. Through this process we got a much richer understanding of what the community wants, which helps ensure Council



TRC chair Charlotte Littlewood.

policy reflects community aspirations.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to have led this Council team and

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the support and dedication of my colleagues around the Council table. I’ve also

had great support from the executive and council officers, which has helped me immensely in the role.

“I intend to stay on as a councillor until the local body elections later this year but won’t stand again. I will work closely with the new chair, who will be elected at the 18 February council meeting, to ensure a seamless handover of chairperson responsibilities.

“It has been a privilege to serve the people of Taranaki as chair, and I want to thank the many people from the business, farming and wider community who have supported me.”

Council Chief Executive Steve Ruru paid tribute to Mrs Littlewood and her contribution as chairperson.

“Charlotte’s leadership and unwavering dedication to the Council and its goals has made a lasting and positive impact on the region. Her guidance and wisdom as chair has helped us steer a steady course through a rapidly changing environment.”

## Growing support for Kiwi food producers

New Zealanders are increasingly valuing the country’s farmers and growers, recognising their crucial role in driving economic growth and ensuring a reliable local food supply, according to new research.

A recent poll by Primary Purpose shows that positive sentiment towards key food production industries has

grown significantly since a similar study in 2021.

Two thirds (66%) of respondents were positive about sheep and beef farming, up eight points, 63% were positive about dairy farming, up eight points, and more than half (52%) support deer farming, up nine points.

There were also positive views about other industries including vegetable growing (81%), fruit growing (80%), kiwifruit growing (76%), arable farming (73%) and grape growing and winemaking (72%).

The survey also explored the reasons for respondents’ positive or negative sentiment towards the food producing industries.

Key reasons for positive sentiment included the economic benefits the

industries generate, such as local food production fostering self-sufficiency, helping reduce the costs of food, and bolstering the economy.

New Zealanders also valued New Zealand’s ability to feed its own population through a stable and abundant local food supply.

However, a range of challenges and concerns were also raised, in particular, the environmental impact of chemicals and fertilisers and some consumers felt that locally produced food is more expensive than imported alternatives, making it hard to access.

“Looking across the survey results for 2024, it’s interesting to note some key differences between

food production industries and survey respondent age groups,” says Scott Champion (Founding Partner of Primary Purpose)

“Plant sectors saw higher levels of positivity than the animal sectors, although the animal industries saw substantial lifts in support since the last survey in 2021. The other difference of note was between age groups surveyed, with older New Zealanders more positive towards all food producing industries, compared to younger age groups.”

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on February 13..

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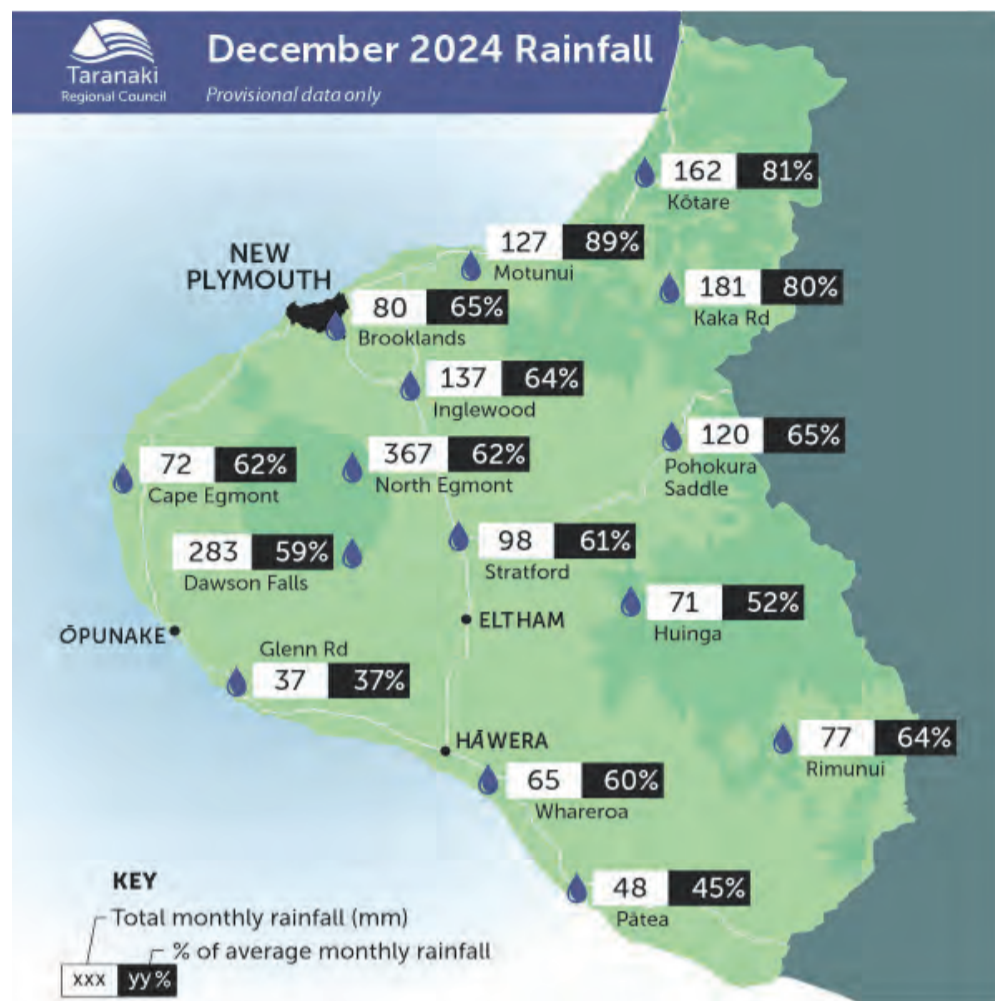


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# Dry month reflected in rainfall stats



Taranaki Regional Council December rainfall figures show something which farmers in South and Coastal Taranaki have become well aware of. It's dry out there.

December continued 2024's trend for lower rainfall with an average of 108.3mm - 34% less than usual.

On average across Taranaki there was 14% less rainfall than normal across all rain gauges with year-to-date rainfall lowest at Waitōtara at Hawken Rd with 28% less than usual. In December, there was 63%

less rain at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd and 11% less at Motunui M39 at Weston W3.

Mean river flows for December were 31.8% lower than typical values, low flows were 21.9% greater, and high flows 72.5% lower than typical values while mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 17.4°C, an average of 0.7°C warmer than long-term values.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 16.5°C, which is 0.2°C warmer than long-

term December averages. Low air temperatures were on average 1°C warmer than the December average for previous years. The maximum air temperature recorded was 27.6°C at Brooklands Zoo at New Plymouth on 28 December.

The maximum wind gust recorded was 140km/hr at Uruti at Kaka Rd on 31 December. Last month's average wind speeds were 14.5km/hr, with average gust strength of 43.4km/hr, these were 0.3km/hr stronger, and 2.3km/hr gustier than the long-term average.

## DCANZ takes aim at Canada

The Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ) has joined with United States and Australian dairy industry representatives in calling for government action to address the impacts that Canada's trade delinquency is having on world dairy protein markets.

A January 8 letter to the trade and agriculture

Ministers of New Zealand, the United States and Australia details a collective concern that artificially low-priced Canadian dairy protein exports are undermining legitimate export interests. Collective and coordinated action is requested to address the mechanisms being used by Canada to enable these exports to be dumped on

world markets.

Of concern is the design of Canada's milk pricing mechanisms to under-price the surplus milk protein generated by its domestic supply management system and incentivise disposal onto world markets. Canadian dairy processors' ability to

*Continued page 16.*

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# Highs and lows according to TRC

The weather stats are in for 2024 and if you live near Hawken Road in South Taranaki then last year you will have enjoyed the lowest rainfall and highest air temperature in the region.

And those living near Ngutuweru, north of Waitotara, had to hang onto their hats on 4 February as the area recorded the highest wind gust for the year at 128.52km/hr.

Figures from Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) show the region, well known for enjoying a healthy dose of rain most years, recorded 14% less than normal rainfall in 2024.

For rain gauges outside of Taranaki Maunga, Waitōtara at Hawken Rd recorded the lowest rainfall for the year at 28% less than usual but even the gauge which had the highest amount of rain – Pohokura Saddle in East Taranaki – recorded 2% less than normal.



Data analyst Chelsea Pretty checking flow in the Pungareere Stream near Rahotu.

Waitōtara at Hawken Rd also recorded the top air temperature at 31.14°C on 19 January.

Craig Pickford, the Council's Team Leader – Environmental Data, says staff are out in all weather conditions checking 115 monitoring stations across the region to ensure the public is kept up to date about everything from

rainfall to wind gusts and soil moisture to river flows.

"Everyone loves to have a yarn about the weather and if you need to find out what's happening in our region, the best place is the environmental data page on the Council's website where

the data is updated every 15 minutes," says Mr Pickford.

"From Ahititi in the north to Waitōtara in the south, the data is invaluable to everyone from farmers checking soil conditions to hikers needing to know what the current weather is before heading up Taranaki Maunga.

"This is particularly important when we have major weather events and we need to keep the public and agencies such as Taranaki Emergency Management informed about high river flows which could put people and property at risk."

Waitara River at Bertrand Rd saw the highest river flow on 1 September 2024 with 882.961m<sup>3</sup>/s while Manganui at Everett Park recorded the highest amount of rain for one day for a monitoring site outside Taranaki Maunga at 90mm on 12 April.

"We are certainly seeing extremes in our weather during recent years which is suggestive of climate change. This reinforces the need to keep monitoring

and tracking the weather so we can build models which predict the future and inform our science, something that is not easy but vital as we prepare to face more climate upheavals in the future," adds Mr Pickford.

A monitoring site on the Oaonui Stream in South Taranaki recorded the highest river water temperature - 27.46°C on 19 December

The lowest river water temperature was 4.69°C on 16 June at the Waitaha 1 at SH3 monitoring site

The highest amount of rain recorded on mountain monitoring sites in one day was 177.5mm at the North Egmont Visitors Centre on 9 June

The lowest air temperature was at Tawhiti at Duffys in South Taranaki was -3.14°C on 8 May

The maximum soil temperature was 30.62°C on 15 December at Kapoiaia at Lighthouse

The minimum soil temperature was 6°C at Stony at Mangatētē Bridge on 14 July.

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## DCANZ takes aim at Canada

Continued from page 15.

access milk proteins at below Canada's cost of production is distorting its export of a range of dairy products.

DCANZ Executive Director Kimberly Crewther says "Canada's policy approach is at odds with its international trade obligations in much the same

way as previous Canadian dairy pricing policies were found to breach WTO export subsidy rules in the past".

The joint-call is for the Governments of New Zealand, US, and Australia to actively pursue the issue using all available tools. New Zealand and Australia are signatories, alongside Canada, to the

Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement to maintain the enforceability of WTO rules. For the US the upcoming review of the USMCA agreement offers opportunities.

The letter highlights that action to curb these harmful Canadian policies is a matter of urgency with the imminent prospect of

further Canadian processing investment premised on this access to below-cost milk protein.

For the New Zealand industry, this issue is additional to the legal dispute about Canada's limiting of access to CPTPP dairy quotas

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# Ben Siffleet appointed Taranaki Whio Head Coach

Ben Siffleet has been announced as the new Head Coach of the Central Roofing Taranaki Whio for their 2025 Farah Palmer Cup campaign. Siffleet replaces Maifea Maifea, who oversaw the programme in 2023 and 2024.

Siffleet has extensive coaching experience at school, club, and representative level.

He has previously coached the Francis Douglas Memorial College 1st XV and the Taranaki Development team, and he led the Tukapa

Premiers to two CMK club championships in 2020 and 2022.

The current Taranaki Rugby coach and Secondary School leader is no stranger to the Taranaki Whio environment, he held the Forwards Coach role back in 2018.

Siffleet, was excited about leading Taranaki's flagship women's team into a new era.

"I am honoured to take on the role of Head Coach of the Central Roofing Taranaki Whio. I am thrilled to take on this new challenge and



The Taranaki Whio will have a new coach for a new season.

work with such a talented group of players and staff. I am eager to contribute and build on the continued growth and success of the team from previous years."

Taranaki Rugby Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Fastier was delighted about the appointment.

"Ben is a passionate Taranaki man who will give his heart and soul to the Central Roofing Taranaki Whio campaign. Ben has strong rugby knowledge, a clear campaign plan for the Whio and he will establish a strong rapport with the

playing group."

"I also want to acknowledge the significant contribution of Maifea Maifea and his assistants Kerry Eynon and Lance White to grow the Whio programme over the last two seasons."

A pre-season training block for a wider Taranaki Whio squad will commence following the appointment of Siffleet's management team.

New Zealand Rugby is set to confirm the Farah Palmer Cup presented by Bunnings Warehouse schedule in the upcoming months.

# Taranaki win Furlong Cup



The match against Manawatu was a good result for Taranaki.

Taranaki have won the Furlong Cup and earned the right to challenge Hawkes Bay for the Hawke Cup, the premier trophy for provincial associations in New Zealand.

The Taranaki Men's cricket team (261/10) defeated Manawatu (196/10) at Pukekura Park.

For much of the game Taranaki were under the pump. From a losing position of 118-8, mid-afternoon on day one, Trent McGrath (79) and Jordan Gard (58 not out) batted above and beyond the call of duty, to

ensure Taranaki posted a challenging total of 261.

In the process they secured three very important batting points against an accomplished attack and very good fielding side.

With day one honours evenly shared, day two was sure to be a cracker. The winning was there for the best side on the day.

For Manawatu Whetu Na Nagara scored eight from 81 balls, and Jaiden Meyer laboured for 80 balls in scoring 15 runs. Psychologically this was good for the Taranaki attack

and they hit a rhythm and accuracy straight away, which they would maintain for the whole innings.

For parts of the Manawatu innings there were glimpses of taking control, but just as the batsman looked 'in', he got out. This was particularly the case of big hitting Jerome Robinson who pumped the ball straight to the safe hands of Fastier, when he was looking really dangerous on 71.

At lunch Manawatu needed a little over 100 runs with five wickets still in the bag. The target was not a big one.

With Thomas Kuggeleijn and Jonty Fleck at the crease, both looking very comfortable, Taranaki needed a champion to stand up.

Up steps quickie, Ryan Watson, who would set things in motion, bowling Kuggeleijn (44) with an absolute cracker of a ball. The big man had done the job asked of him.

Paceman Ben Frewin then got the better of Fleck (31), and soon Gard and Mattie Thomas had sewn things up. None of the final four batsmen would score above five.

Maintaining a consistent accuracy, backed by outstanding fielding, and led by zippy and intimidating paceman Frewin, Manawatu were dismissed for 196.

Frewin produced his best spell in the Taranaki colours capturing 5-27 from 15 overs. Watson got the crucial breakthrough, whilst Gard, Mattie Thomas and Liam Carr carried out their duties as required.

The cheers at the end topped off a great game for Fastier, hitting an accomplished 39 in what was a low scoring game, pocketing three catches in the outfield, and leading the team with calmness and intelligence.

The Hawke Cup is the next target, with the challenge set for January 31-February 2 in Napier.



Margaret Fleming with Beauden Barrett.

# A tribute to Coastal patron

Coastal Rugby is saddened to pass on the news of the passing of our Patron Margaret Fleming. Margaret and her late husband Bernie are legends of our club and were the driving force behind the joining together of the Okato, Rahotu and Opunake Rugby Clubs in 1995 to form Coastal Rugby.

Margaret was passionate about all things Coastal, and if she couldn't get to the games, particularly in the last couple of years, she would have her phone handy waiting for text updates.

Margaret was delighted to have Beauden visit her last year when she was unable to get to Okato to watch the game he played for Coastal due to poor health, and all visitors for the next month were told the story of his surprise visit. She was so excited about Beauden's visit that she forgot to ask

for a photo as proof he was there. Another special time for Margaret last season was the opportunity to speak to the Premier players in their changing shed before their home semi-final game. The welcome and respect shown to Margaret and daughter Trish from the players and management was heart-warming and truly Coastal, and great to see the values and culture instilled by Bernie and his colleagues have been passed through the years.

Rest in peace Margaret - we thank you and your family for your time that you have so generously given to Coastal Rugby for many years.

*Ngā mihi  
Janet Fleming  
Chair  
Coastal Rugby*






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# Back to back titles for Phillips

Adult Ministock competitor Lukah Phillips successfully defended her Taranaki Adult Ministock title at the Mufflers NZ sponsored event at Five Star Liquor Stratford Speedway on January 11. Racing amongst a field of seventeen competitors, Phillips raced to a win in race one of the three race championship from a grid four start before coming home fourth in race two from grid eleven and then produced a great drive to win race three from grid twelve and cement her position at the top of the points table with a points haul of forty eight, enough for her to retain the title that she won for the first time last season by a margin of four points. Brayden Shaw recorded a second, third and fourth over the three races to take second place while Bronson Pierce was third overall.

A near full field of twenty eight Stockcars raced for both the Allan Hancock and Michael Walker Memorials. Kylee Symes nabbed the Hancock Memorial by a one-point margin from Todd Duthie who was second and Haydin Barker who was third. Steven Read won the Walker Memorial, also by just a one-point margin for Whanganui girl racer Hailey James. Symes continued his



#72 Lukah Phillips went back to back and won the Tool Hire Taranaki, Taranaki Adult Ministock champs on Saturday night for the second time. #71 Brayden Shaw was third.

good form and was third.

It was the Mitch Vickery and Peter Bengston show in the Super Saloons, racing for the King of the Mountain Champs. The three heat races were won by Vickery, Bengston and event sponsor Craig Korff and the points from these set the grid for the one race final which saw Vickery and Bengston starting off the front row. Korff made his way through a miniscule gap at the race start to take an early lead but ran wide allowing Vickery

and Bengston through to the front where the pair stayed with Vickery romping away to take the win ahead of Bengston with Joe Ingram third.

Minisprints raced for their Best Pairs trophy and after the points were tallied from the three races Craig Mason and Conrad Hall came out on top as the winners. Donald Kuriger and Bronson Pierce were second and Duane Hickman/Brad Merwood third.

Youth Ministocks

completed the race program for the usual classes with race wins going to Lucas Hurley (2), Blake Luscombe and Riley Symes.

An entertaining Holiday Derby concluded the nights racing and saw all manner of caravans and boats being towed around the track and subsequently destroyed in a ten lap race. Daniel Reed won the race in a Holden Commodore towing a boat ahead of Matt Hill's crowd favourite 'snail car', a Nissan S Cargo, also towing a boat.

Jarrold MacBeth

Photos supplied by Matt Julian/Contact High Photography.



#66 Craig Mason and #88 Conrad Hall won the Minisprint Best Pairs on Saturday night.

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# The Beach at the from out of the blue gallery

The Beach - how essential to most of us for the full summer experience, is a trip to a beach whether it be an ocean beach, a beach alongside a fresh running river or a along the edge of a cool clear lake. So many of us are drawn to enjoy the warmth of the season near natural water bodies to hear, smell, feel and maybe even taste the water. So here in Ōpunakē we love our beaches and to honour that 'from out of the blue studio gallery' is hosting The Beach 2025 version until the 10th of February. This time we have invited well known stitcher Ailie Snow, Mixed Media artist Alysn Midgelow- Marsden and a gallery favourite Tracey Sullivan to create works about beaches in their lives for us to enjoy. The gallery is looking amazing with these works which range from interpretations of kiwi rock pools in intricate



Alysn Midgelow-Marsden. A detail of *The Secret of the Shell*.

stitched expressions, the image of the waves meeting the edge of the sand and creating foam, through to serene stitched works based on poetry about the impact of life near the ocean. Something for everyone in this cash and carry collection. The gallery is open Thursdays through to Mondays 1-5 pm or by appointment. Phone 021 407 424. Our location is above Middleton Bay, on The Opunake Loop Trail at 18 Halse Place.

There is no entry fee to our space and you are also welcome to wander round upstairs where the big looms are housed. We look forward to seeing you and do hope you can pop in to enjoy all the

beautiful works on show. More details are on: <https://fromoutofthebluestudiogallery.com/thebeach-2024-25>.

Viv Davy

## Reenergising Art Tourism: Coastal Arts Trail Embarks on a New Phase

The Coastal Arts Trail is being re-energised by economic development agencies, Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki, Whanganui & Partners, and Central Economic Development Agency (CEDA Manawatu) with a new vision for the future of the trail and the arts across the three regions.

Initially launched in 2021 with government funding from the Strategic Asset Protection Programme to support tourism recovery

post-pandemic, the trail is now entering an exciting new phase, redefining what it means to take the scenic route.

Spanning the lower West Coast of the North Island, the Coastal Arts Trail offers art lovers a journey through Manawatu, Whanganui, and Taranaki with more than 80 places to stop and explore art, engage with artists, and experience an eclectic mix of public and street art, galleries, museums, studios, and vibrant rural creative

communities.

The three agencies have launched a new vision for the trail and announced three new founding partners to underpin the new strategic direction for the trail.

The agencies are looking to set a course for self-determination and trail management by the art sector, revealing a three-year roadmap to achieving this.

Year one will see the launch of the Founding Partners Programme. This is a critical component of this

transition, with a lead gallery and founding trail partner committing to the trail and supporting its activities and initiatives alongside the agencies in the first year.

The founding partners include one lead gallery from each region, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/ Len Lye Centre (Taranaki), Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery (Whanganui), and Te Manawa Museum of Art, Science & Heritage (Manawatu).

"Discovering and

celebrating regional culture and heritage offers a huge opportunity to drive tourism growth. The trail captures the best of regional creativity and opens up conversations to build knowledge, connections and collections," says Antony Rhodes of New Plymouth District Council's Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre.

"Revitalising the trail will ensure it can make a lasting contribution to the

growth of both the region and its creative sector."

Speaking on behalf of the three agencies Brylee Flutey GM Destination at Te Puna Venture Taranaki concludes, "We're grateful to our founding partners, as well as the galleries and open studios who make up the trail. All are committed to the direction and trail vision, and there is a real sense of excitement and energy from the sector as to where we are heading."

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## CHURCH NOTICES


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

### Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

### Okato Co-operating Parish

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

### Opunake Catholic Church

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

### Other areas

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

### St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

 Sunday Mass 8.45am.  
 Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).

### St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

### The Wave

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

### St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

### Okato Community Church

 Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.  
 Everyone welcome

### St John's Community Church. Kaponga

 Cnr West and Egmont Streets.  
 Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea

### Manaia Union Fellowship

Terou St. Manaia.

Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion

### Friend & Fellowship Group

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

### St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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

# Come one come all to Car Club fundraiser

Don't be fooled by the fact that the Taranaki Vintage Car Club are running the event. The Taranaki Vintage Car Club Show is open to vehicles of any description.

"If the owner believes their vehicle is worthy of interest and is prepared to pay five dollars they can come along and let others admire their pride and joy," says Graeme Kempton of the Taranaki Vintage Car Club. "We're the ones organising it and our vehicles will be there, but by no means is it limited to vintage cars at all."

As well as vintage, expect to see classic, modified, hot rods, army vehicles, bikes and tractors.

"From Citroens through to anything that moves," says Graeme.

The show which will be held at the Hawera A & P showgrounds from 10am to 3pm on Sunday February 2 is a fundraiser for the New Zealand Cancer Society. There is a five dollar charge per exhibiting vehicle but admission is free to the general public. Cancer Society members will be



Graeme Kempton's Buick will be among the vehicles on show on Sunday.

out asking for donations and members of the Normanby Lions' Club will assist with parking.

The Vintage Car Club have invited the various car clubs in Taranaki to come along.

"It's very surprising how many vehicles there are in Taranaki that are well worth having a second look at," says Graeme.

The Vintage Car Club has tried to hold fundraisers for the Cancer Society

before, but the weather had stopped this from happening. Graeme says they decided to hold it in February this time as it was hoped the weather would be more settled.

"If we had a nice day getting a hundred there would be easily attainable," says Graeme.

He said longtime member and club chairman Bryan Morris had been trying to get these events going

before and the club was looking at making this one a successful event in his honour.

Graeme will be bringing along his 1946 Buick, which he says he had a love affair with for the last 46 years.

"It has a straight eight engine which is not terribly common these days," he says.

"People open the bonnet, see eight cylinders in a row and get quite a kick out of it."

## A free range at The Village Gallery

**Free Range: A Retrospective Exhibition by Lorna Davies**  
**14th January to 8th February 2025 at The Village Gallery, 166 High Street, Eltham**

Lorna Davies has spent over twenty years exploring and celebrating the freedom of creativity, resisting the confines of a single medium or style. Her retrospective exhibition showcases a diverse collection of works spanning her artistic journey

since her debut in 2021.

This collection highlights Lorna's use of a wide variety of materials and techniques, including oil, acrylic, mixed media, pencil, charcoal, ink, and printmaking, as well as her explorations with natural fibres. Colour and texture are enduring features of her work, which ranges across a spectrum of subject matter and methods.

Free Range is a celebration of artistic curiosity and the joy of creative exploration



Heed The Warning by Lorna Davies.

## TARANAKI VINTAGE CAR CLUB



# CAR SHOW !

A Taranaki Vintage Car Club's Fundraiser  
for NZ Cancer Society

**HAWERA A & P SHOWGROUNDS  
SUNDAY 2ND FEB 2025**

Entrance Burnside Ave  
(Opposite High St/Waihi Rd intersection)

**VINTAGE - CLASSIC - MODIFIED -  
HOTROD - ARMY - BIKES -  
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Gates open 9am for Show Vehicles  
10am for public

\$5.00 per show vehicle - Public free

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## FREE RANGE

A RETROSPECTIVE  
EXHIBITION  
by LORNA DAVIES

11 JANUARY - 8 FEBRUARY

THE VILLAGE GALLERY 166 HIGH STREET, ELTHAM  
OPEN TUES - SAT 10AM-3PM

# Egmont Village Garden Ramble: A Weekend of Inspiration

Egmont Village will host a Garden Ramble on Saturday, February 1 and Sunday February 2—a fantastic opportunity for garden enthusiasts to explore local gardens and find new inspiration.

The Garden hosts have been working hard to prepare their beautiful spaces for the event. Visiting these gardens will offer a wealth of ideas with the chance to discover fresh ways to incorporate plants, colours, textures, and layouts into your own garden at home. There will be a range of gardens, from models of sustainability and self-sufficiency to charming country gardens and unique spaces featuring 'rooms' within the garden.

Donna and Wayne Busby



Windsor View Garden.

of Stanleigh Garden are among the eleven gardens featured in the ramble. With grandchildren attending Egmont Village School they are excited to share their flourishing garden with visitors and showcase the results of their hard work.

Chairperson of the Home and School Mark Duynhoven is looking forward to this new fundraising initiative.

"We are so fortunate to have the support of the garden owners, making this event possible."

With three generations having attended Egmont

Village School, Viv Adamson was thrilled when the idea of the garden ramble was proposed. "It's great to have a gardening goal to work towards and I'm excited to support the school's fundraising efforts," she said.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased through the 'Egmont Village School Garden Ramble' event on Facebook or by contacting Lucinda Searle on 0211215842 or lwsearle@gmail.com



Stanleigh Garden.

**Summer Flower Show 2025**  
 Community Centre Memorial Hall  
 Albion St, Hawera  
 Saturday February 1st 12-4pm  
 & Sunday February 2nd 10am-3pm

ENTRIES CLOSE: 7pm Thurs January 30  
 with Heather Quillinan 06 754 7966

ENTRIES FREE & OPEN TO ALL  
 Refreshments, Goods for sale, Glorious floral displays, Society Sales Table - please help by bringing items to sell  
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Karen Anderson 021 213 8513  
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- HIP**  
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- FOOD BANK**  
Every Thursday 11-1pm

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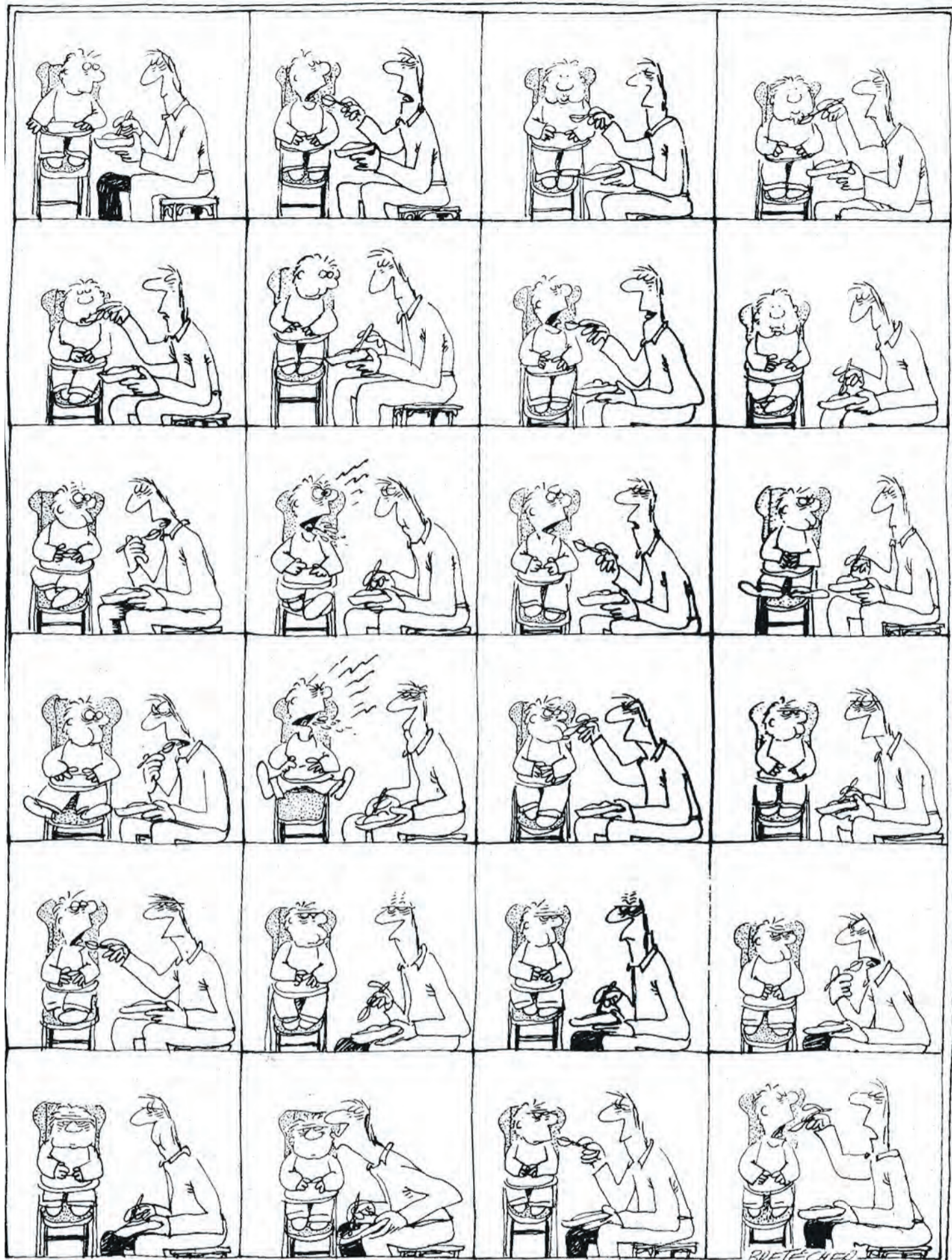
<b>Anora</b> 2hr 19mins   R16 Thu 30 Jan 7PM   Sun 02 Feb 7PM	<b>Better Man</b> 2hr 15mins   R13 Fri 31 Jan 7PM
<b>Dragonkeeper</b> 1hr 39mins   PG Sat 01 Feb 1PM	<b>We Live in Time</b> 1hr 48mins   M Sat 01 Feb 7PM
<b>Conclave</b> 2hr   M Sun 02 Feb 1PM   Thu 06 Feb 7PM	<b>Wicked</b> 2hr 40mins   PG Thu 06 Feb 1PM
<b>Sonic the Hedgehog 3</b> 1hr 50mins   PG Fri 07 Feb 7PM	<b>10 Lives</b> 1hr 27mins   G Sat 08 Feb 1PM
<b>A Complete Unknown</b> 2hr 21mins   M Sat 08 Feb 7PM	<b>Maria</b> 2hr 3mins   TBC Sun 09 Feb 1PM
<b>We Live in Time</b> 1hr 48mins   M Sun 09 Feb 7PM	<b>September 5</b> 1hr 32mins   M Thu 13 Feb 7PM

**Anora**  
Sex scenes, nudity, drug use & offensive language | 2hr 19mins | Rated: R16  
Thu 30 Jan 7PM

**Better Man**  
Drug use, offensive language & mental health themes | 2hr 15mins | Rated: R13  
Fri 31 Jan 7PM

What's On Listings

A SPOONFUL FOR DADDY



**Flower Show:** At the Community Centre Hall, Hawera. See ad for details.

**FEBRUARY 2**

**Taranaki Vintage Car Club Fundraiser Show:** At the Hawera A & P Showgrounds. From 9am. See ad for details. See ad for details.

**FEBRUARY 10**

**Opunake & District Business Association monthly meeting:** Opunake Business Centre, 5.30pm.

**MARCH 29**

**Cancer Society Relay for Life:** TET Stadium & Events Centre, Inglewood. 10.30am-10.30pm



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Next Issue: February 13

**ONGOING**  
**Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake:** Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.  
**MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake:** Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025  
**Beginners Social Dance Classes:** Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm.

**TUESDAYS**  
**Opunake Walking Group:** Every Tuesday 10am. Meet outside Club Hotel on Havelock St. Phone Margaret 027 477 5600 for more info if needed, or just turn up.  
**Pungarehu Golf Club Twilight:** Tee-off between 4.30 & 6.30pm.  
**Opunake District RSA:** Meet 1st Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm at the Opunake Fire Station. Financial Members are welcome to attend.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**Coastal Young Farmers:** Meet 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Butlers Reef Bar & Cafe, Oakura.  
**Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake:** Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676  
**Okato & District Historical Society open every Wednesday:** At the Okato Community Trust Hall, 47 Cumming St, Okato. phone Meg on 06 752 4566.  
**Opunake Embroiders Guild:** Meet 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10.30am-3pm at the Opunake Business Centre, Napier St, Opunake. Just come along or phone Sheryl 06 761 8769.  
**Okato Market:** In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5.30pm.  
**Free singing experience with Taranaki Harmony Chorus:** Meet every Wednesday at Inglewood Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm Phone Helen 021 296 0700.

**THURSDAYS**  
**Egmont Euchre Club:** Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.  
**Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia:** Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

**FRIDAYS**  
**Eltham Business Association Friday Markets:** 9:30am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.  
**Beginners Social Dance Classes:** Oakura Hall, 6.15pm.

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

**NOVEMBER 2 - MAY 11, 2025**  
**Lalaga Exhibition:** At the Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth.  
**JANUARY 2 2025 - FEBRUARY 10**  
**The Beach Exhibition:** At the from out of the blue studio gallery, Opunake  
**JANUARY 11 2025 - FEBRUARY 8**  
**Free Range - a retrospective exhibition by Lorna Davies** At the Village Gallery, Eltham  
**FEBRUARY 1 & 2**  
**Hawera Horticultural Society Summer**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**TOI FOUNDATION IS CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR ONE TRUSTEE VACANCY**

The Minister of Finance is charged with the responsibility of appointing Trustees, and each year the Minister invites Toi Foundation to put forward nominations of suitable people to be considered for appointment as a Trustee. As well as seeking nominations from the Foundation, the Minister can also receive nominations directly from any other interested party.

If you reside within the Foundation's legislative boundary, have significant networks within Taranaki, have a passion to see our region succeed, and align with our values you may be motivated to become part of the Foundation.

We are interested to hear from individuals that have knowledge and understanding of the community sector, governance experience and business acumen. Gender composition of the Board is also important. We are interested in applicants who have strong links to South Taranaki

For Expressions of Interest Application forms and an information pack please email [EOI@toifoundation.org.nz](mailto:EOI@toifoundation.org.nz) All enquiries and Expressions of Interest will be treated in confidence. Expressions of Interest close 19th February 2025 at 4pm.



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**MOBILITY SCOOTER**



From parking area at 100 Tasman Street, Opunake around the 3rd or 4th of January 2025. I have reported it to the Police.

Stealing a Mobility scooter is a pretty awful thing to do. I need to have it returned so i can have my Independence back. Contact Emma Putt on 0276509226 if you have any information regarding where it could be or who stole it.



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**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**



Next Meeting is on Monday February 10, 2025 at 5.30pm

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



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

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127kms



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**2012 Toyota HIGHLANDER LTD**  
**GREAT 7 SEATER TOW VEHICLE**  
4WD, Tinted Windows, 6 Cylinder, Roof rails,  
Alloy Wheels, traction Control, 3456cc, petrol,  
Auto, 212kms



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