



Awards aplenty for Stratford firm. Turn to pages 10-11.



Water, water everywhere. Pages 16, 17.



New Lions kid on the block. See page 15.



The Yep family is an integral part of Opunake's history. Can you help? See pages 6-7.



Memories of a famous athletic icon and our golden age of running. More info on the Snell family is sought. Can you help? See page 5.



Feeling stressed? Come along to the workshop. Page 27

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL

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Stratford-Eltham triumph, after winning the final.

Stratford-Eltham win premier Taranaki rugby final

The Taranaki premier rugby final was won by Stratford-Eltham, beating Coastal, thus successfully defending their title from 2024. The game was played on Stadium Taranaki on Saturday 12 July and the final score was 31-22 in Stratford-Eltham's favour. The score was 17-14 at half time. The winning team's dominance was reflected by the try count of 5 to

Coastal's 3.

Immediately after the game the winning team's coach Rawiri Maki announced his retirement. "I've been at it for a long time. It's time to give it to someone else," he commented. He has dedicated 30 years to coaching rugby in Taranaki. Rawiri was pleased to go

out on a winning note and enthused, "It is huge for the

community and club which has made it through to three consecutive finals."

Coastal, incidentally, have been runner up six times since they last won the title in 2012, so they will obviusly be disappointed.

The game was somewhat scrappy with such frequent errors as dropped ball and missed tackles. However, it is likely this only was a sign of the intensity of the game.

Stratford-Eltham For tries were scored by M Parker, S. Balenaisia, and H Cunningham (right on full time). B Christie slotted two conversions and H Fevre one. For Coastal tries were

scored by L Crowley, B Dufficy and K Drauma. Two conversions were kicked by J Sinclair, as well as a penalty. Outstanding players included Stratford-Eltham's captain Scott Jury who was dominant in the lineout. He said that skill in the setpiece and speed were keys to the outcome of the final. Team mate Marika Parker certainly made a positive contribution.

For Coastal Ben Dufficy made plenty of line breaks and Olly Lawson excelled as a loose forward.

Harry Duynhoven to retire from Council

Former New Plymouth MP and mayor the Hon. Harry Duynhoven QSO has announced he will not stand for re-election to the New Plymouth District Council at this year's local body elections.

"After a lot of consideration I've decided the time has come to stand down in favour of younger people beginning their public life," says Harry Duynhoven.

"Two weeks ago I turned 70 and being this is my 40th that it is time for me to year of public life, Margaret step down from council. It and I have made the decision has been a real privilege to



Harry Duynhoven.

serve the people of New Plymouth as Member of Parliament, Mayor and councillor and I've greatly enjoyed the vast majority of my time in these roles. A large number of people have been telling me that I need to stand again, that my experience and knowledge is valuable. However, I love New Plymouth and certainly do not intend to move anywhere, so I will still be around if my guidance and input is useful

involved in many activities, do, I have many projects election in 2015.

MASTER ELECTRICIANS

initiatives projects and charities in the city and province, and I'm very proud of the many things that we together have achieved. My office staff and I have helped hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals and we are regularly thanked for that. I especially would like to thank the many loyal supporters who have stayed with me through the good times and the tough times and I wish New Plymouth well in these difficult years. "Over the years I've been I won't run out of things to District Council at a by-

on the go and I'll continue to be involved in voluntary work."

Harry Duynhoven was Labour MP for New Plymouth from 1987-90 and again from 1993-2008. He was a minister in the Helen Clark government, serving as Minister of Transport Safety and Associate Minister of Energy. After leaving parliament he was Mayor of New Plymouth from 2010-13 and returned to the New Plymouth



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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.

A grateful thank you to **Opunake Cottage Rest** Home

I want to extend my warmest thanks to the team at Opunake Cottage Rest Home. My sister Christine spent her final years there, and I can truly say she comfort. experienced dignity, and the freedom to live life on her own terms.

Christine was treated with the utmost respect and genuine care. Her voice mattered-her wishes were honoured, whether in day-today decisions or in how she preferred to be supported. That level of attentiveness brought peace not only to her but also to our entire family.

ADELPHOS

Our New Zealand language has some unusual sayings or terms: "Yeah nah, sweet as, Bob's your uncle and she'll be right" to name a few. Have you ever heard the term, Act of God? In contract law it refers to natural disasters occurring beyond human control, such as flash floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

local Our maunga (mountain) arguably had its last "major" catastrophic eruption in 1655, with tragic fatalities. According to the strong generational tradition of Maori oral accounts, between 105-120 tangata whenua perished along with the settlements of Moura, Te Ariki, Waingongongo, Te Tapahora and Te Wairoa

Sandra and her dedicated team deserve admiration for the compassion they show each and every resident. Their commitment goes beyond caregivingthey create a nurturing environment that feels more like home than facility.

Thank you, Opunake Cottage, for everything. Your kindness made a lasting difference in Christine's life, and we will always be grateful.

> Raewyn Cornford Opunake.

Re Gaza

Nice letter Jo (Opunake and Coastal News July 3) however we have to point out that Persia (Iran) was the seat of all monotheistic religion beginning with the now largely unfollowed

that were either destroyed or buried. Prior to that Taranaki was estimated to have had over 160 small, moderate or major eruptions in the last 36,000 years.

Interestingly, the term 'Act of God' has been recognised as having a legally acceptable definition since the mid-19th century. Business contracts today often include protections that let them off the hook if they are unable to fulfil their obligations due to force majeure (French for superior force) protections. The most common force majeure being 'Acts of God.'

Perhaps the survival of the legal term 'Act of God' has overshadowed the knowledge of God's real acts.

Zoroastrians. It was a pretty cool religion too. They believed in and worshipped only one god, fire and had some nice ecologically sound ideas. Check 'em out.

> David Hancock Eltham.

Farewell Daisy

Sadly, on June 7 2025 New Plymouth City said farewell to a former long serving mayor David "Daisy" Lean. Aged 29, he was elected on to the New Plymouth District Council, then three years later, aged 32 in 1980 he became New Zealand's youngest mayor at that time.

He served until 1992. Of course, Daisy was involved in many upon many community activities for the welfare of the City of New Plymouth, as I can vividly remember when playing for Star Rugby Club (now known as United). Daisy played for New Plymouth Old Boys. As always it was a battle royal but afterwards both sides all came together as good mates.

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Then in 1995 he became the victim of an extremely violent assault, and later had his leg amputated because of a rare vascular disease, yet he kept himself involved in many community activities plus serving on the Taranaki Regional Council until his passing away. I do believe he ll be sorely missed by many people who came in contact with him, as he was a real colourful character.

> Tom Stephens New Plymouth

Continued on page 4.

A Taranaki Act of God

They are the ones relating directly to people that have created a connection and relationship with humanity: God coming in human form, dying for our sins and promising us the same physical resurrection Jesus experienced.

Despite God's merciful acts, census statistics indicate that New Zealanders are rapidly drifting away from identifying with both Christianity and other religions. In the 2001 census, 60.6 % of Kiwis identified as Christian. In 2018 it plummeted to 37%. By 2023, only 32.3% of Kiwis would claim a Christian faith. In 2001, 29.6% of our population

claimed "no religion." By 2023, it soared to 51.6% of Kiwis identifying with "no religion." For some, that's bad news.

But here's the good news: God isn't fazed by such bad-news statistics. He always desires to act in the life of every New Zealander who chooses to call out to Him asking Jesus to reveal Himself. God's saving answer then, arguably, becomes His greatest act of love.

Yes, each volcanic eruption of our maunga is indeed an "Act of God." Although it can present a hazard, it blesses our Taranaki landscape with fertile soils, plentiful rainfall and grows our food, livestock and economy. Enjoy each day viewing the many moods of our majestic maunga.

Adelphos

P.S. Thanks Ian McAlpine for your mountain updates, and the eight Taranaki iwi and tangata whenua for your guardianship.

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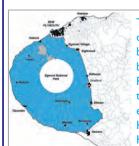
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Continued on page 3.

Remembering Daisy

I remember well the day in April 1985, a couple of us from the Taranaki Alpine Club, Phil Whitwell and I were roped in to act as guides and safety for the Tukapa Rugby Club fundraising day. Two hundred club members help cart Daisy Lean on a stretcher from East End Beach to the summit of Mt Egmont and back. David, as you may remember, was not



Editor

leg,

a small man. Junior teams

pushed him on the highway

teams up the steep part of

Egmont Road and Translator

Road and Senior teams from

Tahurangi Lodge to the

grade

intermediate

I bet there were times when Daisy would like to get off the stretcher and walk



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top part of the mountain when four to six members would lift the stretcher as high as possible and four of us were on ropes at the front, lift up and bang, pull. It was a hell of a journey. Daisy took it well, battered and bruised.

Thursday, July 17, 2025



Out of all of those up there only four of us had been to the summit before. The rugby players learnt there was another world of fitness. That mission of a project raised over \$10,000. Daisy, you were a great community man, Rest in peace!



Ian McAlpine Images Tukapa Rugby facebook.

Manaia Town Hall

It is still unknown if council will allow any further input from the Manaia community about the Manaia and Districts War Memorial Hall. However, if the council is finally going to start putting their words into action, then I think it's important for people to be more informed about this long time issue.

The council's initial (and only) 'tick box' meetings only really covered whether we wanted a combined facility and what we used the spaces for. They have then deemed our community to be divided until a number of community members attended a policy and strategy meeting in 2021. A 'Review of Feedback on Proposal for Manaia Combined Facility' report (written and put on the agenda by the Council's Property and Facilities Manager) was challenged and discredited during this meeting. The Manager already had preconceived report. He believed that Manaia was too small for a hall and that due to the standing socioeconomic of the community, they probably wouldn't be able to afford to hire it anyway. I can share their words as truth because they were spoken directly to me. The figures in this report for repair (\$750k hall and \$250k for Sport Complex) were also raised and a number of councillors, including the mayor, agreed that these figures were not reasonable. However, this is what the initial \$1m budget was based on. At the end of the open forum section it was agreed that Manaia had a clear voice and further consultation in regards to the facilities and Revitalisation Plan for Manaia would need to take place. This never happened. Manaia instead informed were via a newspaper article that the council had gone into 'partnership' with Te Korowai.

ideas before writing his

Te Korowai's consultation for their business plan was more thorough and provided an Outcomes Plan that captured a more authentic view of the value and visions of Manaia. However, to date, there has been no consultation that has related to design and features. This would have been the next phase if the partnership between Te Korowai and the Council continued.

It needs to be noted that Te Korowai was very transparent during the process. The council therefore would have been aware that their iwi-centric approach would not align with their Code of Conduct/ expectations for practice and yet they continued with the process for three years.

If the council were more open and transparent they would admit that they have let Manaia down. The facts are that in 2015 Manaia and District Memorial Hall was one of five public buildings that the council decided to strengthen as they didn't meet earthquake safety standards. In 2016 the council added two additional buildings to this list. The majority of these projects were completed by July 2017. Manaia & Districts Memorial Hall is currently the only identified project

waiting to be completed and reopened.

It is also important to note that councils have a set time frame that they're meant to stick to when upgrading buildings to Earthquake safety standards. This time restarts if a new entity takes over ownership. It would be interesting to hear whether this was one of the real reasons why they went into 'partnership' with Te Korowai. Once again, if they were honest, they would have told the community that they had allowed Te Korowai to present a business plan for this project. Te Korowai once again were upfront during their consultation. They made it very clear that they spoke for and represented the best interest for their iwi/uri and that they were not there to speak for the council. It would have been good to have a council voice during this time as we only ever got a one sided view to the partnership, and the latter end of meetings between the two parties were

held in private. And so now here we are, almost a decade later, nothing to show. In fact, if anything, the council's investment in our community is going backwards. They have now put consultation around our Revitalisation Plan on hold. This would suggest that they are still considering the use of these funds to fix the big mess and extra expense they have caused through their lack of action. More sadly, they have probably got members of our community to the point where they'll accept anything because something is better than a decade of nothing. They are preying on the ignorance and innocence of others who are not ignorant through stupidity, they're ignorant because they trust the council to do their job and do right by them. It's a horrible way to push things over the line. Our community members are worth a lot more. A council is meant to represent all people in their district.

Lavinia (Laila) Kivell Manaia. South Taranaki District Council group manager community services Rob responds. Haveswood accept We that the

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

in Manaia has been a

long process, which has

caused much frustration in the community and are working on resolving these as a priority. It is important to consider that a significant amount of community consultation has been undertaken by the Council as part of the redevelopment of both the War Memorial Hall and the Sports Complex in Manaia. Between September 2018 and December 2020, the Council consulted with the Manaia community on three separate occasions. The results of the community feedback didn't provide the Council with a clear direction as to the most preferred option. At this point an opportunity arose to share resources and collaborate with Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust to explore a multi-purpose facility in Manaia. Further consultation was undertaken by the Council, in collaboration with Te Korowai, through the development of the Outcomes Framework and subsequent Business Case Unfortunately, following extensive work and due diligence, in February this year each party decided that a shared facility was not a viable option and agreed to develop our respective facilities separately. While this outcome was not what Council or Te Korowai hoped for, it was worth pursuing. Because of the way the Outcomes Framework and Business Case were structured we are not starting from scratch and all the information gained through community consultation to date is being used to inform the path forward. The Council is fully committed to enhancing the community assets in Manaia and has already put aside \$2.8 million for that purpose. Council understands the frustration the community has with the length of time it has taken to get to this point and instructed officers to come up with a plan for a way forward as a priority. As such on 28 July 2025 a report is being put to the Council's Policy and Strategy regarding Committee the preferred option for further investigation for the Manaia Sports Complex.





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explained Sally.

included

(he passed on his second

attempt) and University

Entrance twice. However,

once he retired from athletics

he excelled, mostly while

living in the United States.

"We were together for

the undergraduate degree

(Bachelor of Science) at the

University of California,

Washington State University

for the PhD programme

it

was

Then

Certificate once

failing

which

School

Davis.

A meeting with Sally Snell

As preparation of biography on Sir Peter Snell, Sally, (born in 1942), was interviewed in Auckland on 12 March 2025. The meeting was fortuitous, as Sally lives in the United States and, when I located her, was planning a week visit to New Zealand. She kindly offered to meet up with me.

She was engaging, sharp and informative – the word 'wise' springs to mind, as well as hospitable and she likes her coffee strong.

Peter and Sally Snell were married for 13 years. They had two children, Amanda and Jacqueline. Sally Turner (as she was then) worked in the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac) when they met, through mutual friends back in 1962. "We went out a few times and I liked the way he was. I was getting sick of guys iust pushing for sex. Pete was very respectful and possibly it was due to his inexperience, but that was fine - I could just relax with him."

Her role as wife in the lead up to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics was, she explains. widened to that of trainer. Peter had fallen out with his famous coach Arthur Lydiard and the athletes he trained tended to side with Lydiard. "The other athletes wouldn't train with Pete, so we were on our own for that year (1963) prior to the Tokyo Olympics. I took the year off work and I would be timer and I would go out with Pete to help with training. Tokyo was important because he did that on his own." (Although the Snell-Lydiard rift was well known, Olympic bronze medallist (marathon) Barry Magee (91) indicated that he remained Peter's favourite training partner, regardless).



Sally Snell (nee Turner) in 1964. No Bugles No Drums, by Peter Snell and Garth Gilmour.

In the lead up to the Olympics Snell was being consistently beaten by John Davies - in fact he was beaten four times in a row. The couple headed to South Africa in early 1964 partly in an attempt for Peter to rediscover his winning form. "There was a lot of you shouldn't go there because of apartheid. However, I really wanted to see for myself what it was like. It was an incredible experience. The waiters and waitresses were all black. It was I value my horses more than my kaffirs," commented Sally.

Snell won all his races in South Africa and, once back in New Zealand, the first time he clashed with John Davies he beat him. "But I was determined to beat him, even if I killed myself in the process." (Snell and Gilmour, 1965, page 168). Later, at the Rome Olympics, now in raging form, Snell won a gold medal in the 800 metres



Sally Snell in 2025.

final, as well as a gold in the 1,500 metres (John Davies won the bronze).

There were many highlights the couple's time of together, often involving travel and meeting famous

Sally. He became a highly respected scientist with the title Associate Professor. Over sixty of his research projects were published in professional journals.

people. "It was everything This article is just a brief slice of the full interview, from dining with royalty, meeting movie stars (such but Sally had something off the topic to share. "I wrote to as James Garner, Candice Bergen, Mitzy Gaynor and Trump saying that he should Danny Kaye), being feted be ashamed of himself for wherever we went. I mean what he has done. I'm now in the States they are all very on their mailing list and keep excited about Olympians," getting stuff from the White House. Former president G Peter was always bothered W Bush was a piece of cake by his poor school results, compared with Trump."

> I have not interviewed Amanda or Jacqueline, but they have contributed their fond memories of a loving adventurous and father.

These women also live in the United States.

Although my biography draft has exceeded 61,000 words (hard drive), I still seek contact with Taranaki people who have something to share about Sir Peter Snell and/or his family, as very few have come forward to date, which is a shame as the outstanding Olympian is Opunake born. My email is rtdmckellar@xtra.co.nz or phone 06 752 4377.

Rolland McKellar.



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From Sun Gai to Opunake

recent years our understanding of New Zealand Chinese history has increased substantially thanks to successive book publications funded by the Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust, which was established by the New Zealand Government following Prime Minister Helen Clark's formal apology in 2002 to ``those Chinese people who paid the poll tax and suffered other discrimination imposed by statute and to their descendants".

What makes these books distinct from others is that Chinese community historians gathered many previously unrecorded accounts of family histories and old-timers' living memories, which may otherwise be neglected by mainstream historians in the country, and which have cast much new light on the history of Chinese immigration to New Zealand.

As one of the researchers dedicated to this history, I am aware that there are still knowledge gaps waiting to be filled in. With a list of



Images of Sun Gai, the village Jack Yep and Jimmy Wai left to come to New Zealand.

queries, I recently visited a number of museums, libraries and archival centres to search for other first-hand material concerning early

Chinese settlers. I found Puke Ariki's collection concerning the Wai & Yep store in Opunake particularly stunning. These

old account books, business letters and Yep family documents form a vivid jigsaw showing how an all-purpose Chinese store

served a thriving farming community for seven decades. Up to its closure in 1977, this store had been the heart of this coastal Taranaki town. As Virginia Winder wrote, ``Every Friday morning over a cuppa and cakes, the Friends of the Opunake Library make a week toast to Charlie Yep, for the library is built on the site of the Wai & Yep store. All this makes me ponder how the experiences of the Wai & Yep store resembled those of other old Chinese stores in rural New Zealand.

From the 1870s a small number of Chinese migrants began to arrive in the lower North Island, when most Chinese in the country were still working at the gold fields in Central Otago and on the West Coast. Those who headed to the north set up stores in various frontier towns, following the expansion of the railway network. This expansion required large-scale deforestation of virgin land, which triggered a specific type of edible fungus to grow abundantly on fallen trees. This fungus was highly priced in China, and a lucrative trade commenced. Taranaki, known as 'the fungus province' was a significant part of this story.



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The fungus trade and Taranaki's early days

Many Taranaki old-timers might associate it with the famous fungus trader Chew Chong, who opened his first store in New Plymouth in 1873 and other stores later in Inglewood and Eltham. All of his stores functioned as contact points to buy dried fungus. It was through those stores that Chew Chong established an extensive supply chain amid early Taranaki farmers, leading to the success of his refrigerated butter factories that pioneered the New Zealand dairy industry. His legacy is well remembered in the region, but many fine details are lost.

Promisingly, a study of the survived Wai & Yep papers may help recover some of these details. And perhaps, these papers will also help unveil the history of other early Chinese stores in the lower North Island.

Let's go back to the stories of the Wai & Yep store. Around 1904 Jack Yep and Jimmy Wai, two young Chinese men arrived in Opunake from Guangdong (Canton), a coastal province of southeast China. They were amongst the millions of Cantonese people who went overseas between the mid-19th century and World War

II to seek more opportunities and a better life.

Jack Yep's Chinese name was Tung Jick-yep, and Jimmy Wai's Chan Yukwai. They both originated from the Sun Gai village of Zengcheng county, home to many Chinese fruiterers in New Zealand. Back then, as still today, Sun Gai village was made up of two large clans, Tung and Chan. The Chan clan was larger and sent more people here. Through lineage connections and intermarriages, the Chans from Sun Gai and other neighbouring villages of Zengcheng brought with them an extensive social network, which helped their businesses.

I was especially intrigued by the correspondence between the Wai & Yep store and the Yee Chong Wing store in Wellington, which was run by another Chan family from Sun Gai. The origin of Yee Chong Wing may be traced back to the 1880s. It had been a depot for migrants from Sun Gai village, providing them with a wide range of services such as international ticketing, immigration paperwork, employment, and even repatriation of coffins of the dead. Not surprisingly,



Portrait of Yep family taken in 1917 in Opunake: Yee Foon Yep (also known as Fuen Yee) holding her son Charlie, the other children are likely to be Alice and John (Johnny) seated next to their father Jack Yep. The surname of the man at back has been identified as Wai. The "Wai & Yep" store in the 1960s was situated where the Peter Snell statue is today in Opunake. With thanks to Puke Ariki, Feaver Collection.

Sealy Posturepedic

Yee Chong Wing received fungus from the Wai & Yep store for export.

Sun Gai had enjoyed benefiting prosperity from many of its villagers remitting their overseas earnings. I paid a visit to it in 2018. To a complete outsider like me, Sun Gai's neatly designed streets with many elaborate family homes spoke loudly about New Zealand home. its golden past. However,

a lot of these houses were abandoned in a dilapidated state, most likely because their owners did not return, like the Yeps, who made Phoebe Li.

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Phoebe Li is interested in hearing from anybody who may have information on the Fungus Trade and Taranaki's early days. She can be contacted at phoebe. hi.li@gmail.com

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fast weather events can have an impact on our rivers and how vital it is to be aware and prepared.

I was excited to attend the All-Blacks squad naming event held at Rahotu recently. It's great to see occasions like this celebrated at grassroots rugby clubs and fantastic to host one right here in our electorate. Our communities and clubs help shape our national game, and the kids invited along on the day were stoked to be a part of it. Talking rugby – my commiserations to Coastal Premier and Colts in their finals on Saturday.

The improved FamilyBoost scheme came into effect on July 1. We know that raising young children comes with major costs, especially when it comes to childcare.

Under the changes, families can now get back 40 per cent of their early childhood education (ECE) fees, up from the previous 25 per cent. That's a substantial increase in support, especially at a time when many are feeling the squeeze of everyday costs.

For example, a family paying \$100 a week in childcare fees could see their FamilyBoost payment

increase from \$25 to \$40 a week. Over the course of a year, that's an increase from \$1,300 to \$2,080.

We've also lifted the maximum weekly rebate from \$75 to \$120, meaning the most any family can get is now \$1,560 per quarter. Importantly, more families now qualify for the scheme. We've raised the income threshold, so households earning up to

given Cabinet hugely in-

correct figures on the gas

industry, which were used to

decide on the next steps for

his \$200 million fossil fuel

slush fund," says Greenpeace

"The Government should

pull that \$200 million fossil

fuel subsidy immediately

and use the money to fund

solar and other clean energy

The paper, prepared by

Minister Shane Jones' office,

claimed 2024 commercial gas

generation instead."

spokesperson Gen Toop.

nearly \$230,000 may now be eligible. That means thousands more families community - will now get some relief with their ECE costs.

> These changes are already in effect for fees paid from 1 July. Families can claim the increased rebate in their October quarterly submission. The process is simple; it only takes a few

prices rose by 58%, when the

correct figure was just 8%.

Residential gas was claimed

to have increased by 17%,

but the actual rise was only

3%. Industrial and whole-

sale prices were also around

A red comment made in the

margins of the now-released

paper reads: 'There was an

error in calculations... that

was not identified before the

"These figures aren't just

slightly out, they are wildly

material went to Cabinet.'

double the true values.

minutes on this website: www.ird.govt.nz/familyboost As always, please reach including many in our own out if you need information or assistance. 06 759 2580 david.macleodmp@ or parliament.govt.nz

> Follow facebook.com/ davidmacleodmp to see when I'm next in Opunake and for my regular updates from our electorate.

inaccurate. Either Minister

Jones doesn't understand the

energy system, or he's show-

ing flagrant disregard for the

"Either way, funnelling

public money to fossil fuel

corporations during the cli-

mate crisis is indefensible."

"Fossil fuels are pollut-

ing, finite and expensive.

The Government should be

backing affordable clean re-

newables like wind and solar

that can actually secure our

energy future."

facts," says Toop.

David MacLeod MP New Plymouth

Greenpeace question cabinet figures

It has come to light that a Cabinet paper justifying the Government's \$200 million subsidy for new gas fields used wildly inflated and inaccurate gas price figures, say Greenpeace, with some more than seven times higher than the true value.

Greenpeace has called it a "complete debacle" and is calling for the Government to scrap what it calls "Shane's \$200m fossil fuel slush fund" immediately.

"Minister Jones' office has

What nude sunrise swims in winter tell us about social connection

RIGHT:

Enduring discomfort together may bring people closer, especially when it's mixed with a bit of joy, according to a study involving mass midwinter river swims.

The Journal of Positive Psychology Photo: Courtesy Dark Mofo



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North Egmont Visitor Centre demolished

The North Egmont Visitors Centre is being demolished this week to make way for bigger and brighter things at the Egmont Road End, with the year-on-year park-users increasing. Numbers at the Department of Conservation Visitors Centre have increased. According to them, since the door counter

has gone in, they are up by a massive 40% since 2000. Now with the increase of numbers with this new building, questions are being asked about where are they going to park up there, or is it time for another Visitors Centre, either at the Stratford Plat-eau, due to the influx of park-users to

view the Manganui Gorge Swingbridge, or perhaps down near the Strat-ford Mountain House area. There's no public visitor centre for park-users to get the safety and up-to-date infor-mation there.

Ian McAlpine

Public Places Bylaw under review

, South Taranaki residents will have the opportunity to give their feedback as Council reviews its Public Places Bylaw.

The Bylaw aims to protect the public from nuisance, maintain public health and safety and control the use of our public places (such as sports grounds, playgrounds, parks and reserves, walkways, footpaths, roads, event venues and car parks). These are areas where high public use can create conflicts, nuisances or safety issues. The Council is proposing

to include the current bylaws for Public Swimming Pools, Skate Devices Control and Mobile Traders within the Public Places Bylaw, as well as making some other changes.

Submissions close at 4pm on Monday 18 August 2025.



Paihia, Bay of Islands.

The Paihia project and the

Opunake pharmacy mural

jointly earned Lattimer the

Resene Mural Masterpieces

national award for best

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e Hakatea@htgconstruction.org

The North Egmont Visitor Centre being demolished.

Dennis Lattimer leaves indelible mark on Opunake



Dennis Lattimer.

It is sad to see that Dennis Lattimer who painted many of the murals that grace the buildings of Opunake has died.

Dennis passed away on July 1.

He arrived in Opunake in the late 1990s on a house bus. Trained as a commercial

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE

signwriter before turning to large-scale mural work in the late 1990s, he was embraced by the businesses in Opunake as he proceeded to literally paint the town.

Active during the 1990s through to the mid-2010s, he completed more than 30 permanent outdoor murals, most notably the series that gave the Taranaki town of Ōpunake its reputation as "Mural Town of the West".

In 1998, Lattimer completed Life Savers, a 35×8 m depiction of Opunake's surf-lifesaving culture painted on concrete block in the central business district at the northern approach to the town. Between 1998 and 2002, he produced the ten-panel

Reflections of **Opunake** cycle, charting **Opunake**'s history from 1900 to 2000.] His 2012 mural, Pharmacies Thru the Ages, portrays **Opunake's** four long-serving chemists - John Feaver, his son Sam Feaver who took over from his father and William George Cavaney and his son George Grant Cavaney – known as Grant - who also took over from his father, was unveiled on Tasman Street after 19 working days of painting.] In the same year, Lattimer was commissioned by the Paihia Phantom Placemakers to create a jigsaw-style mural narrating the history of

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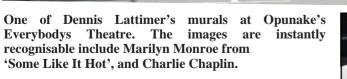


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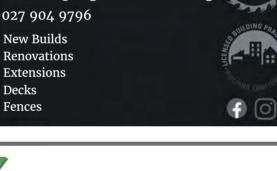
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community mural in 2012.

several years ago died at

his home in Coopers Beach,

Northland on 1 July 2025, at

left Opunake

Dennis

the age of 79.

Central Taranaki Automotive Ltd wins national and Taranaki awards

Taranaki Central Automotive Limited at 390 Broadway, Stratford 4332 has an impressive record as regards winning awards in the 14 years they have been operating – over 25 to date. However, owners Kevan and Wendy Old were delighted to come away from the Awards ceremony at the Millenium Hotel in Queenstown on June 21 with the supreme Auto Super Shoppe award for Excellence in Customer Service in New Zealand.







Owners Kevan and Wendy Old with several of their awards.

"This one is very hard to Old (Office Administrator) get," commented Kevan. He explained that it was the first time they had won this accolade. "We were blown away and over the moon," added Wendy.

Also, they won a Customer Radar Award with an astronomical 4.98 rating, based on over a thousand reviews from extremely satisfied customers. A rating this high is considered to be "world class."

The business is a family Besides Wendy one. and Kevan other family members include Deanna

and Gary Old (Auto Technician) who has years of expert experience dealing with all aspects of vehicle repairs.

Deanna deals with invoicing, social media and auto parts.

Wendy, Officer as Manager, is kept busy with day-to-day booking, accounts, customer service and vehicle parts.

Kevan, a qualified auto technician, has 40 years of experience in the trade and is an expert in Toyota vehicles and general repairs.

Central Taranaki Automotive is highly rated in Taranaki, receiving over 400 five star reviews, so it is no surprise that they were the Regional Winners (Centre

City) of the Central category. (The other regions are North and South). Additionally, they were awarded Highly Commended (M.P.C. Kinetic) status as a specialty shop.

The Mission Statement sets a impressive tone: Our mission is to serve our customers by going above and beyond, to inspire and build the self-confidence of team members to grow the business successfully with honesty and integrity.

Here is a selection of what the firm provides with quality to the fore:

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continued on page 11



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Central Taranaki Automotive Ltd wins national and Taranaki awards



From left, Campbell Robertson, Brittan O'Leary, Brynn Van Rheede Van Oudtshoorn, Gary Old, Kevan Old, Ricky Howells, Matthew Edser, Deanna Old and Wendy Old.



ABOVE:

The attractive exterior of the premises with their many awards noted on the right of the building.

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Central Taranaki Automotive are open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 5pm.

As Wendy and Kevan explain,

Our team is passionate, skilled and committed to providing top quality service, as well as being friendly and down to earth.

Our next issue is published on Thursday 31 July, 2025. At the very latest we need editorial and advertisements by Monday 28 July or preferably earlier.



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Blue Mountain was Canadian gold

Blue Mountain Pottery was a Canadian pottery company in Collingwood, Ontario, that operated from 1953 to 2004.

The company was founded in 1953 by Jozo Weider, an immigrant from Czechoslovakia. Two other immigrants from Czechoslovakia, Dennis Tupy and Mirek Hambalek, also played key roles in the early days of the company. Weider owned the Blue Mountain ski hill in the Blue Mountains near Collingwood. He wanted to provide a line of items for the ski hill's gift store. Tupy, who worked at the ski hill, had European training in ceramics. One day, when a new ski run was being ploughed, he stepped into some heavy clay that had been turned up. Scraping it off his boot, he commented that it resembled the clays he had worked with in Czechoslovakia. Hearing the comment, Weider began to work with Tupy on a pottery project, experimenting

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with local clays from the Georgian Bay area.

Blue Mountain Pottery were known for their combinations of glazes that gave each item a unique finish. The initial glaze used was a deep blue-green combined with a darker glaze. This combination of glazes, called a "flow glaze" or a "drip glaze" process, meant that during the firing process, each piece obtained a unique appearance. The company developed

Damning ne w groundwater figures

New data published by StatsNZ shows about half of groundwater monitoring sites had contamination that exceeded maximum health limits for New Zealand at least once between April 2019 and March 2024.

Over that period, 45.1% of sites exceeded the maximum acceptable level for E. coli, and 12.4% for nitrate - a contaminant linked to cancer and preterm births.

The figures were revealed less than a month after the Luxon Government released proposals to further weaken freshwater protections, say Greenpeace.

Greenpeace freshwater campaigner Will Appelbe

Rural

says the proposals show the Government is knowingly sacrificing the health of rural communities to appease corporate dairy and Federated Farmers.

"While he should be ensuring that everyone has access to clean drinking water and swimmable rivers, Luxon has instead proposed scrapping the cap on synthetic nitrogen fertiliser. This rule exists to prevent further nitrate contamination and protect people's health."

"His Government also wants to prioritise corporate uses of water over safe drinking water and healthy rivers.'

a particular combination of glazes, with light colours mixed with dark. The most iconic was a blue-green glaze, with an additional dark grey or black glaze. These colours were said to have been inspired by the evergreen trees which grew on the Blue Mountains. However, they also experimented with many other glaze combinations, such as harvest gold, cobalt blue, mocha, pewter, red, brown, and white.

The company initially sold its products in Ontario, but expanded, first across Canada, and then internationally. Blue Mountain pottery was very popular in Canada in the 1960s and 1970s, often as wedding gifts. The company also expanded into the export trade, with sales to the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the Caribbean. At one point, sixty per cent of the company's sales were for export, with two-thirds of those sales being to the United States.

in 1968, to allow him to focus on developing the Blue Mountain ski resort. Blue Mountain Pottery was acquired by International Silver Company of Canada. From 1971 onwards, the lead manager was Robert Blair. In 1987, when International Silver went into receivership, Blair bought the Blue Mountain assets, including the moulds, and maintained operations.

The company finally closed on December 31, 2004, unable to compete with cheap imports. At its peak, it had been one of Canada's largest potteries.

The company's pottery is still widely collected, in Canada and worldwide, resulting in the formation of the Blue Mountain Pottery Collectors Club, made up of private collectors. The price of Blue Mountain pieces has steadily risen, especially in Britain. One particular set was a Noah's Ark, thirteen figurines on wooden stands, plus the Ark itself. One complete set sold for \$7,000, prior to 2014

Weider sold the company

"The Government's job is to safeguard public health not bankroll big dairy.

"A cap on the use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser was introduced in 2021, which was set at 190 kg/ hectare. As part of the National Direction proposals for freshwater, the Luxon Government has proposed repealing this cap, along with other changes that weaken environmental protections and benefit irrigation companies and intensive dairy. Consultation on the proposals are open until 27 July 2025.

"The current maximum allowable value (MAV) for nitrate is 11.3 mg/L, which was set in the 1950s to avoid blue baby syndrome. But this standard has been criticised by health scientists for being woefully out of date, because it doesn't take into account newer health science that finds health risks like preterm birth and cancer at much lower levels. "We've already seen the

influence the agriculture lobby has had over the rollback of freshwater protections last year, and this data demonstrates the consequences.

"The science is clear, and the stakes are high. Luxon needs to decide if he's governing for people - or polluters.'

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Nurse Jocelyn Close, Phyllis Malcolm President Manaia WI and Nurse Brenda Timu.

Majestic Morning



Early morning on Eltham road.

Ε

R

S



The July meeting was held in a member's home

Earlier in the month members met to sew small bags filled with soap tissues, a comb and toothbrush and toothpaste

We made 30 these for the Hawera Hospital to be given to patients who unexpectedly arrive at hospital

The roll call was my most useful gadget which produced some interesting answers.

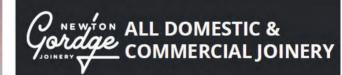
One of our members gave an interesting talk and demonstration making clay bowls. Later in the year we plan to go to Nadia's place and make our own bowls. Neda was presented with the Mary Hutton trophy.

Competition results: Shrub. 1. Phyllis Malcolm/ Jean Bennett. 2. Ann Chisnell. 3. Neda Howes. Bloom. 1. Janice Walsh. 2. Patty Symes. 3. Phyllis Malcolm. Handcraft jar jam. 1. Raewyn Fredrickson. 2. Ann Chisnall.

Handcraft. Matinee jacket. 1. Neda Hawes. 2. Raewyn Fredrickson. 3. Janice Walsh/June Wallace. A shared lunch was

enjoyed by all. Meg Kelly







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PUANGA

Ko Puanga te pae ārahi i ngā tohu o te tau hau i te pae ururangi Puanga leads the celestial signs to herald the New Year ~Māori Whakatauki~

It is the time of the year to celebrate Puanga and at Kindy, our tamariki are learning about Puanga (Rigel). In the context of Māori culture, Puanga and Matariki (Pleiades) are both significant celestial events marking the Maori New Year, but Puanga is particularly important for iwi and hapu on the west coast of North Island, including Taranaki due to the challenges of observing Matariki's rising point in the eastern sky. For Taranaki, Puanga serves as a key indicator for the start of the new year, signifying winter's arrival and a time for reflection, celebration, and



Tamariki and kaiako planting a peach tree



Mini concert for the night.



with kaiako.

Reference:

curriculum.

Cognition Education.

Maunga room with kindy waiata.

honouring ancestors. We have been busy at Kindy too planting a tree, preparing kai for Puanga celebration and we had our Puanga Whānau Night on the Tuesday, 24th June 2025 to celebrate our Kindy whānau old and new. It was the time to get together with whānau and community sharing delicious food, stories and aroha.

Jess and Moana room tamariki preparing paukena (pumpkin) for Puanga kai.

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI IN CHILDREN'S LEARNING

In early childhood education context, Te Whariki (Ministry of Education [MoE], 2017) emphasises on the important role of early learning in upholding te Tiriti o Waitangi. The principles of partnership, protection and participation (3Ps) as encompassing, guiding kaiako in supporting the wellbeing of Māori tamariki and their whānau. All members of early learning communities collaborate to create positive, culturally responsive environment that is welcoming and engaging for Māori tamariki and whānau (MoE, 2019), particularly in terms of providing equitable opportunity and achieving equitable outcome for Māori, and ensuring that te reo, tikanga and mātauranga Māori, Māori knowledge not only survive but thrive. Te Whāriki supports children and whānau to be active participants in their learning communities (MoE, 2017) giving them kāwanatanga (governance) and strengthen their sense of

rangatiratanga (independence and self-determination) allowing whānau the agency, voice and choice on behalf of themselves and their tamariki while working in close partnership with kaiako in the co-construction of an inclusive, culturally responsive curriculum, that would protect their taonga (treasures such as the child, identity, culture, language and worldviews), ngā tikanga katoa rite tahi (all the rights) and te ritenga Māori (Māori customs).



MATHEMATICS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT







In an early childhood education environment, mathematics is not just about numbers and counting, but also includes spatial reasoning, problem-solving, and logical thinking. It's about fostering a positive attitude towards math through play-based learning and integrating mathematical concepts into everyday routines and activities. By encouraging exploration and using mathematical language, teachers can help children develop foundational skills that are crucial for later academic success. Here's how mathematics is integrated into Kindy environment: Far left: Board game enhance concentration, spatial reasoning, shape recognition, and developing positive attitude towards mathematics in an enjoyable learning activity. Middle left: Observing play environment and arranging the shape together while learning numbers.

Far left: Whānau sharing their Puanga activity and aspiration

Left: Transition / welcoming celebration from Moana to

Ministry of Education. (2017). Te whāriki: He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa early childhood

Ministry of Education. (2019). He māpuna te tamaiti: Supporting social-emotional competence in early learning.

Left: Connecting mathematical concept such as counting while gardening and potting plants.

New Lions club backs new programme

The newest Lions Club in Taranaki has taken on what is a first for New Zealand. The Hawera Lions Club which has just been chartered has brought the Lions Eye Health programme to this country, and they will be the national co-ordinating club for this programme in New Zealand.

The Lions Eye Health Programme is a child vision screening programme which the club's instigator Tobi Hipp says has been running successfully in Australia for the last seven years.

People involved with the programme in Australia have been training those wanting to help run the tests in this country. Screening tests have already been carried out at three schools-Kaponga Primary, St Joseph's School in Hawera and Marfell Community School in New Plymouth. Tobi says they have found that the rate of undetected vision issues in children being screened is similar to that in Australia, about one in five.

"Once we find an issue we give the school a referral letter to pass on to the parents and then its up to the parents to make the appointment to see an



Lions Club member Mat Wellington carrying out an eye test.

Mild start to winter

Winter began on a mild the month. and soggy note across much of New Zealand, according to Earth Sciences New Zealand's (formerly NIWA) latest monthly climate summary for June 2025.

June 2025 mean sea level air pressure was higher than normal to the south of Aotearoa New Zealand, and mostly near normal over the country. This was associated with more easterly winds than normal for the lower South Island, and more north-westerly winds than normal for the upper North Island. ENSO-neutral (El Niño – Southern Oscillation) conditions remained present in the tropical Pacific. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were above average off the west coasts of both the North and South Islands, with Marine Heatwave (MHW) experienced conditions in these areas. In contrast, SSTs off the east coasts of the country cooled compared

It was a rather mild start to winter for most of the country overall. The nationwide average temperature in June 2025 was 9.4°C. This was 0.7°C above the 1991-2020 June average, making it New Zealand's 16th-warmest June since NIWA's seven station temperature series began in 1909. Temperatures were above average or well above average for most of the North Island, Tasman, Nelson, southeastern Canterbury, Otago, eastern Southland, and Fiordland. Temperatures were near average for eastern parts of Marlborough, eastern parts of Canterbury from Hurunui to Christchurch, and central and southern parts of Southland. In contrast, temperatures were below

south

average for parts of the Mackenzie Basin, where snowfalls early in the month were followed by many days of severe frosts. Rainfall was above normal to previous months, and in or well above normal for some areas were slightly inland Southland, Otago, below average by the end of Canterbury DROGRESSIVE

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Christchurch, Marlborough, Nelson, Tasman, Wellington, much of Taranaki, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, and Auckland.

Mean temperatures were above average or well above average for approximately two-thirds of the country's regularly reporting climate stations.

Around 30 cm of snow was reported at Manganui Ski Area on Mt Taranaki, allowing them to run their T-Bar and become New Zealand's first ski area to operate in winter 2025.

On 11 June, squally thunderstorms struck many parts of the North Island. A tornado was reported in western Taranaki near Pungarehu, with localised damage to trees and power reported outages about Lower Pungarehu Rd. A funnel cloud was spotted near Ōkato, with large hail falling in Warea.

On 28 June, a suspected tornado blew the roofs off 11 homes in Waitara. No injuries were reported.





optometrist," says Tobi.

Other recent initiatives have included sponsoring a security system for the Hawera Foodbank. Tobi says they are looking forward to their Charter Dinner on August 2 and to the Nexans Fun Run at the end of the year.

The club first started meeting back in August last year, operating as a club branch under the Opunake Club

"We are very grateful to the Opunake Lions Club as our sponsors," says Tobi. "It's been really great."

Tobi is a past district governor and is the current Zealand Council New chair. He says that with the Normanby Lions Club catering for men and the Hawera Mt View Lions catering for women it was felt that there was an opening for a club in Hawera with a mixed membership.

"A lot of people these days like to serve together as couples," says Tobi. The new club currently has a membership of 21, and most of these have been people who have come in as couples.

"We've been doing away with a bit of the traditional way of running clubs and this seems to suit people," says Tobi. "All our members passionate are about something, and we get them to take the lead in projects they are passionate about. We encourage everyone to find something they would like to do."

He says he has had no trouble getting people to take up positions in the club. The current president is Susi Hipp.

"It's been quite a ride," she says.

The Hawera Lions Club is part of Lions District 202D which extends from Uruti to Foxton and inland to Ruapehu, a district which has bucked the trend and seen its membership increase.

"I've noticed that the spirit of Lions in our district is really good," says Tobi.

He sees getting the new club started as being part of Lions Mission 10K to increase the membership of Lions in New Zealand from around 7500 to 10,000.

"I'm positive we will get there," he says.

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Before. On Saturday July 5 a car was completely under water while parked in a section on the corner of Stanners and Bridge Street, Eltham. Note the blue rope which marks



After. The waters have subsided to reveal one soggy car. Photos Lindsay Maindonald.

the newly created lake and

by Sunday afternoon the

water levels had come down.

period where everything was

Eltham - Kaponga

community board member

Lindsay Maindonald said

there had been two and a

half inches of rain on his

"I've been here nearly 30 years, and everybody I

talked to said they had never

seen anything like that,"

he said. "It really wasn't

anybody's fault. There's no

hectic," said Dave.

property.

"There was a 48 hour

soggy end for car in Eltham

A car parked near two of Eltham's iconic buildings was submerged during heavy rains which lashed Taranaki on July 3-5.

The car was parked downhill from the Eltham Town Hall and the Eltham Municipal Building on a section which was rapidly turning into a lake.

On Friday water was lapping up to the car windows.

On Saturday the car was completely under water. The worst of the rain had gone but the area continued to fill up with water, and the lake with its submerged vehicle

> You give Magnesium to us - do you take it?

was turning into something of a local tourist attraction with people passing by to take photos.

On the other side of Stanners Street Bridger Park had earlier been flooded.

On Thursday, the Eltham Fire Brigade had rescued a dog from the section where the car was parked.

"Taranaki can normally handle a lot of water," says Eltham Fire Brigade chief fire officer Dave Waite. "You can have rainfall go on for days and rivers and streams come up, but then you have localised downpours in such a short

amount of time."

He said it started to rain quite heavily from 8pm on Friday night.

"Between 10-11pm there was around 42mls in one hour which is quite significant for our town."

He said Eltham is in a bit of a gully so there were a number of places from where water could be channelled, and that water had been coming down from High Street and Chartwell Drive.

There are two streams flowing through town and the river levels were so high that the water couldn't drain away until the river levels

We

Deliver

went down.

He said there were 3-4 places in High Street and Willowbrook where flooding had been reported, "mainly garages and sleepouts."

He said the brigade finished work around 3.30am before being called back later that morning.

"As people woke up at 7am they realised their basements were flooded. There were three or four calls to pump out basements and move furniture."

A local contractor was pumping out the water from

Dunlop Insurance

Flooding at Inaha

way anybody could have coped with that. Bridger Park was completely flooded over, and if that had banked up it had nowhere to go."

He said the flood at the corner of Bridge and Stanners Streets had resulted in a picturesque scene not unlike Venice, as could be seen by the number of people who had come to take photos.

"It looked lovely. Now it's just a bare section in a valley. There was no loss of life and no major damage that I know of."



There was also water flowing over State Highway 45 at the site of the former Riverdale dairy factory at Inaha.

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The torrential rain which hit Taranaki in the first week of July saw many rivers hit incredible maximum flows of water including 417m³/sec in the Waiwhakaiho River at Egmont Village and 1,367m³/ sec in the Waitara River at Bertrand Road.

Figures from Taranaki Regional Council show flooding at the Tāngāhoe River in South Taranaki was a one-in-20-year event (with 349m³/sec maximum flow) and the Waitōtara River experienced a one-in-11-year flood when the region was deluged by a huge amount of rain on July 3-4.

Flooding in the Waiongana Stream on SH3A had an annual exceedance probability of 2.8%, making it a one-in-36-year event with a 194m³/sec maximum river flow.

The monitoring station at the Waiwhakaiho River at Egmont Village recorded 161mm in 12 hours on 3 July as many rivers and streams flooded and the public were urged to stay home and avoid any unnecessary travel as roads were inundated with surface water.



Flooding on the Hangatahua (Stony River).

"The stats from early July are staggering as Taranaki was hit by huge downpours caused by thunderstorms with many waterways

experiencing very rare flooding events," Council Operations Director Daniel Harrison said. "We've prepared for this with our management of flood defences in Waitara and at the lower Waiwhakaiho River and it was extremely pleasing to see how well the schemes worked given the huge volume of water in those rivers. "We live in a fantastic

part of the world but it's

fair to say the environment is extremely dynamic and things can change very quickly so please always be aware of the dangers from flooding and have a plan to get to safety if the rivers rise fast."

The Council's gauge on the Mangaehu River in East Taranaki recorded a maximum flow of 323.351m³/sec.

The Waitara River gauge at the Pūrangi Bridge recorded 580m³/sec.

The Tāngāhoe River maximum flow of 348.906m³/sec was well above the mean average flood of 164.302m³/sec (although records only date from 2018).

The upper catchment flow site on the Waitōtara River (at Rimunui Station) recorded a peak water level of 12.5m (418m³/sec) at 11pm on 3 July.

Brooklands Zoo recorded the most rain in a 12-hour period at 126.4mm since records at the site began in 2011.

Meanwhile on the Mangimangi Stream





Heavy rainfall which lashed much of the country from July 3-5 made its presence felt in parts of Taranaki, with the Mangimangi Stream running high (photos Neville Wallace).



Surf Highway was closed for a time at Stony River.

Flood hit farmers need help

Federated Farmers is calling on Kiwis to get in behind flood-affected farming families at the top of the South Island, as recovery efforts ramp up and the scale of the damage becomes clearer.

President Wayne Langford visited the area on Monday July 7 and says the destruction in parts of Nelson and Tasman is extensive, with some farms totally unrecognisable.

"I drove back up through the Motueka River and you can just see where it's come through and swallowed everything in its path. It's total devastation," he says.

"One farm I visited had about 50 hectares taken

s out. The river changed t course and just chewed right through it. Orchards nearby got absolutely smoked as s well."

Langford says it's clear some properties have been hit far worse than others - and that those farmers urgently need our support.

"The damage can really vary. Some places have just lost boundary fences, but others have lost entire blocks. I met a guy who has lost a quarter of his farm.

"It's heartbreaking to see, and the real kicker is that the worst of the damage is to farms right by the river which are also some of our most productive."

He says it's now time for the rest of the farming community to do what we do best in times of adversity - to get in behind these families and show them some support.

"We know what to do in these situations. The Rural Support Trust is doing good work on the ground, and local volunteers are already rolling up their sleeves.

"For people who really want to help, the best thing they can do is donate to the Farmers Adverse Events Trust. That's the best way to get the support to where it's needed most."

The trust is designed to get funding directly to farmers who have suffered extraordinary loss - not just business-as-usual setbacks, Langford says.

NEWS 17

for tangata whenua and

visitors. The project is

under the auspices of Te

Korowai o Ngaruahine

Trust. The original project

team was Katie Chilton,

Hamish Cochran and Mark

Originally The Trust

for

Miskell to develop into an

interpretive cultural design

Once completed the

lodge will include 18

accommodation rooms,

a lounge, a mauritau/

wellness room, a café and a

Outside will be a picnic

area, extensive gardens

enhanced by plantings of

private function room.

native trees and shrubs.

Martin-Paul,

a cultural

Boffka

Mapihi

Brown.

developed

narrative

strategy package.

Nga Rere Lodge development nears completion

At least from the exterior it looked like the building project, located at Dawson Falls, is almost finished. However, on Friday 13 June there was no sign of any building activity by Livingstone Builders. Evidently, there has been a brief pause to do with Council-related issues, as well as a few construction concerns.

the foreground, In the guest parking area, the ground looks wellprepared for the concreting (or tarseal), which should follow. Leading up to the impressive cultural buildings was a patterned welcome pathway, which looks most attractive.

Nga Rere is intended to be a cultural destination and place of retreat



As the picture shows consruction of Nga Rere is nearing completion. **Opunake ATM changes**

TSB want to let the coastal community know that we are changing our ATM services in Opunake.

Because TSB is a partner in the countrywide Regional Banking Hub (RBH) ATM service, we are removing the TSB ATM to ensure customers maximise the functionality and services that can be accessed from the Regional Banking Hub ATM.

TSB believe this will result in a better and more feature rich customer experience as the RBH Smart ATM allows TSB customers to deposit and withdraw; unlike the TSB machine which only

allowed customers to make withdrawals.

TSB CEO Kerry Boielle says its important TSB customers know they can use the RBH Smart ATM 24 hours a day, seven days a week and at absolutely no

"The banking hub smart ATM is highly reliable

actually has more and functionality than the ageing TSB machine that's been in place beside it.

"We're committed to ensuring a smooth customer service banking and believe this is going to be a much better experience and less confusing for our customers," says Kerry.

The TSB ATM removal will start on 21 July. During the process the RBH Smart ATM will also be temporarily impacted, and we apologise to customers any inconvenience for experienced during this time. We look forward to

offering our TSB customers improved banking an

experience through the RBH Smart ATM on the corner of Tasman and Napier Streets from 23 July.

Customers can call our customer engagement centre for further help on 0800 872 226 or visit our Hāwera Branch for onsite support.

Easier access to life-saving asthma inhalers now a reality

Easier access to life-saving asthma inhalers now a reality Tens of thousands of New

Zealanders living with asthma are set to benefit from long-awaited changes that will make it easier to access essential, lifesaving treatment, marking a major step forward for asthma care in New Zealand.

Effective from August 1, people who use a 2-in-1 inhaler to manage their asthma will be able to collect a three-month supply in a single pharmacy visit, rather than returning monthly for repeats. This change is expected to benefit about 120,000 New Zealanders.

The move directly aligns with the New Zealand Adolescent and Adult Asthma Guidelines, which are developed and maintained by the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ. The guidelines recommend the 2-in-1 inhaler as the frontline treatment for most adolescents and adults with asthma, used both as a preventer and a reliever. Foundation Chief Executive Ms Letitia Harding says this decision will make a huge difference

to the one in eight Kiwis living with asthma.

"When someone is having an asthma attack, they need treatment immediately there's no time to get a prescription filled.

"Patients often need to keep their reliever inhaler in multiple places - at home, school, work, their car - so enhancing access to lifesaving asthma medicine will undoubtedly reduce the morbidity of asthma in New Zealand."

The change would make asthma management significantly easier, particularly for families facing transport barriers or juggling multiple repeat prescriptions, Ms Harding says.

"When you have to visit the pharmacy every month, it becomes a real burden.

"Allowing people to collect three months' supply at once removes that hurdle and supports better treatment adherence."

Foundation Medical Director Professor Bob Hancox says the move is a good example of evidencebased, patient-centred care. "For the past five years,

our guidelines have recommended 2-in-1 antiinflammatory reliever inhalers for most adults and adolescents with asthma, as they are much better for preventing exacerbations than the traditional blue relievers.

"As well as benefiting patients, this decision will reduce the burden on the health system by preventing asthma exacerbations and hospital admissions."

Pharmac is also proposing that medical centres be allowed to supply a number of inhalers directly under a

Practitioners Supply Order (PSO), enabling healthcare practitioners to supply patients with inhalers for emergency treatment.

These changes come at a critical time. New Zealand continues to have some of the highest asthma rates in the developed world, with one in eight people affected and 96 deaths each year (almost two people each week).

The total economic cost of asthma to New Zealand's health system is estimated at \$1.2 billion annually.

Forests three times the size of Australia needed to offset potential

To offset the potential amount of CO2 emissions that would come from burning the reserves of the

world's 200 largest fossil fuel companies, we would have to plant forests that would need to cover over

three times the land area of Australia, say international researchers. The team say that, while their analysis has many simplifications, their research shows it would be more economically profitable for companies to

Killer whales spotted making and using grooming tools

Killer whales living off the west coast of North America have been spotted making and using tools to groom

one another, according to international researchers. The team observed the whales breaking off the ends of bull kelp stalks, and pressing those pieces of kelp against each other, rolling it across their skin in what they

say appears to be grooming

activity. The researchers

say while there is plenty of

evidence of land animals

stop extracting fossil fuels than it is to extract and offset them.

and primates using tools,

examples of tool use like

this from marine mammals

Communications Earth & Environment

such as elephants, bird is rare.

Current Biology

Young leaders step up to Federated Farmers board

Karl Dean (36) and Richard Dawkins (35) have been elected to the Federated Farmers board at the organisation's AGM in Christchurch, replacing Richard McIntyre and Toby Williams.

"It's really exciting to have two capable young leaders like Karl and Richard stepping up into these significant national leadership roles," Federated Farmers president Wayne Langford says.

"While they may be new to our national team, they're by no means new to Federated Farmers. They've held senior leadership roles within our organisation for some time now.

"Karl and Richard are both highly respected and experienced farmers within their regions and have worked their way up from the grassroots.

have no doubt "I they'll both make a huge contribution."

Karl Dean, who sharemilks with his wife Amie near Leeston in Canterbury has been elected as the organisation's new national dairy chair.

He has previously held roles as Federated Farmers North Canterbury provincial president and vice-chair of



Karl Dean.

the national dairy council. "It's a real privilege to be elected to the board, and I'm genuinely excited about the opportunity to help lead a constructive and futurefocused dairy council," Dean says.

"It's also been a huge honour to work with Richard McIntyre over the past seven years on the dairy council, and his 12 years of service hasn't gone unnoticed.

"His leadership has helped shape a strong, positive culture, and I'm committed to carrying that legacy forward."

Richard Dawkins, who

farms with his wife Jess in the Waihopai Valley near Blenheim, has been elected as the organisation's new national meat & wool chair.

He has previously spent five years on Federated Farmers' national meat & wool council and two years as Marlborough province's vice-president.

"It's a huge honour to be elected to this role and I'm really looking forward to leading a young and dynamic team of meat and wool farmers who are passionate about the future," Dawkins says.

"The face fronting the

'Save our Sheep' campaign may have changed, but the team standing behind it remains the same. We're ready to tackle the challenges sheep farmers face head on."

Langford also acknowledges the role outgoing board members McIntyre and Richard Toby Williams have played in a significant revival at Federated Farmers over the last few years.

"Both Richard and Toby have been real heavyweights absolutely were who relentless in their advocacy for farmers and rural communities," Langford says.

"Richard is probably best known for his work calling for an independent inquiry into rural banking, but his legacy within Federated Farmers is so much bigger than that.

"He also put in a huge amount of effort pushing for better immigration settings for farmers, and changes to KiwiSaver rules that will really help our next generation of young farmers. "Toby's impact has been

enormous too. He's the man who stepped up to put the final nails into the coffin of He Waka Eke Noa.

"He's also led the charge in the fight against blanket carbon forestry on productive farmland, launching the iconic 'Save Our Sheep' campaign earlier this year."

Langford while says goodbyes are always difficult, they also create an exciting opportunity for new leaders to step up, bring fresh thinking, and stamp their own mark on the future of farming.

"Nobody has a job for life at Federated Farmers. Our roles are up for re-election every year and there's always somebody waiting in the wings ready to step up. "That's what keeps us on

our toes and accountable to our members at the grassroots - but it's also what keeps the fire burning in our bellies to keep delivering tangible results for farmers.

FARMING

19

"As an organisation, we're lucky to have passionate young guys like Karl and Richard putting their hands up for some pretty big leadership roles within the sector.

"I know they're going to make a real impact for farmers and will pick up the fight exactly where Richard and Toby left off. I'm looking forward to working with them."



Richard Dawkins.



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Smart Aggregates Quarry offers quality materials and service

In December of 2024, Smart Aggregates Ltd bought Shane Kells and Nikki Valentine's Taranaki Trucking Company 1017 Wiremu Road, Opunake Quarry. Taranaki Trucking Company had operated the quarry for more than 30 years, with Shane's father operating the quarry before that.

Smart Aggregates Ltd is owned and operated by Gareth Boyd (Business Manager), Grant Cudby (A Grade Certified Quarry Manager) and Grant McEwan (Head of Excavations). As the quarry has expanded, a fourth staff member and two sub-

contractors have joined the Smart Aggregates Team. Combined, this highly qualified and experienced team have clocked up over 100 years of quarrying, heavy machinery, and engineering business between them. Gareth comments, "We all get on well and the right people are involved. Everyone brings something positive to the enterprise."

The quarry is open from 7.30am until 5pm Monday to Friday with other welcome, arrangements by appointment. The quarry supplies aggregate not only within Taranaki, but throughout the North

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From left, Grant Cudby, Grant McEwan and Gareth Boyd with Thames decommissioned jaw crushing plant to be rebuilt to start production of high quality aggregate.

Island. Gareth says he is heartened by the positive support Smart Aggregates



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Hawera

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has received from the local community and looks forward to supporting the region in any way possible.

Gareth explains that the quarry's operation is still very much in the "set up" stage with some of the existing equipment being decommissioned or sold. With an emphasis on well-built New Zealand manufactured gear, space is being made to install and operate new crushing, screening, and washing equipment and machinery. Lots of projects are underway, including the recent reroofing of the storage shed, upgrading admin and staff facilities, and constructing internal roadways. A new aggregate washing plant is also underway with a brand new sand screw recently sourced and a fully rebuilt washing box finished at their Hawera engineering workshop. Smart Aggregate's portable

Warrior 1200 Powerscreen for mobile screening and the Premiertrak 300 Jaw Crusher, for mobile crushing services are highly efficient crushing plants. Customers will be impressed at how easily they can be set up, manoeuvred around and, process a wide variety of material. With respect to the Premiertrak 300 Jaw Crusher, it has an aggressive impressively crushing capacity.

The quarry is producing high quality aggregate, specifically andesite rock. From a geological perspective, the volcanic andesite's intermediate composition is between rhyolite and basalt with crushing resistance and weather index testing

expectations. exceeding These test results give complete confidence to Smart Aggregates Ltd and their customers that product leaving the quarry meets quality requirements for the project it is being used for. For projects that require confirmation of quality specifications such as aggregate hardness, weathering and aggregate gradings, Smart Aggregates has current laboratory testing available and will happily arrange further testing as per individual requirements.

Pretty much, all possible product aggregate requirements can be catered for at the quarry, including (for example) screened fines, GAP 20 all the way to GAP150 aggregate, bedding sand and even rock boulders, Continued page 21.



Smart Aggregates Quarry offers quality materials and service

Continued from page 20.

which are increasingly sought after. "Boulders have come into hot demand. There is a massive demand for them," explains Gareth. A full product and price list is available on Smart Aggregate's website: www. smartaggregate.co.nz.

Fitted with Certified Load Rite scales, the highly efficient CAT 950H loader loads out product, enabling dockets to be immediately available from the loader driver. Product is delivered by 6 x 4 and 8 x 4 tippers and trailer with rocks and boulders dealt with by the 8 x 4 truck and trailers. Cartage can be assessed at an hourly rate (just phone Gareth for a quote). Flexibility is a key feature of Smart Aggregate's operation with various options available to have product delivered to a project's location - truck or truck & trailer; self-pick up or onsite delivery options.

Very important to Smart Aggregates is workplace health & safety. Quarrying is a high- risk activity and Smart Aggregates is committed to ensuring everyone undertaking work activities follow safe working protocols with onsite visitors and the quarrying operation kept strictly separate. It is also important the natural environment and scenic area



Aerial view of quarry.



Smart Aggregates brand new McClosky S130 screen employed to start making high quality roading and concrete aggregate products.

surrounding the quarry is not adversely affected and protected. Planting native trees is just one measure which is planned for the near future.

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Cudby (Quarry Manager) on

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Nic Burroughs



Nic has been with us for a number of years in the service team, but is now our on-road Pirtek Hose and Fittings Technician, as well as managing our Cone Management Systems.

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Phone him on: 027-279-0397 or 06-765-8643.

22 FARMING Thursday, July 17, 2025 OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS Varied career put to good use for farming clients

John Barker has had a varied career. He has been a truck driver for Sandfords and Fonterra, and lived in the United States where he was a truck driver, did the wheat harvest and obtained a degree in Metallurgy at North Dakota State College of Science.

He started his engineering in the 90s at Peter Kuriger Engineering where he says he learnt that there's nothing you can't fix, and the impossible just takes a little longer. Working for Peter gave him the confidence to tackle any job that came through the doors and they had a massive variety of work from building the Wiremu Quarry for Sandfords, to building speedway cars and everything in between.

"They were some great years to be learning engineering," he says.

Today he puts his knowledge and experience to use at his business Awatuna Engineering, located on his old family farm near the top of Auroa Road. It's hard to miss the gate sign as its placed on a vintage tractor mounted hedge cutter from the neighbour's farm. He started the business in

He started the business in 2021 on a handshake deal with Neville Ardern and ran it from his shed until recently when he moved to the Awatuna site.

"I'll always be grateful to Neville for that as it allowed me the flexibility to spend time with my young family that shiftwork didn't at that time," says John.

He handles farm equipment and machinery repairs, and specialises in digger buckets, attachments, and heavy equipment repair and modification. They have a mobile service which includes line boring, "to save you transportation costs if the job is repairable on site. "

"The line boring I thought was a good fit for more of a complete service after a repair or modification has been made or just to rebuild back to factory spec," says John.

He has designed a stock food stirrer mainly used for

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John Barker and the Awatuna Engineering sign which is hard to miss.

Proliq, which is a by-product from the dairy industry. The stock food has a tendency to build up in the tank.

"If you can keep it suspended, it makes a more palatable, creamy product for the cows and they love it."

In comparison to the equipment repair side of the business, the stirrers are fully stainless and quite lightweight. There has been an uptake by many Taranaki farmers, and some recent installs in the Waikato due to word getting out about the benefit of the stirrers.

"Most of my clients were guys I went to Opunake High or played rugby with in Kaponga, but with the stirrers coming along that customer base is increasing."

He has two staff currently, James Hiestand (they went to primary school together) who has a huge background in machinery operation, repair and maintenance and Dylan Harding who is pretty fresh to engineering,



The team at Awatuna Engineering. From left. Dylan Harding, John Barler, James Hiestand.

but John says he has a big future, is a quick study and has some great ideas. his part John lives in Hawera with four ch

his partner Angela and their four children.



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Guy Roper to chair DCANZ

The Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ) has appointed Guy Roper as its Independent Chairman.

Mr Roper takes up the position from Matt Bolger, who stepped down at the end of last year following his appointment to Fonterra's senior management team.

Mr Roper is an experienced director, with a strong background in the dairy industry.

As Chief Executive of Port Taranaki for six years, he played an important role in the supply chain that enables New Zealand's dairy exports. Before this, he held a variety of roles in the dairy sector, including at Fonterra as Global Account Director for Nestlé and as Commercial Director of Global Trade and Ingredients, as well as a farmer-elected director of the former Kiwi Cooperative Dairies, one of the two co-operatives that merged to form Fonterra. He currently holds directorships of Fisher Funds Management and Port Nelson.

As Independent Chair of DCANZ, Mr Roper will chair a governance group comprising CEOs and



Guy Roper. Port Taranaki.

executive leaders of 11 dairy companies that together account for more than 98% of the milk processed in New Zealand. These companies come together at DCANZ to work in the best interests of the dairy industry.

"DCANZ is pleased to welcome Guy to this role," says Brendhan Greaney, CEO of Tatua, speaking on behalf of the DCANZ Executive Committee.

"His governance capabilities, combined with a wealth of relevant knowledge and experience from previous executive roles, and his general passion for improving New Zealand's prosperity through trade, will be important assets for DCANZ."

Mr Roper says: "I am excited to have this opportunity to contribute to a sector that I believe in and identify with.

"The dairy industry plays

an important role in New Zealand, and the leadership of dairy companies matters, especially in challenging times".

Guy is a Chartered Accountant (Fellow) with over 35 years commercial experience in New Zealand business, predominantly in the dairy industry. As an executive with Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd, Guy held a number of senior commercial and director roles and was involved in the creation of the dairy trading auction platform Global Dairy Trade. He worked for three years in Switzerland taking the lead role of Global Account Director servicing Fonterra's business with Nestle. During this time, he was a Director on Dairy Partners of America, a joint venture between Fonterra and Nestle that operated throughout South America. He had eight years'

experience as a Trustee for the Dairy Industry Superannuation Fund. Guy joined Port Taranaki Ltd in 2013 and was the Chief Executive between 2015 until his retirement in 2021. He served as a Trustee on the TOI Foundation for five years from 2017.

DCANZ is focused on growing dairy trade opportunities. Not only does this mean bringing down trade barriers, it also includes ensuring dairy exports, which currently deliver 35% of New Zealand's total goods trade earnings, continue to be supplied within efficient and globally respected food regulatory and biosecurity frameworks. DCANZ also works to maintain New Zealand's reputation as a reliable supplier of top-quality, safe and sustainably produced dairy products.

M.bovis compensation assistance service wraps up

Another milestone has been reached in the fight against Mycoplasma bovis with the compensation assistance service being wound up after helping more than 1300 farmers.

WINTER CHECK & SERVICE

The DairyNZ Beef + Lamb New Zealand Compensation Assistance Team (DBCAT) was set up in 2018 to help farmers prepare compensation claims during the M. bovis outbreak.

During the past seven years, 1370 farmers have used the free service with more than 2310 claims being finalised.

More than \$161 million in claims were submitted

by the service on behalf of farmers, including \$88 million from dairy farmers and \$40 million from beef farmers.

It is estimated that the service saved the M. bovis

eradication programme more than \$10 million by finding smart farm-systems solutions that mitigated the need for a claim.f the M. bovis eradication programme.

Mathematical and a comparison of the comparison of th

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This has come full circle

Opunake's Tricia MacKenzie wins New Zealand boxing title

Opunake's Tricia MacKenzie has won the New Zealand national (Pro Box NZ version) lightweight title against Jadene Treadaway in Putāruru.

The 37-year-old from Opunake, Tricia MacKenzie, has walked away with the New Zealand title on July 5, winning by unanimous decision over Waikato's Jadene Treadaway. This is an enormous achievement considering this was her first title fight, let alone sixth professional fight so far in her career.

MacKenzie defied the odds as she fought in Treadaway's

hometown of Putāruru and was promoted by Treadaway's trainer, Nigel Elliott of Ace Fighters and Iron Fist Promotions. But MacKenzie is quite familiar with fighting outside of Taranaki, as four out of her six fights were in enemy territory.

The fight went the full scheduled eight rounds, which could only be described as a war between good foes. This was Treadaway's third fight of her professional boxing career, however, she has never gone past five rounds, whereas MacKenzie has experience going six rounds. Treadaway came into the fight, fighting like it was a four-round fight, however, MacKenzie's experience seemed to fit her well with the eight-round setting, as she outlasted Treadaway and was more active in the ring and had better boxing skills, giving her more of an edge in the judges' eyes.

MacKenzie walks away with the Pro Box NZ New Zealand National Lightweight title, which is the first time for the Pro Box NZ commissioning body to have a female boxer in that weight division.

The last time New Zealand had a Lightweight champion was when Mea Motu won her first New Zealand national title (which was the NZPBA version) in 2021 against MacKenzie trainer, Tania Reid. The last male boxer to win the title was Nort Beauchamp when he was awarded the title by NZPBA in 2019 due to a lack of opponents in New Zealand in that weight division, as well as recognising his career achievements.



for MacKenzie's trainer, Tania Reid, as her last fight of her professional boxing career was for the New Zealand national (NZPBA version) Lightweight title, which she lost to Mea Motu. Reid might not have won the New Zealand title, but she can be proud to be a trainer of a New Zealand champion. MacKenzie is now ranked second in New Zealand and 71st in the world, both rankings on the international boxing recordkeeping website, Boxrec. She is ranked behind another Taranaki boxer Waitohu Rapira-Ngarewa, who is ranked first in New Zealand and 50th in the world. This could be a dream fight for Taranaki if these two boxers ever went at it, either for a New Zealand title or a major regional title like the WBA Oceania, WBO Asia Pacific, WBC Australasian, WBC Asian Boxing Council or WBC OPBF Lightweight titles.

Left: Tricia Mackenzie.

Soldiers Park Basketball Court

Work is now underway in Eltham with the launch of the 3x3 basketball court project at Soldiers Park in Eltham. A recent sod turning marked the beginning of this much-anticipated community initiative.

The concept for the court was born from local youth voices during a consultation process that captured community aspirations as part of Eltham's broader town revitalisation efforts.

The project was later endorsed and prioritised by the Eltham co-design group, reflecting a shared commitment to youth wellbeing, active spaces, and inclusive community development.

The project has received a contribution from Basketball NZ, who are donating the basketball hoop.

Construction is expected to begin in August/ September and will take approximately eight weeks to complete, ready for the summer months.



South Taranaki mayor Phil Nixon at the sod turning ceremony.



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be well supported by a

quality management team of Connie, Moana-Jane,

campaign on Saturday

August 9 against the

Northland Kauri on the Gully Ground at New Plymouth

Boys's High School.

Rhodes, Matt and Doug." The Taranaki Whio kick off their Farah Palmer Cup

Taranaki sign Fijian winger

The Yarrows Taranaki Bulls have announced the signing of explosive winger, Taniela Rakuro for the 2025 NPC season.

Rakuro, 25, has made a name for himself in Super Rugby Pacific with the Fijian Drua, where he has played 23 matches since debuting in 2023, scoring nine tries in those three seasons. Known for his blistering pace, sharp footwork, and finishing ability, Rakuro has consistently impressed on the wing and is a one test international for the Flying Fijians.

With Kini Naholo ruled out for the season due to a knee injury, the Bulls have acted swiftly to secure a



Taramaki Bull's Taniela Rakurro.

Tim Stuck new Whio coach



Taranaki Whio.

Taranaki Rugby have announced that Tim Stuck has stepped into the Central Roofing Taranaki Whio Head Coach role for the upcoming Farah Palmer Cup campaign presented by Bunnings Warehouse.

Stuck, who was originally named as an Assistant Coach, replaces Ben Siffleet who has stepped down for personal reasons.

Stuck, a former Yarrows Taranaki Bulls halfback, has held coaching positions with several TRFU representative teams.

He guided the Taranaki Under 19s to a thirdplace finish at the national Jock Hobbs Memorial Tournament in 2015 and led the FDMC 1st XV programme between 2009 and 2015. Stuck has also been involved with the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls (Assistant Coach), Central Roofing Taranaki Whio (Assistant Coach), Taranaki Men's Sevens team and the Tukapa Men's Premiers in recent seasons.

Rhodes Featherstone will step into the vacant Assistant Coach position. Featherstone, a former All Blacks Sevens and Yarrows Taranaki Bulls representative is a wellregarded up-and-coming coach.

Existing staff Connie O'Brien (Team Manager), Moana-Jane Scott (Assistant Coach), Matt Burgess (Strength & Conditioning) and Doug Neilson (Video) round out a reputable 2025 management team.

"Tim is a highly respected also been member of the Taranaki

www.hippaccounting.co.nz

Rugby community; he has a proven track record as a Head Coach," says Taranaki Rugby Chief Executive Officer Jimmy Fastier.

"Tim's tactical rugby brain and most importantly his ability to connect so well with people make him a great fit. Tim will like-for-like strike weapon and Rakuro fits that mould perfectly.

"We've built this team around our own, and I don't often look out of region," said Head Coach Neil Barnes. "But when you lose a player like Kini, you have to find someone who brings similar impact. Taniela's a class finisher with all the traits we value in a Taranaki player. He's physical, hardworking, and team-first. We're thrilled to bring him in."

Rakuro will join the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls and is expected to link up with the squad as they prepare to defend the Ranfurly Shield.

"We're genuinely excited to welcome Taniela into our environment," said Barnes. "We believe he can ignite our backline and help execute the game plan we've built"



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Giraffes Can't Dance

The much-loved story Giraffes Can't Dance is coming to life in an exciting new production at the Val Deakin Dance Centre this August. Performances will run from August 8 to 17, but be quick—some shows are already sold out.

Follow the heartwarming journey of Gerald, an awkward and ungainly giraffe who longs to join the jungle dance. While the

other animals-waltzing warthogs, rock 'n' rolling rhinos, cha-cha dancing chimps, tangoing lions, and even reel-dancing baboons-show off their moves, Gerald feels left out. But with encouragement from a wise and friendly cricket, Gerald discovers his own rhythm and learns to dance in his own special way.

Don't miss this joyful

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

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



The story of Gerald, an awkward and ungainly giraffe is a new production at the Val Deakin Dance Centre.

Some AI prompts cost the Earth more than others

Every time you fire up a generative AI platform such as ChatGPT, your query uses a heck of a lot of energy and leaves a carbon footprint after you log out. However, new research has found that not all questions emit the same amount of carbon; in fact, each query's emissions comes down to the AI model, the subject matter, and the user. For example, some AI models created four times the amount of CO2 emissions than other models

with comparable accuracy. Questions that required lengthy reasoning processes, like abstract algebra, led up to six times higher emissions than more straightforward subjects like high school history. The team says users can significantly reduce emissions by prompting their AI of choice to generate concise answers or limiting the use of highcapacity models to tasks that genuinely require lots of power.

Upcycling plastic into painkillers

It can cause gnarly gastro issues and urinary tract infections in us humans, but new research reports that E. coli bacteria may also be able to create paracetamol in an eco-friendly way. The research team studied a type of chemical reaction they found can happen inside E. coli bacteria. They degraded a PET plastic bottle to produce the starting molecule for this chemical reaction, with paracetamol turning out to be a final product. Further research could include studying how

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06 761 7016

and inspiring production, co.nz. filled with colour, music, narration and movement that will delight audiences of all ages. The intimate setting of the Dance Theatre will enjoy the show with the cast of 22, aged 5 to 75+.

Tickets are available now by phoning 758 0991 or texting 027 694 0933 or contact by mail to 63 Messenger Terrace, Oakura, janeroseman@xtra. email

There is also an online booking service. Go to https://forms.gle/ aJUDkcid93Lv5RkVA

The Dance Theatre is grateful to the Toi Foundation and the Creative Communities Scheme for their support for this programme.

Exciting New Production of Giraffes Can't Dance at the Val Deakin Dance Centre -August 8-17







other types of bacteria or plastic may generate useful products.

Take a stand and help shape future of New Plymouth

It's time for people wanting help shape the future of New Plymouth District to take a stand with nominations for local elections now open.

If you fancy yourself as the next Mayor or a Councillor or Community Board member, you have until midday 1 August to get nominations in for the chance to be at the table to make the big decisions.

"Our Council oversees an annual budget of around \$260 million and just over \$4 billion worth of assets and the challenge for our elected members is balancing the impacts the decisions they make have

on residents' back pockets with the need to invest in future-proofing our critical assets such as roads, water infrastructure and parks, and services," says NPDC Acting Chief Executive Sarah Downs.

"Councils need people from all walks of life and experiences with vision, talent and the ability to work strategically as a team, to get things done and make the best decisions for their residents."

Positions for NPDC are: Mayor, Kaitake/Ngāmotu ward (New Plymouth city to Ōkato) - six councillors, Moa Kōhanga ward (Inglewood and surrounding

area) – one councillor, North Ward (Waitara up to Waitomo District Council border) - one councillor, Te Purutanga Mauri Pūmanawa (Māori ward) one councillor, Councillors at large (across the whole district) - five councillors, Clifton, Waitara, Puketapu Bell Block, Inglewood and Kaitake community boards - four board members each - for voters outside New Plymouth city.

Nominations to stand close midday 1 August. Voting papers start being delivered from 9 September and voting closes midday Saturday 11 October. This election, councils



A chance to be at the table to make the big decisions.

with Māori wards, including NPDC, will run a poll to decide if they will have Māori wards for future Results are elections. legally-binding.

Progress results are expected in the afternoon of 11 October, 12 October for preliminary results and 17 October for the final results.



Dealing with stress

Are you feeling stressed and wondering what stress is doing to you?

"Our modern lifestyle means you can be dealing with constant stress and not even know it," says Richard Hall of Mind Support who will take a free one-hour workshop on Stress at Coastal Care from 1-2pm on July 24.

"Understanding stress and dealing with stress is so important as it affects every cell in our body," says Richard. "From brain fog to inflammation every major disease is linked to stress, from cancer to heart disease to strokes to every auto-immune disease."

Richard says he will talk about understanding stress, why it's important and how to recognise it, as well as giving some practical tools on how to manage stress. The session will also include an interactive element. Refreshments will



Richard Hall.

be available. "Once you start to feel stressed it's like being on a hamster wheel. Once you're

in that stressful cycle you start to feel stressed about being stressed, so how do we get off the hamster

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE	
72 Tasman Street, Opunake www.everybodystheatre.co.nz	
Jurassic World: Rebirth 2hr 13mins M Fri 18 Jul 7PM	SMURFS
Superman 2hr 9mins M Sat 19 Jul 7PM Fri 01 Aug 7PM	The Great Lillian Hall 1hr 50mins M Sun 20 Jul 1PM Sat 26 Jul 7PM
Bride Hard 1hr 45mins M Sun 20 Jul 7PM Sun 27 Jul 7PM	Elio 1hr 38mins PG Sat 26 Jul 1PM
F1 The Movie 2hr 35mins M Sun 27 Jul 1PM	TINĂ 2hr 5mins M Thu 31 Jul 7PM
SPECIAL SCREENING TINA THURSDAY 31ST JULY @ 7PM	
Jurassic World: Rebirth Violence 2hr 13mins Rated: M Fri 18 Jul 7PM	SMURFS 1hr 32mins Rated: G Sat 19 Jul 1PM

wheel?"

life and can be managed. "Occasional stress can

help us focus and be more Before coming to New

where he trained in internal counselling and trauma, dealing with both firefighters and incident victims.

Mental Health.



JULY WORKSHOP 24TH 1PM COASTAL CARE

Stress: The number one threat to your Success, Health and Happiness Discover the hidden costs of daily pressure, and learn how to take back control in just 60 minutes.

This eye opening session, You will discover why stress is not just part of life" its potentially quietly undermining your performance, your wellbeing and your relationships. From brain fog and burnout to serious health risks, stress is the hidden saboteur behind many of life's struggles

But the good news, You can outsmart it. Join us for a fast-paced, practical session where you will learn what stress really does to your body and mind and how to interrupt the cycle for good. Whether you want to feel calmer, think clearer, or just sleep better, this hour could change everything.



He says stress is part of

dynamic," says Richard. Zealand Richard was with the Fire Service in the United Kingdom

Since coming to New Zealand he has attained qualifications in the Brain and Mind with Auckland University and the Psychology of Wellbeing, and Health and Nutrition with the University of Canterbury. He is currently undertaking a Master's degree in Psychology and Mental

28 WHAT'S ON

What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre **Exercise and Social Morning:** St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.

Beginners Social Dance Classes: Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm.

TUESDAYS

Opunake Walking Group: Every Tuesday 10am. Meet outside Club Hotel on Havelock St. Phone Margaret 027 477 5600 for more info if needed, or just turn up.

Pungarehu Golf Club Twilight: Tee-off between 4.30 & 6.30pm.

Opunake District RSA: Meet 1st Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm at the Opunake Fire Station. Financial Members are welcome to attend. **WEDNESDAYS**

Coastal Young Farmers: Meet 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Butlers Reef Bar & Cafe, Oakura. Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake: Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676

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

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

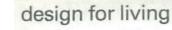
Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to5 .30pm.

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

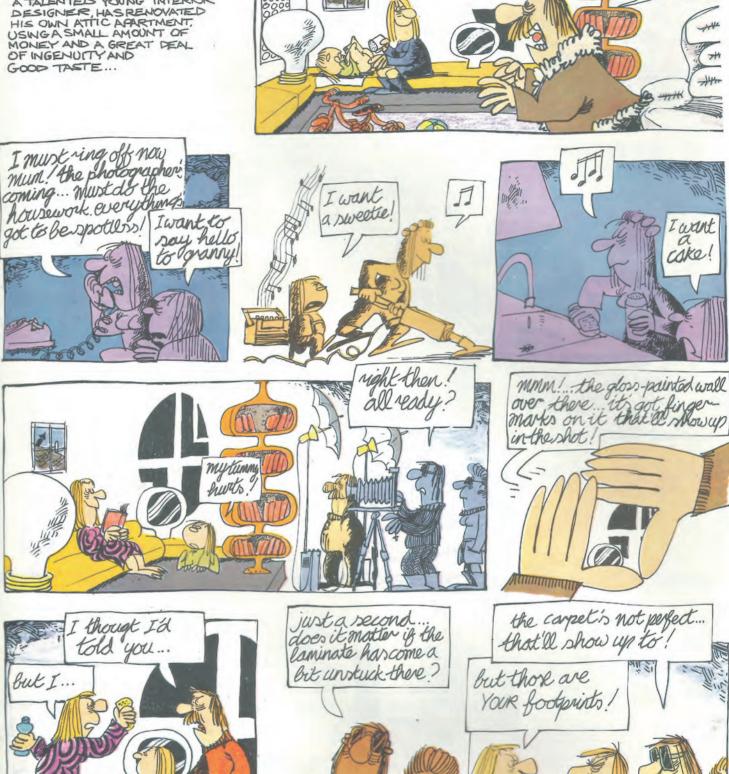
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THURSDAYS

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..

JUNE 19 TO JULY 28

Lizzie Leckie Exhibition: at from out of the blue studio gallery, Opunake.

JULY 1 TO 26

Elizabeth Harrison's Alternatives **Exhibition** At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

JULY 18

NZ First Public Meeting: At the Novatel New Plymouth, 1pm. **JULY 19**

Opunake Cup Day: New Plymouth Raceway. See advert.

JULY 24

Hawera Repertory Society presents

GIRLS

Written by Louise Roche

Directed by Samantha Turner

Repertory House 25 July - 2 August

Stress Workshop: At CoastalCare, Napier Street, Opunake, 1pm. JULY 25 TO AUGUST 2

Repertory Hawera Society presents Checkout Girls: Repertory House. JULY 27.

Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust AGM,: At Cape Egmont Boat Club, Bayly Road, Warea, 12 noon. AUGUST 2

Waiwiri Family Trust Members Meeting: Te Potaka Marae, 10am. **AUGUST 8 TO 17**

Giraffes Can't Dance: A production by Val Deakin Dance Group. At the Dance Centre, St Aubyn Street, New Plymouth.



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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Opunake Cup Day Promises Top-Class Winter Racing

The Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Opunake Cup returns to New Plymouth Raceway on Saturday, July 19, and is shaping up to be one of New Zealand's premier winter racing events.

With stakes increased to \$120,000, the day promises thrilling action and a strong, competitive field.

A standout feature of the day is the TAB Punters Competition, back bigger than ever with a boosted first prize of \$5,000, plus a \$3,000 Bonus Bets, thanks to TAB. Teams also keep all their winnings. Drinks and nibbles are included in the entry fee. Preregistration is essential and can be completed via the New Plymouth Raceway website.

Corporate hospitality areas have sold out, but general admission remains free. A dedicated marquee will be open to the public, with access to a bar, big screen, and nearby food trucks, ensuring racegoers don't miss a moment of the action.

The first race is scheduled for 12.30pm, with the last race at 4.32pm. After racing concludes, live music from local band Echoes in Colour will keep the atmosphere buzzing into the evening.



Punters enjoying the Opunake Cup Race Day hospitality.

the Coast, Taranaki Racing raceway. The bus departs at 10.30am Inc is offering a free return bus from Opunake to the from the Club Hotel in

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Craig Sole

Opunake, with stops at Rahotu, Okato and Oakura, and returns around 6.00pm after the last race. Bookings are essential.

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The next issue of Opunake & Coastal News is out on the 31st July. Call us on 06 761 7016.

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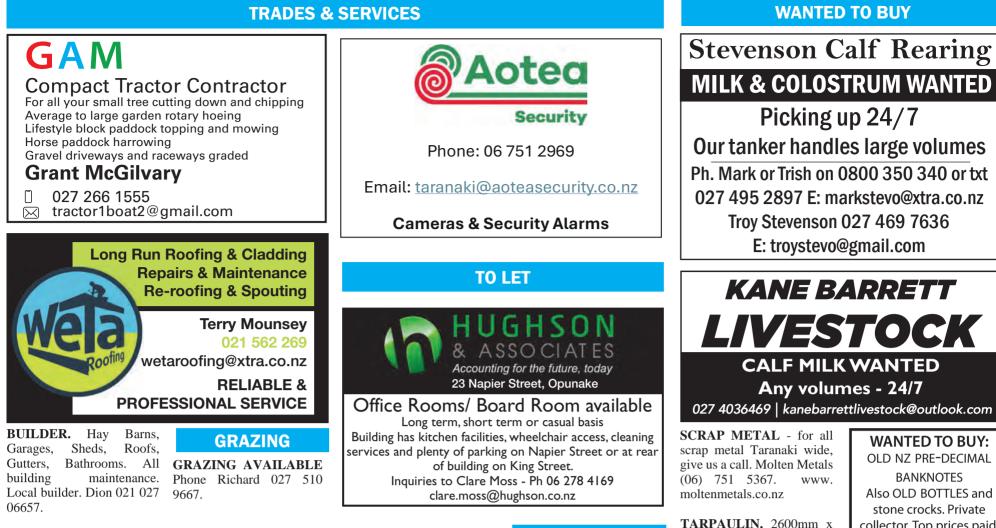


Proud to support the **Opunake Cup Race Day**

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CLASSIFIEDS 31



PUBLIC NOTICES



Opunake-Rahotu Veterinary Trust PO Box 117, Opunake - Phone: 021 729 471 - Email: ORVTrust@gmail.com

Applications are now open for tertiary students to apply to the **Opunake Rahotu Veterinary Trust** for financial assistance.

To qualify for this grant you must be currently studying or in an apprenticeship and have a relationship to the Taranaki Coastal Farming Community (Okato - Kaponga – Oeo)

Applications close 31st July 2025. Request a form by emailing: ORVTrust@gmail.com

Completed forms can then be emailed back or dropped to Aretha Macadam (Secretary) CoastalCare, 26 Napier Street, Opunake

He Pānui

2025 Trustee Election

Taranaki Iwi

Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust (the Trust) is the PSGE entity established to receive and manage the Treaty settlement assets of Taranaki Iwi. It replaces the former Taranaki Iwi Trust.

The Trust is governed by seven trustees who are elected on a rotational basis. Four of the current trustees will retire by rotation later this year. The Trust now invites nominations to fill the four vacancies. The retiring trustees can stand for re-election if they choose.

Nominations must be made on an official nomination form and close at 5pm on Friday 8 August 2025. Candidates must meet the eligibility criteria set out in rule 2.1 of the Second Schedule of the Trust Charter. Those eligibility criteria are outlined on the nomination form. The Trust will give further notification of the election process after nominations have closed.

Membership Registration

The Trust also takes this opportunity to invite all adults of Taranaki lwi descent who have not already registered, to do so by completing a registration form. Registration forms and nomination papers can be sourced from the following:

Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust office Level 4, 139 Devon St West, New Plymouth Ph 06 751 4285 or 0800 835 2484 admin@taranaki.iwi.nz www.taranaki.iwi.nz

The Returning Officer electionz.com Ltd PO Box 3138, Christchurch Ph 0800 666 924 iro@electionz.com

SERVICES WANTED

GARDENER wanted. Opunake, two hours fortnightly. \$30 ph. Ph 027 644 4008.

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

The next issue of the **Opunake & Coastal News** is due out on July 31. Get in early to get in it.

> Phone us on 06 761 7016.

This newspaper is subject to NZ Press Coucil procedures. A complaint must first be directed in writing within one month of publication to the Opunake & Coastal News email address. If not satisfied with the response , the complaint may be referred to the Press Council, PO Box 10879, The Terrace, Wellington 6143. Or use the online complaint form at www.presscouncil. org.nz. Please include copies of the article and all correspondence with the publication.

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