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Reprieve for Kaponga Library



Kathy Stanley wins a prestigious award from the Lions. See page 17.



Taranaki Diocesan Girls School win regional final of Showcase. Turn to page 14.



Neil Walker has received an important honour from King Charles. See page 7.



A well known opponent of seabed mining. Turn to page 4.

The South Taranaki District Council has voted to fix up the Kaponga Library. There had been a cloud hovering over the library's future after the building on the corner of Egmont and Victoria Streets which houses Kaponga Library Plus had developed leakage problems. The idea of shifting the library to the supper room of the Kaponga War Memorial Hall was mooted, but this received short shrift at a public meeting held at Kaponga in March.

The issue of the future of library services for the town came up at last week's South Taranaki District Council meeting. Faced with five possible options the Council voted unanimously to fix the existing building. The other options were to permanently shift to the supper room, build an extension to the War Memorial Hall, demolish the existing library and build a new one in its place, or to relocate to a nearby site which until recently had been used by Plunket.

Eltham - Kaponga Community Board members Sonya Douds, who lives in Kaponga, and Alan Hawkes were at the meeting and said they were pleased with the result.

"The community decided to take action, and the Council listened, and they acted," said Sonya. "I'm looking forward to moving into a watertight building and people continuing to use the space as a collective. I think it was the most pragmatic option. A new building would have been lovely, but is it the best use for money and resources in



The building on the corner of Victoria and Egmont Streets will continue as the town's library.

our community?"

Alan Hawkes also commended the Council for what they had done.

"They didn't defer it, they made a decision," he said. "I think the community is going to be quite happy with fixing it."

Kaponga residents had earlier made their feelings known at the open forum part of the meeting.

"I grew up in Kaponga on one of its 11 streets," said Melanie McBain. "I remember what Kaponga used to be like."

Since then, businesses had closed and once vacant shops are now people's homes, but one thing had not changed.

"Kaponga has remained a proud community."

She said her preferred option was to demolish and put in a new building on the same site.

"It doesn't have to be big. It doesn't have to be too fancy, but it does have to be fit for purpose."

"The location is ideal. It's on the same side of the road for both schools and everyone coming through town knows what this building is."

Stan Barnett from the Kaponga RSA said on ANZAC Day about 200 people had gone through the supper room and he didn't think this was a good place for the library. He noted that it was a War Memorial Hall and should be respected as such.

"I want it to be a place of peace, a place of solitude, a place of rest."

He said he had a vested



Arnold Fitzgerald. "Kaponga is not just a little town. It's a way of life."

Continued page 4.

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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.

Letter to the editor

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Opunake news for its high standard of journalism and how the many letters, articles, opinions keep the reader informed of world events as well as local.

The recent events and article on seabed mining is an example of being informed.

On October 17 2024 Glenn Bennett our Labour list MP wrote, “Fast Track projects wreak of havoc on the environment.”

He highlighted and I quote The Fast Track Approvals Bill removes many opportunities for local

communities to be notified of projects or be involved in decisions affecting their environment. He later states future generations will pay dearly for its callousness.

Recently locals did voice their concerns and staged a weekend of quality information regarding Seabed mining. What is all the fuss about some might say?

I encourage you all to visit PukeAriki.

A popular trip for my grandsons and visitors is to go to Puke Ariki and head upstairs. Life jackets go on. We all board the boat, with a chosen Captain at the helm, the engine starts. The seats vibrate the rudder moves and suddenly with Captain orders we hang onto

our seats as the boat rocks through the waves.

We are heading out over the bight in South Taranaki.

We watch and listen and go under water to view the abundance of colour and with experts we learn about the true treasures of our ocean. Our Tonga. It’s unique part of the world.

On Saturday 17 May RNZ published a timely article to Opunake News.

It stated facts and figures of the absolute atrocity to our environment that has been proposed. The desecration of the seabed that is irreversible for money defies belief. Niwa tells us the seabed is a Macroalgae meadow: an underwater habitat formed by large, multicellular algae

(also known as seaweeds) that create dense underwater vegetation. It has gardens of sponges. Special home to dolphin whales. Its history dates 460 million years.

A Violation of ones heritage says Louisa Castledine on seabed mining. I am sure you agree. Become informed lobby, fight for this heritage and stand proud when Goliath is beaten by the small fry! You can’t eat money but you can eat seaweed.

Lesley Dowding
Okato

Continued on page 3.

ADELPHOS

Birds sing and bees buzz. Simple. Right? Not really nowadays. As a former backyard beekeeper, I’m learning about Artificial Intelligent (AI) “drone” bees. They are now pollinating flowers.

However, biological drones are male bees that do “not” pollinate flowers. Their purpose is to mate with virgin queens. Only biologically infertile female worker bees transfer pollen from flower to flower. Language can get complicated, eh? But, no, bees don’t have gender dysphoria issues like humans. AI experts inform us that our lives will change more in the next three years than in the last 300 years.

Besides technological changes, over seven billion worldwide AI android phones are creating different “realities” with language narratives—that change

the meaning of words to suit one’s biases. For example, in America the Democratic party’s liberal media described the 2020 nationwide Black Lives Matter demonstrations as “protests” during the peak of the Covid lockdown. In contrast, the Republican party’s more conservative media called it a “riot” totaling 1.2 billion dollars of damage with arson, looting, hundreds of arrests, injuries, burglaries, 19 deaths, and violent police assaults. Radically different media language descriptions have created a politically divisive and hateful civil war. Every day the genocides in the Russia-Ukraine and Israeli-Hamas wars should convince us of the sinful brokenness of our human nature.

So why does a good God permit such horrific suffering? Because He

Not complicated

“chose” to limit His power by giving us free will to choose between good and evil, war and peace, love and hate. If God created us with the inability to choose, wouldn’t we be like heartless AI programmed drone robots?

Although our human nature has been corrupted by sin, God has provided us with this ultimate free will choice: “Everyone has sinned and is far away from God’s saving presence... but by his death [Jesus] he should become the means by which people’s sins are forgiven through their faith in him” (Romans 3:23-26, Good News Bible).

This simple saving message of forgiveness and salvation by faith in Jesus is not complicated or difficult to understand. A 90% Illiterate population accepted His verbal teachings and

miracles before the New Testament documents were written between 45-95 A.D. I heard the story of an eight year old boy who explained the mystery of God and the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in these few words: “Three in one and one in three. And the one in the middle died for me.” Not complicated.

Yes. Jesus convinced, comforted and highly offended many by boldly claiming that He Himself is “the” only way to “His” Father in heaven. In fact, His first followers were called people of The Way, and later Christians. “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). It’s challenging but simple uncomplicated language.

Adelphos

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A danger to our democracy

Perhaps like me, you thought the newly elected coalition leaders looked a bit dumb and a bit useless. You’ve heard the rhetoric: they’re doing great things for Kiwis, they’ve conquered inflation, they’re cutting wasteful spending, they’re efficient, they have common sense, they’re not racist. But what is the reality? Are they confused? Are they well-meaning and just incompetent? We’ve seen their cruel policies. We’ve seen their mode of operation. There is no transparency, no consultation, passing legislation under urgency, on the fast track. They disinform, they gaslight, they manipulate, and they out and out lie. They are masters of Doublespeak. They are a danger to our democracy. As you read this, you will think this sounds like a movie plot or a conspiracy theory. The bad guys are swooping in and taking the country over from Kiwis. It’s not make-believe. Instead of delivering programs and services in the best interest of kiwis, they’re distracting us with inedible school lunches, road cones, speed limits, and wokeness. Hoping we don’t notice that unemployment is high, wages are going backward, equity claims have been cancelled, rents are too high, health care is failing, racism is fostered, homelessness is growing, child poverty is growing. On and on. They distract us, but we recognize the priorities of this coalition. Kiwis are not the priority. Instead of protecting and serving Kiwis, this coalition is stealing from the poor and giving to the already very wealthy in the form of bigger tax breaks. They’re selling off anything that moves to private interests. They are dismantling Māori organizations and wish to cancel one of the country’s founding documents, Te Tiriti o Waitangi. They are creating an economy designed to benefit the very wealthy. They serve and protect their donors, corporate landlords, seabed

miners, tobacco interests, gas exploration companies, and overseas investors. The coalition will lock us onto this path with the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill, where Kiwis are robbed, and the wealthy grow richer. The bill poses a huge danger to our way of life. The bill would consolidate massive power under the Minister of Regulation, David Seymour. Existing and future legislation will be reviewed by his unelected board, and the board will determine whether any proposed regulations might limit the profits of their backers. If barriers to profits are found, they are proposing financial compensation be paid to anyone affected by the regulations. Profits before people. Why do we need regulations? Examples of inadequate regulation include loss of workers’ rights, Pike River, leaky houses, and deaths in forestry. It would become very difficult for a future government to enact legislation for the public good; that is, for the benefit of Kiwis: to provide clean water, health care, education, and environmental protections. Poorer social outcomes will be the result. The ability for individuals, families, and communities to progress economically and socially will be lost. People are struggling now but it can get worse. The politicians who brought this forward should be ashamed of themselves. They promoted themselves as efficient caretakers of the county’s economy on behalf of all Kiwis. Instead, they have proposed a bill with such malevolent intent, which will impact 5 million lives negatively. They have no mandate; they engaged in disinformation and gaslighting. This is corruption in action. The bill threatens to pass. If it does, this government’s donors will own everything of value. There will be no limits on their access to the country’s resources. We all must do what we can to stop this bill. Please provide feedback to the government that this bill is not wanted, make an online submission. Write your local MP. Write all the MPs. You have until June 23 at 1 pm to make a submission.

Correction

In our May 22 issue a letter to the editor from Tom Stephens on the cost of fixing up the Kaponga Library stated that Hāwera’s

new library, isite visitor information centre, café, gallery and public toilets (Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga) cost \$43 million. We have

And at the next election, please be sure to vote.

Mary Moore
Manaia

Turbocharge idea fails big time

I am really agreeing with New Plymouth Labour list MP Glen Bennett who is Labour’s spokesperson for Tourism and Hospitality when this government openly stated and announced a \$13.5 million turbocharge to fund our international Tourism and Marketing plan. I knew it was just another type of turkey, and it was and will totally fail to charge. OK. If this government is wanting things to happen, how on earth can it because already many upon many thousands of experienced and still working people have all shifted to Australia never to return, so any of these turbocharged ideas this government has will fail to fire, just like a car battery, because of the lack of spark. Isn’t it high time the people of our country started realising what this government is really up to, as everything they have stated hasn’t and never will ever work as it has all begun to backfire big time, as under all previous National governments our country has ever had we were going backwards. Remember Glen Bennett will be fighting for our province of Taranaki, and us the people who live in this great province of ours.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

Stick to your region

Dinnie Moeahu, New Plymouth District councillor needs to sit up a moment before pointing a finger at Shane Jones, New Zealand Minister of Resources and saying stick to his own region, Northland. If that is the case, Moeahu stay in your own region, New Plymouth, not in South Taranaki’s sea-mining. Looking back less than a decade ago, it was Shane Jones who was the pretty boy when he put his attention to funding for the Pouakai Crossing/Taranaki Crossing Treks including the Manganui Gorge Swing-bridge, the new Pouakai

Lodge rebuild and the rebuild of the North Egmont Visitors Centre complex, which promotes Taranaki Visitors to Taranaki, e.g. your New Plymouth region. Dinnie Moeahu concentrate on issues in your region such as the Egmont Road vehicle carpark and the walkway continuing to Pukeiti Rhododendron Gardens to Surrey Hills Road, Oakura.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth


AWOL standards

Local Water Done Well, on p. 14, sets out the proposal for a joint committee (among other things) to oversee the performance of a new joint venture in water services delivery. Oh dear, metric definitions have not been prepared yet. If I was a director of a company intending to carve off a piece of company to contribute to a joint venture, I would demand to see the metric definitions up-front. I would say, “Why not? Are you too lazy to think it through? You ask me to help with my nod of assent but how will I know down the track whether the thing assented to has become a kaitiaki, a butter-fingers or a mole?” Oh, a joint committee will handle it and Murphy’s Law will keep itself respectably at bay? The credo, eh? “Produce the inventory of hurts, if you can’t conjure the metric definitions up front. I would like to know certain things, if I must lead with suggestions of the performance metrics.” To summarise the way my discourse would probably go, it seems the proposed order of doing things in relation to the new joint venture is slightly indecent. The Treaty of Waitangi is surely not about keeping the iwi leaders in a happy state for there are many ways to spread happiness among the elite. None of the principles the courts have recognised as belonging to the Treaty would be impugned by production of the metric definitions up front. Telling something that is really great from something

that is just a joint committee masterpiece: therein lies problems for the students of the future unless we can, er,

escape.

Russell Christensen
Eltham



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Reprieve for Kaponga Library

Continued from page 1.

“My grandchildren go there every day.”

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (March 22) Arnold Fitzgerald had prepared a survey on the state of the building which said that the leakage had been caused by the removal of a veranda on the northern side of the building during earlier earthquake strengthening work.

“The Council must take ownership of that as they signed it off,” he said.

Like others he spoke about his own connections with

Kaponga.

“Kaponga is not just a little town. It’s a way of life,” he said.

His great grandfather had arrived here in 1890. He says he can recall “watching from the sidewalk” as the Bank of New South Wales, which later became the library was built.

“It’s been on this prime site for 55 years,” he said.

The report outlining the various options being considered had been drawn up by the South Taranaki District Council group manager community services Rob Haveswood

who appeared at the meeting via online video link.

Cr Andy Beccard put it to him that everyone had been saying the problem had been caused by the earthquake strengthening work.

“No one can put their hand on what exactly is causing the problem at the moment,” said Rob.

“If it is, then maybe we should do something about fixing it,” said Cr Beccard.

Cr Mark Bellringer said

there had been little or no leaks in the building before the strengthening work had been carried out.

Rob said the first significant leakage had been reported in July 2024. He said in order to see how much damage had been caused a significant amount of interior lining would have to be taken off.

Cr Racquel Cleaver-Pittams moved that the Council adopt “Option 1” and fix the library.

“I would like to see this solved for the community. That would be really good,” she said. “I probably would not be too worried if it goes over the \$45,000” (the extra budget that the council report said would be required).

Cr Steffy McKay seconded saying that the Kaponga community had given a strong message they wanted the supper room left alone.

Deputy mayor Rob Northcott agreed.

“Any alternative is going to involve demolishing or selling the old library building and that’s likely to cost around \$100,000.”

Mayor Phil Nixon said getting the building fixed up will mean having to shift into the supper room for a time which was what happened when the building was earthquake strengthened.

“We don’t want to go through winter when it’s in a damp condition,” he said.

Seabed mining opponents appear before Council

Local body politicians from New Plymouth to Whanganui, iwi leaders and members of the public were among those at the South Taranaki District Council open forum last week making known their opposition to seabed mining.

Trans-Tasman Resources (TTR) have announced plans to mine 50 million tonnes of seabed a year for 30 years. Their application for their Taranaki VTM project has been accepted as complete, allowing them to move on to the next stage of the Fast-track process.

On May 27 seabed mining



Dinnie Moeahu addresses the South Taranaki District Council.

opponents came to the South Taranaki District Council with a petition opposing their plans.

“This petition has over 3000 signatures with a significant number coming from your district,” Whanganui district councillor Charlotte Melser told the Council. “Your community has rallied from all ends of the political spectrum.”

She said her district of Whanganui will see no benefit from seabed mining and in December last year, the Whanganui District Council had voted unanimously to oppose it.

Chris Fuller said as well as TTR there are other companies wanting to mine ironsand.

“Everyone who lives near the coast has a duty and

obligation to protect our coast,” he said.

Te Korowai o Ngaruahine chief executive Te Aorangi Dillon said they were for development, but not where it exploited their region.

“This is going to affect every single one of us,” she said. “All of our iwi are opposed to the fast-track legislation and we are not wavering in our stance. As you can see, we are not alone. Everyone is against it.”

New Plymouth District councillor Dinnie Moeahu said it seemed like only yesterday that he was in the South Taranaki council chamber about working together to oppose the Treaty Principles bill.

“I’m here not just as an elected member, not just as

a community member but as a husband, a father and a ratepayer to say thank you to the South Taranaki District Council. Your voice has echoed across the nation.”

He referred to an email from the other side which had been doing the rounds saying focus on the facts and the evidence.

“Is that the same evidence that appeared before the Supreme Court?” he said in reference to the court rejecting an appeal from TTR.

Also there was Patea Community Board chair Jacq Dwyer.

“Back in 2017 I spoke at one of the hearings, so it’s been a long road for me,” she said. She was also there speaking on behalf of Taranaki Offshore Wind who she said had been asked if they wanted to go the fast-track way but decided that more work still needed to be done.

“These are the kinds of people we want,” she said. “Fools rush in.”

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon said the Council will receive the petition.

“Our stance hasn’t changed, and we do oppose seabed mining,” he said to applause from the public gallery.

Mayor Nixon said the South Taranaki District Council had applied to be an affected party and are waiting to hear back on this.

“As a Patea resident we hear your voices and will fight all the way,” added deputy mayor Rob Northcott.



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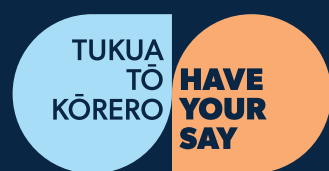
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We’re replacing the current yearly fixed charge with one based on the amount of water a household actually uses. Have a look at the three options we’re considering and tell us what you think.

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NPDC want views on water charging options

The New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) wants residents’ feedback on options for water-charging that will see households paying for the water they actually use.

Consultation on the options runs until 20 June with the Mayor and Councillors having selected them for consultation in May so that mock billing can start in July next year.

The three options are:

- A fixed charge plus a volumetric charge based on how much water is used by the household.
- A fixed charge, plus a volumetric charge when households use more than the 100 litre allocation of water each day. (All water above the allocation would be charged at the volumetric charge.)
- Fully volumetric charging based upon the amount of water used, with no fixed charge.

“There are a lot of elements to this consultation, such as how we look after vulnerable households and properties with shared meters, so we’d really like to get your thoughts on each of the issues,” says NPDC Executive Director CE Office Kathryn Scown.

Residents can have their say on which option of volumetric charging they want for their household’s water use.

“Your feedback will help us make decisions that best suit our community.”

Currently, households connected to the public water supply pay a fixed charge of \$547 per year, regardless of how much water is used.

This fixed charge will be replaced in 2027 with a new charging system based upon how much water a household actually uses. This will encourage water conservation, support vulnerable households and ensure we cover the cost of providing the service.

Before this begins, households will have a year of mock billing to identify and fix any leaks and track their household’s water use.

The consultation includes charging options for properties with shared meters, how leaks and repairs on private property are handled, how NPDC can support more vulnerable households, and potential policy amendments in the future.

In December 2020, as part of the Long-Term Plan 2021-31, the Council resolved to install water meters with a shift to volumetric billing (paying for how much water a household actually uses), with 12 months of mock billing before volumetric charging begins.

By the end of April 2025, NPDC had installed more than 23,200 water meters at residential properties – 82 per cent of the planned total installations.

So far, 180 leaks on private



properties have been fixed after being identified by water meters. This has saved 1.75 million litres of water per day (four per cent of the district’s average use).

NPDC’s four water schemes supply just under 28,000 homes and businesses.

New Plymouth District’s water consumption is 1.5 to 2 times higher than in comparable communities, averaging 690 litres per household connection per day (about 300 litres per person per day).

Mayor to seek another three years

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon has said he will be seeking re-election at this year’s local body election.

“I am very pleased to announce that I have made the decision to again stand for South Taranaki mayor in the October elections,” he says.

“I have really enjoyed my six years as mayor and I would like the opportunity to continue in the position, for the next three years.

“It has been a very busy and rewarding six years, starting with the COVID lockdown four months after I was elected, not how I would have liked it to start.

“We have a wonderful district, I have had great teams around our council



Mayor Phil Nixon.

table, along with a very dedicated, awesome team of staff that work within

council.

“There is more that I would like to see completed but in a leadership position like mayor, the job is never done, as no sooner we complete one project others are continuing or starting.”

Phil Nixon was first elected to the South Taranaki District Council in 2013 representing the Tangahoe Ward.

After the 2016 election he became deputy mayor under Ross Dunlop and was elected mayor in 2019 when Mr Dunlop retired.

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Single vehicle crash near Opunake

Emergency services attended a vehicle accident near Opunake shortly before midday on May 29. A police spokesperson said they received a report of a single vehicle crash on Ihaia Road near Wiremu Road at around 11.45am. The Opunake Fire Brigade and Hato Hone St John also attended. A Hato Hone St John said one first response unit and one ambulance attended, and one patient in a moderate condition was transported by road to Taranaki Base Hospital.

A midday crash on a rainy day.

Pedestrians less likely to survive hits from large cars

Pedestrians and cyclists are about 44% more likely to be killed when hit by an SUV or light truck (e.g. a van or big ute) compared to a passenger car, concludes a new systematic review of 24 studies. That number nearly doubles for children, too - they're 82% more likely to die when being hit by the bigger cars. The researchers say the increasing popularity of SUVs in many countries (including New Zealand and Australia) is concerning given the danger they pose to vulnerable road users. They say their findings lend support to policies that discourage the use of large vehicles, such as higher parking charges.

Injury Prevention

Global warming could increase cancer risk for women

Increased heat from climate change could be increasing the rates of breast, ovarian, uterine, and cervical cancers in the Middle East and North Africa, according to international research. The team looked at cancer rates between 1998 and 2019 in 17 countries, including Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Syria, where temperatures are expected to rise by 4 degrees Celsius by 2050. They found that breast, ovarian, uterine, and cervical cancers became more common and more likely to be fatal with each degree rise in temperature between 1998 and 2019. The researchers call for the urgent integration of climate change resilience into public health plans.

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Services to primary industries and the community honoured

Neil Walker, Deputy Chair in the Taranaki Regional Council has received an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to primary industries and the community in the Kings Honours list.

In his ninth term on the Taranaki Regional Council Neil who lives in Hawera has occupied key roles in dairying, the honey industry and forestry and in a wide range of community issues.

Neil was born in Kaponga, the only child of a farming couple who moved to Manutahi when he was three. He attended Manutahi School and Hawera High School and went on to complete a Bachelor of Science from Victoria University. As a student he got a holiday job at Kiwi Dairies in the laboratory when the factory was being built at the Whareroa site. In 1973 he was offered a fulltime permanent position at the dairy factory and went on to do a Dairy Industry Graduate programme for a year. He subsequently also completed a Bachelor of Business Studies at Massey University while employed in the dairy factory.

In his long career with Kiwi and Fonterra he worked in research and innovation and facilitated over 300 government funded projects with universities in Australasia.

Highlights included winning the Dairy Industry Innovation Award in 1996 for his work on paua food. The prize was 26 days in Europe.

An important role when working for Kiwi and Fonterra included going on an ideas buying trip around Europe which involved visiting universities around Australasia speaking to academics about the dairy industry and exploring new products. This also meant securing finance from the Government “to get the idea off the ground”. The project would inevitably employ PhD students and Neil’s job was to oversee such projects.

Neil has also been a key figure in establishing mānuka honey as a major export, chairing the Primary Group Partnership



Neil Walker in his garden in Hawera.

to develop high-active mānuka plantations and the Apicultural Development Review Board, which consolidated the apiculture industry.

He was New Zealand’s representative at the Food Standards for Australia and New Zealand authority from 2011 to 2017.

There are many community projects in which he has also been involved.

He has been on the Hawera Hospital committee for 30 years dating back to when the hospital was threatened with closure. They still meet regularly four times a year.

He is also a director of the Trinity Resthome and Hospital Development in Hawera who are building 15 houses for residents. Trinity Resthome is a community trust not a commercial rest home. “We’ve got to keep them honest,” says Neil believing that they will be competition for the commercial rest homes where the focus is on their shareholders and making money for their shareholders. There was a lot of spare land in Hawera and there’s old people with

large houses. People need to be protected in their old age he says adding that the units will be a way of living cheaper but there’s no profits being made by the Trust.

He has been a Justice of the Peace since 1991, and has held other key roles in various community, religious and environmental organisations. He has contributed 40 years of service to CCS Disabilities Taranaki, leading the drive to fund the demolition and rebuilding of their premises, and was made a Life Member in 2014. He is a Fellow of both the NZ Institute of Chemistry and the NZ Institute of Food Science and Technology.

In his long involvement with the Taranaki Regional Council many issues have arisen. An example was in 2009 when the question of what to do with remote unusable land arose. Carbon farming was an option and Neil, was one of the first to plant trees on one of his properties. He chose eucalyptus which doesn’t need milling.

Dairy factories polluting rivers is another issue,

how to clean up rivers and Riparian farming are others. Reducing farm effluents going into streams, instead encouraging farmers to put effluent on their land, yet others.

The Resource Management Act which came in in 1991 needs constant amending. He describes it as “an old rutted road that’s been patched up. It’s become completely unworkable especially with the changing governments and the “stop go policy”. The unfunded mandates mean the rates go up which is another frustration.

He refers to the application by Trans Tasman Resources to do deep sea mining which has attracted controversy and is being reviewed. Neil is seeking a tenth term on the Taranaki Regional Council in the 2025 elections.

Clearly surprised and humbled by the honour Neil said he received a letter requesting his acceptance

on May 14. “You don’t do any of this stuff to get recognised,” he insists but admits “It feels very nice to be recognised.” He added sometimes it almost seems like you do a lot of things and people don’t notice.” But that’s not the case.

He recounts an experience some time ago where a woman in Rahotu threw her arms around his neck and kissed him. No, it wasn’t some indiscretion from his past, he jokes. He didn’t recognise the woman and still doesn’t know what he did but it clearly had an impact on the woman’s life.

“You do these things – it’s a big thing for them – they

were very pleased,” he acknowledges.

Multiply that many, many times and you get to get the measure of why Neil Walker has been selected for an honour.

It is perhaps in combination with his public spirit, his potential to see things and his commitment to get things off the ground is where he excels. Neil says he’s always prepared to do something and says, “You’ve got to take risks.” But also have a back plan of “what will you do if it doesn’t work.”

“I like to see things happen,” says Neil simply.

We congratulate Neil for the richly deserved honour.



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Economy starting to recover

Economy starting to recover
Ōpunake has been identified as one of more than 70 rural and remote communities set to benefit from improved access to care. Budget 2025

invests \$164 million over four years to improve urgent and after-hours services across the country. These services include 24/7 on-call, in-person clinical



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support, better access to tests and checks, and more locally available urgent medicines – so people can get the right care closer to home.

Last week, I joined Minister of Health Simeon Brown for a tour of Taranaki Base Hospital's new East

Wing Building where he announced an additional \$59.2 million to ensure completion of stage two of the development. This funding was required to meet cost pressures that have emerged since 2022. Stage two is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025 and opened in stages from April 2026.

Targeted cost of living support is also being delivered. Rates rebates for seniors will increase and be extended to up to 66,000 more SuperGold Card holders. Working for Families payments will increase for 142,000 families, and we're extending prescriptions to 12 months to save time and money at the doctors.

After a tough few years, New Zealand's economy is starting to recover, thanks to National's careful management. Inflation and interest rates are down, wages are growing faster than inflation, and growth is expected to average 2.7%, creating 240,000 new jobs over the next few years.

However, we cannot take that recovery for granted, which is why we've delivered a responsible Budget with careful investments, firmly focused on economic growth.

A key part of that is Investment Boost, which gives tradies, farmers, and other businesses a tax incentive to invest in new tools and equipment to boost

productivity and lift wages. We're also driving growth through investment in new infrastructure such as roads and schools, growing tourism, improving KiwiSaver to lift savings, and supporting tech startups and the film sector.

For more information on Budget 2025, please visit www.budget.govt.nz.

As always, please reach out if you need information or assistance. 06 759 2580 or david.macleodmp@parliament.govt.nz

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

*David MacLeod
MP New Plymouth.*

Senior Opposition Whip role for Glen Bennett

Parliamentarian Glen Bennett was recently made Chief Opposition Whip. "I was shocked," he comments. "It was a humbling privilege to have been nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, Chris Hipkins."

What followed was a caucus vote and from early March of this year he was officially the Chief Whip. "It's a big job and a big responsibility."

With the role comes automatic membership of two select committees, the



GLEN BENNETT MP

Business Committee and the Privileges Committee. Both committees have nine members at present. The latter had quite a lot activity

just recently, "when the haka incident blew up" on the floor of the debating chamber.

Glen certainly finds he is kept busy. "The job is to run the caucus, discipline MPs where necessary, and ensure enough caucus members are in the debating chamber at any time."

The job also comes with various challenges, especially when some MPs who were granted leave had it later revoked when the house sat recently with

urgency (The Budget) over a Friday/Saturday period. "Yes, I've had a few stern conversations," Glen admits. Quite often Glen has to decline requests for leave - every week as it happens.

There is also considerable administrative work to be carried out.

He says it's quite a lot like being a parent where Glen has to deal with such things as financial considerations, travel, and even the well-being of people.

Pedestrians less likely to survive hits from large cars

Pedestrians less likely to survive hits from large cars. Pedestrians and cyclists are about 44% more likely to be killed when hit by an

SUV or light truck (e.g. a van or big ute) compared to a passenger car, concludes a new systematic review of 24 studies. That number nearly

doubles for children, too - they're 82% more likely to die when being hit by the bigger cars. The researchers say the increasing popularity of SUVs in many countries (including New Zealand and Australia) is concerning given the danger they pose

to vulnerable road users. They say their findings lend support to policies that discourage the use of large vehicles, such as higher parking charges.

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Science funding in budget 2025

Amid this year’s science sector reforms, the 2025 Budget includes money for the establishment of three new Public Research Organisations and a gene tech regulator.

Science, Innovation and Technology Minister Dr Shane Reti announced that the Budget was reprioritising existing funding towards “new growth-promoting investments.”

Professor Frédérique Vanholsbeeck, Te Whai Ao — Dodd-Walls Director, University of Auckland, comments:

“This is a flat-line Budget, maintaining reduced expenditure set last year as part of the Government’s reform programme. Taking inflation into account, this is effectively a decrease. Halfway through its term in office, this Government has still not replaced what it cut in 2024, failing to announce any new money for a sector that has been in a constant state of reform for several years.

“Consequently, we are witnessing the slow destruction of the science sector, with a continued lack of investment effectively gutting it of people and infrastructure as researchers leave the country. These decisions will take a long time to recover from – let alone reverse. Much like the broader national infrastructure sector, the science sector needs

bipartisan agreement on long-term plans.

“Dr Dodd-Walls is disappointed not to hear anything further about the Advanced Technology PRO given Advanced Technology is a stated Government focus. The Budget only announced funds to cover the three Public Research Organisations it’s in the process of creating. It has said it intends to form a fourth – ATPRO – by 1 October but there was no specific mention of funding for it.

“The Government can’t afford not to support photonic and quantum technologies research. It is essential for New Zealand’s economic growth, as a driver of our

national security, climate and earthquake resilience as well as a high-performing health sector. It’s estimated that global quantum markets are set to top \$62bn by 2030. On the face of it, following this Budget, New Zealand will struggle to enjoy its rightful share of that.”

Dr Sereana Naepi, Associate Professor Sociology, Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland and Rutherford Discovery Fellow comments: “To be an innovative-driven economy, we need to invest in innovation, which this budget has failed to do. Time and time again, studies have shown that investing in research and innovation returns significant gains to

the economy – if we want to grow the economy, then investment in research and innovation will bring us back at minimum \$2.56 for every dollar we invest. Despite desires to “secure the long-term success” of the science and innovation sector, this budget does little to inspire trust that this will be possible. Instead, cuts to social sciences, humanities and innovation are being used to pay for a bureaucratic exercise of re-shuffling the desk chairs when we could be spending that money on growing our economy through research.

“We could be solving civilisation-scale challenges and developing the researchers who will go on to develop the next long-term HIV prevention medication or stem cell therapies, contribute to quantum computing and AI robotic development or provide solutions to climate driven inequality and persistent and compounding wealth inequality. Instead we will continue with business as usual and hope for a different outcome.”

Illusion of certainty means more Pike rivers likely

The failures that led to one of New Zealand’s worst mining disasters could happen again at any other organisation, warn the authors of a new study. The researchers spotlight the cognitive biases that were present in management of the Pike River coal mine, where 29 men were killed in a methane explosion in 2010.

One of their “potentially disturbing observations” is that health & safety training, auditors, and well-qualified



Illusion of certainty and overconfidence should be guarded against.

staff were not enough to prevent failure – and may also have provided an “illusion of certainty” and overconfidence.

They say it’s reasonable to assume that these types of disasters will keep occurring and perhaps even increase as organisations become more connected and complex.

Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand

Above average temperatures likely this winter

The winter months are likely to see warmer than average temperatures, above normal or near normal rainfall and near normal soil moisture levels and river flows.

That’s the outlook that NIWA has for the Central North Island, Taranaki, Manawatu and Wellington in their Seasonal Climate Outlook for June-August. For New Zealand, higher than normal atmospheric pressure is expected to the east of the country, leading to north-easterly flow anomalies that may shift to a more north-westerly

direction towards the end of the three-month period. Low pressure systems forming north of the country are still expected to affect New Zealand and may lead to heightened risks for heavy rainfall events. Seasonal air temperatures are expected to be above average across all New Zealand regions for this winter season. Thus, while cold snaps and frost will occur, they are expected to be less frequent than usual. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) remain well above average around most of New

Zealand, except in offshore areas east of the North Island. In May, coastal SST anomalies ranged from +0.39°C to +1.47°C. Large regions offshore are currently experiencing Marine Heatwave (MHW) conditions. Global climate models suggest that SSTs in the New Zealand region are likely to stay above average over the next three months, although the intensity of the anomalies may ease. June – August rainfall totals are expected to be above normal for the north of the North Island and

near normal for the east of the South Island. For all remaining regions of the country, rainfall is forecast to be near normal or above normal.

During June – August 2025, near normal soil moisture levels and river flows are expected for all regions of the North Island, while near normal or above normal soil moisture levels and river flows are forecast for the South Island.



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Stratford Knit and Sew’s two milestones

The iconic store, at 202 Broadway, Stratford, is celebrating two milestones. Firstly, the shop has clocked up five years in business, as Stratford Knit and Sew opened its doors in December 2019. Secondly, owner Arnold Cox turns 80 on 2 July, although looks years younger. Despite attaining this milestone, Arnold has no plans to retire, “I love what I am doing. As long as I keep going, that’s the main thing. I like talking to people, and helping them with their problems.”

Stratford Knit and Sew, which is open 10am to 4pm week days (Monday to Friday), and 10am to midday on Saturday, specialises in wool, fabrics, embroidery and haberdashery.

A feature of the shop is the attractive, orderly display of the merchandise, presented in such a way as to make it easy for customers to view products.

Arnold is very approachable and keen to give advice where needed. He also points out that his prices are very competitive. He gives the example of a product (unique buttons), which he sells for just 50% of the price at a shop elsewhere in Taranaki. He did mention the competing business, but, it’s probably best to say “our



Arnold Cox is proud to stock the Mode at Rowan alpaca and wool range.

New stock is constantly arriving, such as his wide range of new buttons, which are attractively displayed.

Quite a lot of Arnold’s stock is sourced from overseas, such as his double knit-hand dyed wool from India. Appealingly presented are his Malabrigo Rios products which hail from Peru. Sirdar products originated in West York back in 1880.

Some products are locally made such as the eye-catchingly colourful hand-made bags created by Debbie, a local woman.

There’s simply too many excellent varieties of merchandise to mention; however, here’s a selection - wooden knitting needles, darning needles, threaders, half metre square mats (Fat Quarter), cross-stitch and embroidery materials – you name it.

Anyway, make sure you visit Stratford Knit and Sew, you’re guaranteed friendly knowledgeable service and high quality products (and accessories) at very competitive prices.

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lips are sealed.”

In these days, where some businesses are choosy as to how you pay, Arnold is amenable to any methods of payment, including eftpos, credit cards or cash, of course.

Arnold has the sole agency for Clover products which produces such items as bamboo knitting needles, quilting and haberdashery. He also has sole agency status for Mode at Rowan which supplies alpaca and

sheep wool products.

In line with sustainability he also stocks such things D.M.C. Eco Vita recycled cotton and wool; available are quality knitting and crochet yarns in a wide range of appealing colours.

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Pihama WI host Pink Ribbon Luncheon

On a bright sunny day, 14 May, the Pihama Women’s Institute welcomed 40 members and visitors to a Pink Ribbon Luncheon.

Diane Campbell very generously opened her home which was decorated in pink, pink and more pink.

We were all seated for a delicious array of soups and buns, with an ample amount of pink drinks as well. This was followed by a couple of games, dessert and coffee.

With all the generous



The ladies are looking forward to tackle the pink drink and the sumptuous food.

support the WI has been able to send \$2,400.00 to the Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer Society. A great effort and a big thank you to all.

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Cherish Respite offers a unique service

Milly Carr, a well-known identity on the Coast, has established a unique business featuring homecare attuned to the needs of her clients. Milly, the director, is a registered nurse with a career of some 20 years duration, including considerable experience in palliative care. Cherish Respite started in June 2021 after Milly saw the need for families looking after their loved ones and not getting any respite. “Carer fatigue is a real thing and if I can reduce some of the burden on families that would be a great thing”. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, “Milly was recommended to us at a very difficult time. We came up with a tailored plan. This gave us the assurance everything was being taken care of.”

Currently, Milly has 20 highly skilled contractors visiting client’s homes to offer initiatives, such as post-operative care and rehabilitation, personal/ hygiene needs, palliative care and even companionship. “A lot of people out there are lonely, many of us are time poor and busy with work, or families live overseas and cannot spend time with their families. It’s reassuring for family members to know that a carer is with their loved one offering support and over time building a



Milly Carr with the painting donated by the grateful family of a client.

rapport with the carer. A lot of families consider their carers to be an extension of their family.” Such activities for the client being taken for a drive, partaking in their hobbies or playing a card game can be beneficial.

At present, her contractors visit ten homes. “The staff are brilliant, every one of them is amazing.”

However, Milly admits that her carer selection process was exacting. “I’m very particular as to who I choose – they have to have certain qualities, such as compassion, good listening and communication skills, the desire to treat clients with dignity, as well as the ability to respect the client’s space: “Of importance is keeping in mind that it is a privilege to be in the client’s home, to be aware of their needs and an understanding of the way

they live their lives.”

The initial assessment process is highly structured and detailed. Milly makes the initial visit after contact by either the client or their family/relatives, which includes carrying out an assessment of the situation. Milly will meet the client and their family.

Next a plan of care is carefully mapped out, closely tailored to the holistic needs of a particular client.

With the initial visit and care plan in mind Milly selects the staff member who will be best suited to care for each client’s needs.

The minimum appointment duration is three hours.

There is considerable variation in the frequency of visits, which can range from three hours a week, up to 24-hour care.

Who is mostly making contact with Cherish Respite? The majority of clients are for palliative care and the elderly, however care requirements are not limited to just this.

Often the adult children of elderly parents are seeking a way of keeping their parents in their home, where they are usually most comfortable, as opposed to needing care elsewhere, such as a hospital ward in a retirement village.

You can make contact with Cherish Respite by phoning Milly on her mobile 027 320 1414 or emailing milly@cherish-respite.com

Other options are the website www.cherishrespite.co.nz

Instagram or facebook are other alternatives. No referrals from other health organisations are required.



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Milly in her garden with a daisy bush.



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Coastal Curiosity

Colonial British Indian Army Ceremonial Swords are among the items of interest that can be seen at Cecilia's on Tasman 89 Tasman Street Opunake.

Until the early part of the 20th century, the cavalry of the Indian Army carried swords closely based on the traditional Indian Tulwar (or Talwar) - a curved sword designed for cutting and slashing. Consequently, the Indian Army was not initially keen to adopt a purely thrusting sword of the pattern adopted in Britain in 1908. As a consequence, a specific India Pattern sword was approved for Indian cavalry use in 1910. It retained the characteristic Tulwar blade but combined it with a western-style hilt. The coming of war in 1914 meant that the Indian 1910 Pattern sword was never put into production. Indian cavalry units continued to employ earlier types of swords, until they were replaced - from 1918 onwards - with a modified version of the



Go treasure hunting at Cecilia's on Tasman 89 Tasman Street Opunake.

1908 Pattern sword. This particular weapon appears to have been made-up by the sword-makers Wilkinson as a representative example of the proposed Indian 1910 Pattern sword. It varies in several respects from the configuration laid down in the official drawings.

History note
This sword, which was introduced in 1910, retained the characteristic curved blade, but combined it with a western-style hilt. This sword was used until 1918, when it was replaced by a version of the British 1908 Pattern sword.

Pouakai Hut progress shows smart thinking

The roof is on, the deck is nearly completed, and two toilets are already available.

Work on the new Pouakai Hut within Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki is well advanced, with the bulk of the structure completed thanks to the clever thinking and hard work of DOC staff working with iwi, hapū and numerous local contractors.

A key aspect of the Taranaki Crossing project, the replacement of the Pouakai Hut is part of wider upgrades across the maunga and national park. The hut has been designed alongside Ngā Mahanga a Tairi to reflect a set of shared values for the site.

The Taranaki Crossing project began in February 2020, and the progress on Pouakai Hut is on target to deliver another key milestone following



The new Pouakai Hut.

numerous track upgrades and development of Manganui Gorge bridge. The project will strengthen connections to the natural and cultural heritage of the maunga, enhance biodiversity and provide opportunities for local people, including iwi, to express their kaitiakitanga of the mountain by sharing their stories.

DOC's Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki Regional Director Tinaka Mearns says the Pouakai Hut is in a sub-alpine environment - with winds of up to 300kmh, ice and snow.

"With so much to consider in the design and build, we've engaged numerous specialists to ensure the hut is fit for purpose, can withstand the extreme weather - and is a warm, dry and welcoming place for visitors."

A number of the building's features have already been completed. Many local firms have been involved, delivering a range of products and services including aluminium joinery, fabricated steel components, scaffolding and electrical work. The building team has been based at the site throughout the build.

Economic Development & Investment Unit (Kānoa) at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

The wider programme of works for the Taranaki Crossing is funded by the Provincial Growth Fund (\$16.5 million), which is administered by Kānoa. Additional funding to support the project has been provided by DOC (\$5.1 million).

The Taranaki Crossing is a partnership between Ngā Iwi o Taranaki, DOC and Kānoa (MBIE), working together to improve partnership with iwi and cultural expression, along with enhancing the economic and tourist potential of the maunga.

The hut is 1190 metres above sea level and four builders have been on-site for six months constructing the hut.

The completed hut will feature: Solar power, with lights triggered by hours of darkness, 36 bunks - 34 of them for visitors, and two for wardens, three different kinds of insulation, some of it up to 27cm thick, installation of a windwall protecting the building and visitors from the intense winds on the maunga, a new toilet block, with two toilets already in use, and several decks to enjoy expansive views.

Up to 38 short-term jobs will be created through work to upgrade tracks, carry out safety work, and rebuild the Pouakai Hut. It's expected there will be approximately 12 jobs directly created in the long-term resulting from the Taranaki Crossing, with additional jobs created in support industries such as hospitality and retail.

"The Taranaki regional economic development strategy Tapuae Roa identified the Taranaki Crossing as a priority project. This will attract more visitors, boost local businesses and create jobs and other opportunities," says Bridget Sullivan, Principal Regional Advisor for Kānoa - Regional

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BUILT BACK BETTER

STADIUM TARANAKI 100% READY AND FINISHED



The vision was ambitious: to create the best regional stadium in New Zealand. The journey to realise that vision began eight years ago and has involved massive repairs to the West Stand to meet earthquake safety standards and the demolition and then construction of a new East Stand. That journey is complete, and the people of Taranaki now have a premier sports venue available for the whole community: Stadium Taranaki.

Piles driven 38 metres into the ground, demolition of a whole stand, a new roof, eco-friendly lighting, a hybrid grass pitch, construction of a new stand – Stadium Taranaki’s redevelopment has been an enormous project from start to finish.

The repairs, upgrades and rebuilding work have all combined into the biggest infrastructure project ever undertaken by Taranaki Regional Council.

As owner of the venue formerly known as Yarrow Stadium through the Taranaki Stadium Trust, it was the Council which has overseen the repairs and rebuilding work, which began in 2019 after the stadium’s East and West stands were found to be earthquake-prone.

Council Chair Craig Williamson says the completed project is a first-class facility and he is delighted with the finished stadium.

“Our mission when we kicked off the redevelopment in 2019 was to build the best regional stadium in the country. We’ve now achieved that with a fantastic facility that the people of Taranaki can be rightly proud of,” says Mr Williamson.

“We’re delighted to have created a multi-purpose facility capable of hosting local, regional and international sport and entertainment events and a venue that can be used by the whole community.”

For the West Stand work, the seats and bleachers (tiers which the seats sit on) were removed, stabilisation piles driven 38m in the south end and 12m towards the north end and then to future-proof the stand, a new roof has been added. The repaired stand reopened on 3 September 2022.

While this work was taking place, the Main Field was made fit for purpose. This pitch previously experienced drainage problems and needed overhauling to enable it to be used as much as possible for different sports and events.

We’ve now installed the hybrid GrassMaster turf – the same turf that’s used on premier sports grounds around the globe. This is artificial fibres with grass grown through it and is more resilient, giving it shorter recovery times between games.

The lighting has also been upgraded with new LED lights which not only provide 50% more illumination but are more energy efficient, reducing power usage by 30%.

Plan B was needed when work started on the East Stand. The original plan had been to repair the building but the ground conditions were found to be unsuitable for a viable repair, so the stand had to be demolished and a new stand built in its place.

Once the stand was demolished (back in November 2021), Taranaki firm Clelands Construction (which also did the West Stand repairs) started foundation work with steel piles put in as deep as 30m while hundreds of cubic metres of concrete was used as well.

The stand is double sided so fans can watch two pitches at once, has fantastic changing rooms and hospitality facilities and has flexible and scalable seating to cater for events and fixtures at all levels, including major international sporting events.

To mark the completion, we held an Extravaganza on 4 May where around 2,000 people came along to enjoy games and sport on the Main Field and a look around the East Stand with those attending giving the project a huge ‘thumbs up’.

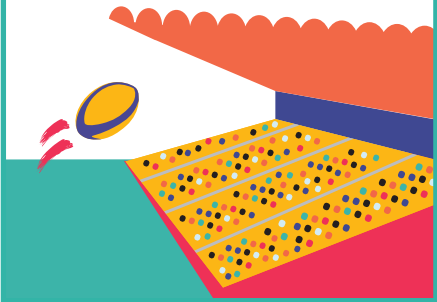
Now the stadium is ready for the whole community to use and enjoy.

“Stadium Taranaki is an iconic venue which has seen so many great matches and events that live long in the memory like All Blacks games. We’re now ready to make new memories with the venue 100% open for big games, community events and entertainment,” adds Mr Williamson.

YOUR HOUSE OUR SHOUT!

Come along and check out the new-look stadium and see the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls for free on 11 June.

It’s your house and our shout – head to taranakirc.nz/stadium-tickets to get your ticket to see the Ranfurly Shield defence against the King Country Rams.



YOUR COUNCILLORS

New Plymouth Constituency Tom Cloke: tom.doke@trc.govt.nz - Susan Hughes: susan.hughes@trc.govt.nz - David Lean: david.lean@trc.govt.nz
Craig Williamson (Chair): craig.williamson@trc.govt.nz

North Taranaki Constituency Mike Davey: mike.davey@trc.govt.nz - Donald McIntyre: donald.mcintyre@trc.govt.nz

Stratford Constituency Alan Jamieson: alan.jamieson@trc.govt.nz

South Taranaki Constituency Donna Cram: donna.cram@trc.govt.nz - Neil Walker (Deputy Chair): neil.walker@trc.govt.nz

Taranaki Māori Constituency Bonita Bigham: bonita.bigham@trc.govt.nz

Taranaki Diocesan School win Showquest regional final

With a focus on influential New Zealand women, Stratford's Taranaki Diocesan School won the open Showquest title at the Regent Theatre, in Palmerston North. The performing arts competition was held on Monday 26 May and featured students from Year 9 to 13 – about 45 young Diocesan women in all. They won the supreme title from a field of ten schools hailing from the Manawatu area and elsewhere. The school last entered back in 2021 when they came second, so this was certainly one better.

Practicing for the competition was started back in December 2024 under the guidance of Kariann Treanor and Kijiana Pene, the teachers in charge. This included a think tank and auditions, as well as choosing a leadership team. A senior student Georgie Vickers was ecstatic: "I just couldn't believe it. I was just so proud of the girls, that a little school like ours could accomplish so much."



Several of the students (of 45) who won Showquest are, from left (back) are: Georgie Vickers, Ava Taylor (holding the trophy), Sinead Johnson (holding the first place certificate) and teacher Kariann Treanor. In the front are, from left: Bryda Barr, Elizabeth Maindonald, Samara Dorn and Jazzy Kimi.

Ava Taylor, another senior commented: "The girls worked so hard. It was really cool that their dedication and practices paid off." Integral elements as art, music, dance, drama, culture and technology all blended in harmony to ensure their

performance caught the eye of the Senior judge Emma Katene.

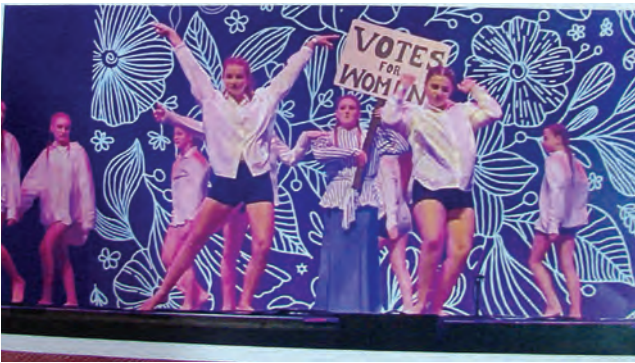
With Kate Sheppard (women's suffragist in Aotearoa), an obvious one they also mentioned Dame Whina Cooper (Land March) and parliamentarian Hana Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke for her bold (if controversial) haka (with others) in Parliament recently.

The students had particular aspects to work on, during the many weeks of preparation, to ensure the performance was excellent in all respects. For example,

Samara Dorn was in charge of the lighting and Bryda Barr the technology which she admitted was, 'Very complicated.'

Apart from the overall award they also won the subsection for Best Story (Best theme of the competition) and Excellence in Dance, as well as certificates of Recognition for Culture, Technology and Music.

Next up is the National final and we wish Taranaki Diocesan School all the very best. Congratulations for your outstanding result



Votes for women features in this moment of the performance.



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Date: June 21st 2025 Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm

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Gold Coin Entry

Donations to Hawera Food Bank

Non Perishable Food items Accepted

Tuia Taitonga ki Tai

Southlink Coastal

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



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

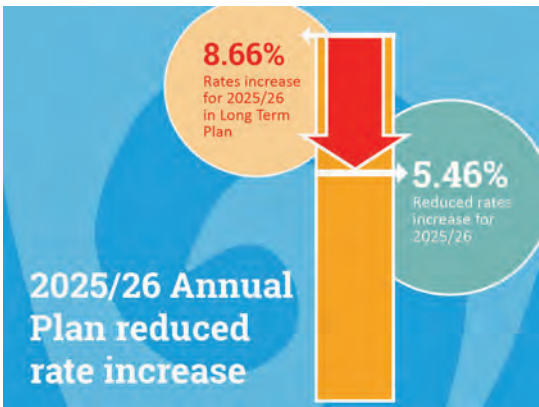
Council finds \$1m savings to reduce rate increase

South Taranaki District councillors adopted the 2025/26 Annual Plan implementing a range of cost cutting measures totalling almost \$1 million to reduce the average rate increase from 8.66% to 5.4%, at the Council meeting held on 26 May.

Rates had been projected to increase by 8.66% according to year two of the Council’s Long-Term Plan (LTP). However, to minimise the impact on ratepayers, councillors asked officers to find ways of getting it under 6%.

Cost saving measures included cutting some community funding, reducing roading and district plan reserves, re-allocating some budgets and removing budgets where government policy has changed.

However, a proposal to increase log fire fees by 20% was rejected by Councillors, who decided to keep the fee the same as it was previously.



South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon says the savings were practical and realistic.

“As a Council we have always been conscious about keeping costs down. It’s our responsibility to be as prudent and careful as we possibly can be with every ratepayer dollar we spend,” says Nixon.

“I believe we now have a better balance between providing the funding needed to maintain our current services and infrastructure to a good standard while keeping rates more affordable for our community. We will continue to prioritise and focus on the areas where our community have told us they want to see improvements such as better roads, our towns’ amenities looking good and an improved dog control service. However, affordability is a big issue for many in our community and now is not the time to be burdening our ratepayers with high rate increases,” he says.

Kaponga LibraryPlus to be Repaired following Strong Community Support

At the Council meeting held on 26 May, Councillors unanimously agreed to repair the existing Kaponga LibraryPlus building, following strong feedback from local residents.

The building has suffered significant water damage from leaks 18 months ago, creating health and safety concerns.

Council’s Community Services Group Manager, Rob Haveswood, said the damage made repairs essential to ensure the space remains safe and usable.

In March, the Council asked the Kaponga community where they would prefer LibraryPlus services to be located in the future.

Two options were presented: repairing the current building or relocating services to the Supper Room of the Kaponga War Memorial Hall. Council received 83 feedback forms, and 35 residents attended a public meeting.



Most of those who gave us feedback opposed the relocation, raising concerns about losing the Supper Room for community use and the risk of leaving another building vacant in town. Others suggested alternatives such as demolishing and rebuilding a new facility, expanding the current site, or moving services to the old Kaponga Plunket building which were then presented to the Council at Monday’s meeting.

Mayor Phil Nixon acknowledged the community’s strong voice and said the decision reflected the Council’s commitment to listening to its communities and investing in facilities that meet local needs. “It will be great to see if we can make this happen in the space they have asked for,” he said.

The Council will now proceed with repairs to address weather tightness issues. The total cost is estimated at \$147,000.

Judges, free writing workshops announced

The judges for the Lysaght Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards 2025 have been announced.

The judges for this year are Tania Roxborough (Short Story), Melinda Szymanik (Poetry) and Matt Rilkoff (True Story).

“We are very excited to welcome these three prestigious judges to South Taranaki’s premiere literary competition this year,” says South Taranaki District Council Senior Community Outreach Librarian Katherine Bosworth.

The competition opens on Wednesday 11 June with the secondary school workshops. As always, open writing and poetry workshops held by the judges are free to the public.

“We’re excited to hold both open workshops at the brand new LibraryPlus building in Hāwera, Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga. We hope this gives people an opportunity to see the new space and have a look around during breaks as well as enjoy the first year of the Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards in the new facility.”

REGISTER NOW FOR THE FREE SHORT STORY AND POETRY WORKSHOPS

Both open workshops will be held on Saturday 14 June at Hāwera LibraryPlus | Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga in Hāwera and are free to attend.

- Short story workshop with Tania Roxborough at 9am – 12noon
- Poetry workshop with Melinda Szymanik at 12.45pm – 3.45pm

We are now taking bookings for the open workshops. Please contact your local LibraryPlus, email entries@stdc.govt.nz or phone 0800 111 323 to secure your space.

Upcoming meetings (June - August)

Taranaki Coastal Community Board

Wednesday 11 June, 2.30pm

Ōpunakē Town Hall, Domett Street, Ōpunakē

Extraordinary Council

To hear submissions for Local Water Done Well

Monday 16 June, 9am

Policy and Strategy Committee

Monday 16 June, 1pm

Extraordinary Council

To hear submissions for Local Water Done Well (continued)

Monday 16 June, 3pm

Ordinary Council

Monday 7 July, 4pm

Extraordinary Council

To adopt option for Water Services Delivery Plan

Monday 21 July, 1pm

Taranaki Coastal Community Board

Wednesday 23 July 2025 at 2.30pm


Pihama Hall, 3271 Surf Highway, Pihama

Policy and Strategy Committee

Monday 28 July, 1pm

Ordinary Council

Monday 18 August, 4pm



Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.

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Opunakē High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Opunakē

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PO Box 4, Opunakē 4645
www.opunake.school.nz
admin@opunake.school.nz

GROWING GOOD PEOPLE FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD | HE WAIHANGATANGA O TE TANGATA PAI I ROTO I TÉNEI AO HURIHURI

Principals' Address

Hauhake tū, ka tō Matariki
the harvest ends when Matariki sets

The warm winter is upon us. Our students find themselves championing the rugby pitch, soccer field, netball, basketball and volleyball courts, showing true grit in adventure racing, and in each case representing our kura with mana and determination.

Yet, let's not forget about our young performing artists who exploded onto the stage at Show Quest in Palmerston North, leaving with an Arts and Drama award, and Best Teacher!

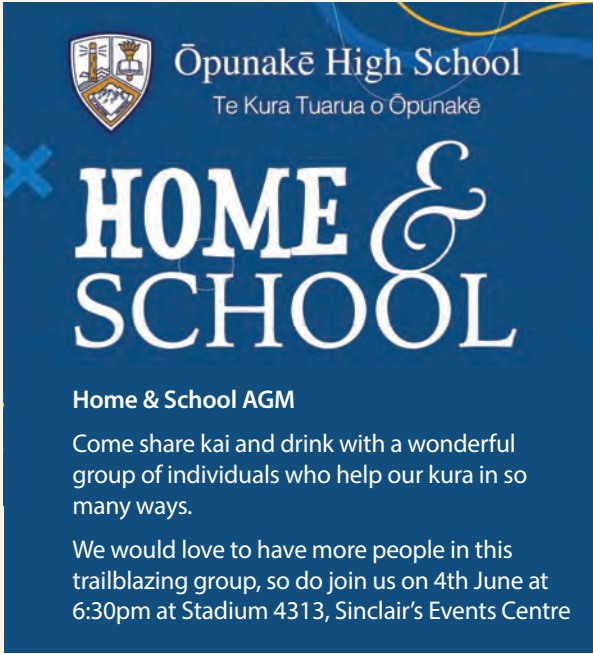
It was also wonderful to see our senior students walking the red (well blue) carpet in all their finery for their annual ball: Saturday Night Fever. Always makes your heart soar seeing the growth our tamariki make during their time at school, and what beautiful young adults into which they develop.

We were very proud of our year 10 and 11 students who sat the Literacy and Numeracy tests this year, and are looking forward to hearing the results. We trust our global approach to teaching literacy at junior school involving booster groups and the platform Writer's Toolbox, will continue to reap rewards for our ākonga. We also would like to acknowledge the financial support from the Lions Club to help our students with their literacy and numeracy. It was touching to receive such a generous koha out of the blue.

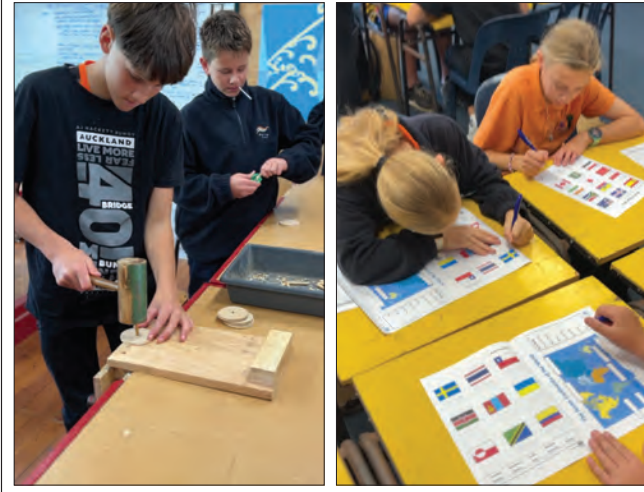
Looking forward to seeing you all bright and early at our Matariki celebration (see below). It would be heartwarming and hand warming (there will be a fire pit), to spend this special dawn in the company of our community. So do come and share some coffee, kai and korero as we welcome in a new dawn together.

Puanga kai rau
the abundant harvest of Puanga

Ngā mihi
Andrea Hooper Carr
Principal



ENROLMENT for 2025 | OPEN NOW
visit opunake.school.kiwi/enrolment



OPEN DAYS

Just as we're hitting our stride in 2025, Opunakē High School threw open the doors to welcome around 90 curious and energetic Year 8 students — along with their teachers and whānau — for our exciting 2026 Open Day!

When we asked, "What do you want to know about starting high school?" the top answer was no surprise: "How do I read my timetable and know where to go?" So, we gave them exactly what they needed — A Day in the Life at Opunakē High.

The day kicked off with a warm welcome iwi for our manuhiri into the heart of our kura. From there, students split into mixed-school groups and followed a mock timetable, learning how to move between classes when the bell rang — just like the real deal. Along the way, over 25 of our incredible student leaders were on hand to guide, answer questions, and share their insider tips.

By the end of the day, the vibe was clear: our future Year 9s are looking confident, comfortable, and excited about stepping into high school life in 2026.

Opunakē High School is more than a school — it's where you come to realise your DREAMS.

Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu
Adorn the bird with feathers so it may soar



SHOWQUEST

Opunake High School is making waves in the Aotearoa arts scene by entering Showquest for the first time in 2025. Showquest, launched in 2018, is a nationwide performing arts competition that fuses dance, drama, and technology, offering ākonga a platform to express their creativity. Its best feature yet, the inclusion of live music and singing.

Showquest became a short term Elective at Opunake High School this year, where 22 students from all Year levels participated from Week 4 in Term 1. Every Monday while rehearsals were underway in the Hall, students were challenged to delve deep into their artistic passions, with opportunities to choreograph routines, direct scenes, develop dialogue and assist with props, costume development, and lighting design. Participation in Showquest aligns with the school's commitment to holistic education where the arts become a vital part of each child's personal growth by developing their confidence, resilience, and gain a deeper connection to their cultural heritage.

This year's piece was targeting the difference between financial and mental wealth. In a world where people have access to the finer things in life despite their lack of integrity, character and nobility, students felt passionate about raising awareness that we should not be admiring people based on money possession. The performance included acting, dancing and live singing. All students spent a long day in Palmerston North on 26th May, and their wairua shone throughout the entire day. They were all left inspired and motivated to continue entering the competition each year, while raising the bar for themselves now that they witnessed first hand what a big production and organisation Showquest is.

The school may have only walked away with a recognition in Drama and Arts, and a Best Teacher award to Ms Papageorgiou, TIC of Showquest and HOD English at Opunake High School, but as the school has now stepped into the spotlight, the entire community eagerly anticipates the stories and performances that will emerge, reflecting the unique voices and visions of its students in the future. And who knows, a big national win can be on the horizon!



Kathy is honoured for her work with Lions

Freelance writer Kathryn Stanley’s public-spirited contribution over many years to the coastal community, has recently been acknowledged by a Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust award specifying honoured recognition. The award, dated 20 February, was a complete surprise to Kathy who has been a Lions member for over 30 years. “I am absolutely blown away,” she shared. “I was wrapt, it was most unexpected.”

Originally, Kathy joined Opunake Lionesses in 1990, as it was then, catering for women members. However, about 30 years ago the women members established Opunake Lakeside Lions. Kathy moved onto Opunake Lions Club, which numbers 60 members of men and women.

President Shane Ardern comments, “Kathy is a wonderful member of Lions and shows enormous initiative in ideas for Lion’s fundraising. The Pink Ribbon cancer fundraising she has been involved in for many years has raised thousands of dollars over the years. She will say she doesn’t do it on her own I’m sure, but she is the one who motivates people to compete

and enter things. The award given her is the Opunake Lions saying thank you very much for all your dedication and hard work for an organisation which is the biggest voluntary organisation in New Zealand and the world.”

Lions Clubs International, which was founded by Melvin Jones, has its head office in Oak Brook, Illinois, the United States. Currently, there are 1.4 million members world-wide, with clubs based in about 200 geographical locations. We are serving a world in need. One act of kindness at a time.

Kathy is an outstanding member of the community with many credits to her name. A qualified journalist she has worked for a London magazine and a major Auckland newspaper. She has written two books (fiction and non-fiction) including, most recently, Three Times Lucky in love (Austin Macauley Publishers, London, 2020). She has also written for the Opunake and Coastal News, a community newspaper she founded in 1990. She was the inaugural editor.

There have been many



Kathryn Stanley with her Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust award.

highlights during Kathy’s years of participation in service projects to help those in need, such as financial assistance for food banks.

One that stands out for Kathy, a gardening enthusiast, involved the well-known Sanderson Garden (many times Taranaki

Garden Festival entrant) of John and Elaine Sanderson at 1961 South Road, Manaia, who made their Potting Shed available to sell goods as a Lions fundraiser. This includes such items as home-made soaps, aprons, ornate baskets, potted plants, paintings (including works

by the talented Rachal Norgate) and one Kathy has especially been active in preparing - succulents in attractive containers. The complimentary coffee and teas, provided by Elaine and John, were also appreciated by patrons.

Important Lion’s initiatives have been the Pink Ribbon fundraising lunches, with the on-going need to fight breast cancer so vital in our nation. The battle against prostate cancer has also received much-needed financial support by Lions fund-raising initiatives.

The Walk for Life and Relay was a closely related fundraiser Kathy was closely involved with.

More personal highlights for Kathy include watching fellow members growing up in the Lions family and flourishing, as well as friendships: “I was new to Opunake and I made a lot of friends, including my beloved husband Ron, a farmer.”

The award, by the way, was named in honour of the late Lloyd Morgan, as Patron when the honour was set up in 1980. His distinguished 40 years in Lions started when he joined the organisation in 1960. Described as a “great humanitarian,” Lloyd is the only New Zealander to have been appointed as the International president. Lloyd died in Tauranga in 2001 aged 83.

Congratulations Kathy on your richly deserved award.

Do you have any of these symptoms?

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



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

Bristol Stool Chart

Type 1		Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
Type 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on the surface
Type 4		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7		Watery, no solid pieces. Entirely Liquid

Your Guide to healthy bowels

- 1 - indicates constipation. We recommend an increase in fibre, hydration and magnesium.**
- 3 - indicates ideal stools which are easier to pass.**
- 5 - shows loose stools. Indicative of an irritated gastrointestinal tract. We recommend digestive enzymes, an increase in fibre and avoiding wheat.**

New crop of PINZ Award finalists named

A Southlander who created edible bale netting and rural heroes who made their mark advocating for pragmatic regulation and supporting stressed-out farmers feature among PINZ 2025 finalists. The seventh annual Primary Industries NZ Awards are a highlight of the two-day PINZ Summit taking place at Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre 24 and 25 June.

“With tariff tit-for-tat sparking disruption and uncertainty in export markets, more than ever New



Ian Jury of Taranaki is one of the three PINZ Rural Hero finalists. Photo Stuff

Zealand needs the primary sector to be innovative and enterprising,” Federated Farmers Chief Executive Terry Copeland says.

“The PINZ Awards celebrate our primary industry movers and shakers - the science and food production teams delivering a market edge for our exported goods, the leaders who go the extra mile.

“Their efforts inspire others and lift the employment prospects and standard of living for fellow Kiwis,” Copeland says.

Rural Hero finalists are (the late) Chris Allen, Neil Bateup and Ian Jury.

Allen, who died in an accident on his Ashburton farm last December, gave 14 years’ service as an elected Federated Farmers leader, including eight years on the national board.

A champion of rural causes, he steered a pragmatic and balanced approach on environment and water issues, earning respect not just from farmers but from those with opposing views.

Neil Bateup helped set up the Waikato Hauraki

Coromandel Rural Support Trust in 2004 and in 2017 became founding chair of the NZ RST. He’s given countless hours supporting farmers and rural families facing hard times.

The third Rural Hero finalist is Ian Jury, an 85-year-old who for 20 years has been raising money for the Taranaki rescue helicopter by collecting batteries for recycling.

Four young women selected as Emerging Leader Award finalists illustrate the depth of talent being fostered in our primary industries.

Bridie Virbickas succeeded in her bid for one of the hotly-contested DairyNZ Associate director roles and followed that by joining waste recycling enterprise AgRecovery as a foundation trustee.

A contract milker who has overseen expansion of her employing farm from 270 to 850 cows, she put up her hand to be Federated Farmers Bay of Plenty sharefarmer chair to ensure a voice for the district’s young farmers is at the decision-making table.

The role has seen her help out in a number of cases where the relationship between a sharefarmer and farm owner had broken down.

Imogen Brankin has only been with Silver Fern Farms for three years but the On-Farm Sustainability Advisor has organised 60 ‘Know Your Number’ climate change workshops.

She was winner of the 2022 Polson Higgs and Young Farmers Innovation Competition, speaking on the topic “Can Farming Deliver a Sustainable Future for New Zealand”, and was part of a team of five who competed in the 2023 IFAMA Global Case Study Competition.

Newly appointed Onions NZ general manager Kazi Talaska has served on the Food and Fibre Youth Council, latterly as chair, and champions the Vegetable Industry Centre of Excellence to support the vegetable industry research pipeline.

Talaska worked with industry partners and growers to obtain \$2 million in funding to set up a first-of-its-kind vegetable research farm, in Pukekohe.

The fourth Emerging Leader Award finalist is agricultural sustainability coach Lucy Brown. Through her work with the MPI-funded Integrated Farm Planning project, and in other roles, she’s found ways to show farmers sustainability is not just a theoretical concept but something that is practical and achievable.

Molesworth Station manager James (Jim) Ward is up against senior AgResearch scientists Dr Robyn Dynes and David Wheeler for the Champion Award.

For nearly two decades, Ward has been a force on the Federated Farmers High Country committee and the Wilding Pine Network NZ, where he has tirelessly advocated for change, shaped policies, and driven meaningful improvements for New Zealand high country farmers.

Starting off as farm manager at Molesworth in 2001, Ward has faced and overcome countless challenges to ensure the station remains economically viable through a blend of pastoral farming, conservation, and recreation values - all under the microscope of the public eye.

Wheeler has worked hard to bridge the gap between environmental stewardship and agricultural productivity, shaping and improving the farm management tool Overseer.

Dynes, a Principal Scientist and Farmer Engagement Specialist in AgResearch, has had a highly regarded science career focused on farming systems at the interface between forage science and animal science.

Southland farmer Grant Lightfoot is a finalist for the Food, Beverage and Fibre Producer Award after creating edible and biodegradable bale netting made from jute. It’s an environment-friendly alternative to plastic netting, which isn’t recyclable and is often ingested by livestock.

The two other contenders in this category are Chia Sisters, who produce a gut health-supporting drink from a golden kiwifruit probiotic, kawakawa and hail-damaged cherries, and New Image International, which exports health and beauty products to millions of people around the world.

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New speaker series to share expert insights on today’s most relevant topics at Fieldays

Fieldays Tent Talks, in association with the University of Waikato will make its debut at the event this month, running 11-14 June at Mystery Creek. The line-up of think tanks features a group of experts and industry speakers aimed at providing a platform for education and conversation. The talks are free for visitors and are 20 and 40 minutes, timetabled each day. Located on site D79, sessions will be held in a 120-seat marquee. “Education is one of Fieldays’ strategic pillars, and this new feature provides an excellent platform for our visitors to come and learn in a relaxed environment and takeaway practical knowledge,” says Karina Missen, Event Producer at Fieldays. The talks will set the stage



A stimulating range of speakers are on offer this year.

for continued conversations and offer a range of thought-provoking topics, including agritech adoption, predator control on farms, sustainable food production, tiny home legislation, farm employment issues and more. Keynote speakers include Norris Ward McKinnon Partner Robert Davies, AgriTech NZ CEO Brendan O’Connell and Cam Speedy, a freelance Wildlife Biologist and director of Wildlife Management Associates. Other speakers include

researchers and exhibitors from the University of Waikato, Gallagher Animal Management, NZ Tiny House Association, KPMG, One NZ, and more. For those in the rural sector, particularly farming, is ‘Succession for Farmers’, presented by Norris Ward McKinnon. As specialist trust and succession lawyers, this will address how to plan and structure your farming business effectively, along with practical tips on what to put in place today so you can protect and provide a future for your business and your family. Staying true to Fieldays’ ‘Mullet Strategy’—business at the front, party at the back—Friday features a session tailored for urban dwellers: New Granny Flat Legislation. It’s a chance to

ask questions and get all the essential information needed to build a granny flat on your property. Then on Super Saturday, it’s Tiny House on Wheels Legislation—perfect for those dreaming of going tiny, but on wheels! These sessions are designed to support everyone from farmers and growers to entrepreneurs, industry professionals, and keen enthusiasts. “There’s something for everyone and the wide range of topics will help you stay ahead of the game, with insights into new technologies, trends, and practical info you can use,” says Missen. Fieldays Tent Talks is the newest addition to the suite of Fieldays features that are key focus areas for visitors to explore during Fieldays.

Showcasing next wave of innovation

The Fieldays Innovation Awards once again promises to showcase the future of agricultural technology and advancement. This year’s competition has attracted a diverse and impressive array of innovations from across the primary industries, highlighting the growing importance of technology shaping the future of farming. 63 applications have met the entrant criteria and been invited to participate in the Innovation Awards. These participants will showcase automation, robotics, and AI innovations alongside practical on-farm efficiency-increasing devices and ‘problem-solvers’ at the event. “What stands out this year is the breadth of areas the entries come from. Innovation is thriving as groundbreaking ideas redefine sustainability, automation, and efficiency,” says Fieldays Programme Manager Steve Chappell. “From eco-friendly materials that transform waste into valuable resources to AI-powered tools optimising livestock management, precision monitoring, and crop growth, each development embodies the future of smart, sustainable progress.” There are 23 participants

in the Prototype category, 32 in Early-Stage, and eight in the Growth & Scale. Five participants are also in the running for the Young Innovator of the Year award

Continued page 21.



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Our NEW Service Manager:

Kieren Harrison



Kieren started working for Fieldtorque in 2014 and completed his apprenticeship, a few years back he left to go and work on the farm with his wife Ella, while still contracting to us – so never really left. He is now our **Service Manager** – if you need your tractor fixed or serviced, Kieren is the man to call!!

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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. For any hose repairs, fittings or hydraulic issues, Nic is the man to call!!

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Meet the Need and Case IH partner to feed Kiwi Families in Need

As food prices continue to rise and food insecurity affects more New Zealanders than ever, Meet the Need is proud to announce their partnership with leading agricultural brand Case IH, to help ensure no Kiwi goes hungry.

Through this collaboration, \$50 from the sale of every new Case IH tractor in New Zealand will be donated to

Meet the Need - supporting the delivery of nutritious, protein-rich meals to families through foodbanks and community organisations across the motu.

Founded by farmers, Meet the Need offers a practical, grassroots solution to food insecurity, enabling farmers to donate livestock, milk, or funds to provide quality protein to over 130





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Meet the Need general manager Zellara Holden and friends from Case IH.

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foodbanks and community groups nationwide. Since launching in 2020, the charity has already provided over 2.3 million meals, but demand continues to grow.

Meet the Need General Manager, Zellara Holden, says this partnership couldn't come at a more important time.

"Right now, food insecurity is rising fast - and for many whānau, meat and dairy are luxuries they simply can't afford," Zellara said.

"We're proud to partner with Case IH, who share our belief that everyone deserves access to nutritious

food. Their support helps us deliver real meals to real families - and we're calling on the rural sector to get behind us."

"We know Kiwi farmers are generous. Every animal, every litre of milk, every dollar - makes a difference."

Aaron Bett, Business Director - Agriculture ANZ at Case IH, said

the partnership reflects the brand's ongoing commitment to the rural sector and to practical, community-driven action.

"Farmers are already doing so much to support their communities," Aaron said. "Partnering with Meet the Need is another way we can amplify that generosity—and help deliver food security for

more New Zealanders."

As part of the partnership, the Case IH team will also continue to raise awareness and fundraise to support Meet the Need's mission to feed hope, one meal at a time.

To get involved or learn more, visit www.meettheneed.org.nz

Genetic clocks boost immunity in daytime

The most abundant immune cells in our bodies are more active during the daytime, according to a study in zebrafish by New

Zealand researchers. The authors say their findings could help scientists develop drugs that target cellular clockwork to boost

immune activity and better manage bacterial infections.

Science Immunology

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SOS call: Save Our Sheep

From the golden age of wool to lamb roasts at Sunday dinner, sheep farming has sat at the heart of our national identity for generations.

We used to proudly say New Zealand was built off the sheep’s back-but today our sheep farmers are sitting at a crossroads, unsure which way to turn.

Our sector is in crisis - and we can no longer face it alone.

Sheep are quickly becoming an endangered species in New Zealand. Their main predators? Pines, pigs, and poor Government policy.

To paint a picture for you: I’m only 44, and in my lifetime alone we’ve already lost over two-thirds of our national flock.

That’s not just a scary statistic-it’s a warning sign that our policy settings are badly broken and that something is very wrong.

Since 2007, when the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) was first introduced, our national flock has shrunk by 40%. We’re now losing almost a million sheep every year.

If that trajectory continues, within the next two decades there’ll be no sheep left in New Zealand. Is that really the future we want for our country?

As sheep numbers continue to decline, huge pressure is being put on the critical infrastructure that supports our red meat sector, like meatworks,



Toby Williams at home on the farm.

shearers and stock trucks.

Without sufficient livestock, our meat processors - already operating on tight margins - will struggle to justify the continued investment required to continue operating.

The economics simply don’t work. Alliance’s Smithfield meatworks in Timaru has already closed its doors, and that’s not a one-off: it’s a symptom of the times.

This is not the situation our farmers should be facing,

but even with strong prices for red meat, farmers are still exiting the industry. Their confidence has evaporated.

When farmers aren’t investing despite good returns, it means they’re looking at the broader policy picture-and they don’t like what they see.

So, what does a sheep farmer see when they look out their window? Right now, it’s nothing but pine trees, pests, and politicians breaking promises.

New Zealand’s climate policy is creating huge

uncertainty, and the endless push to plant pine trees risks forever changing the face of our rural communities.

Between 2017 and 2024 alone, 260,000 hectares of sheep and beef land were converted to pine-not because forestry is a better use of that land, but because of our flawed ETS settings.

This is short-sighted, dangerous policy. We’re sacrificing food production, rural jobs, and community resilience at the altar of carbon accounting.

Sheep farmers are not

climate deniers. We’ve always been environmental stewards, understand the land better than most, and want to leave it in better shape for the next generation.

But regulation must be grounded in practical reality, not ideology. Blanket environmental rules that fail to consider the nuances of hill country farming are doing more harm than good.

The great irony in all of this is New Zealand sheep farmers are among the most efficient and sustainable producers of red meat in the

world.

Our carbon footprint per kilogram of lamb is lower than virtually any other nation, and our wool is a renewable and biodegradable alternative to synthetic fibres and plastics.

So why are our sheep-farming families being punished, rather than rewarded, for the work we do behind our farm gate? The answer is simple: politics.

Unfortunately, the electoral math is not in our favour. Politicians will always chase the votes of big population centres like Auckland and Wellington over small rural communities.

There also seems to be an attitude in the halls of power that the farming vote can be taken for granted, but those who hold that view should tread carefully.

So, what’s the solution? I think New Zealanders need to ask themselves a simple question: do we still value our sheep industry? Because if we do, we need to act-and fast.

It’s time to start valuing food production and put an end to the broken climate policies that are turning productive farmland into pine plantations and pest havens.

Farmers are sounding the alarm. This is our SOS. Please save our sheep-before it’s too late.

Toby Williams.
Federated Farmers meat & wool chair

Showcasing next wave of innovation

Continued from page 19.

for participants 19 years old and under.

Entries include autonomous systems like Gallagher Animal Management’s precision beef management platform and MAKI’s water-monitoring drone, alongside methane-reduction technologies such as Ruminant Biotech’s Emitless bolus and Agricultural

Sciences Ltd.’s Agriboost. Innovations turning waste into value are also front and centre, with KiwiLeather Innovations creating vegan leather from kiwifruit waste and Tertiary Extracts Otautahi Ltd producing a protein ingredient from sheepskin offcuts.

Meanwhile, scalable agritech solutions such as Carbon Robotics’

LaserWeeder G2 and CropX’s Evato 1 are pushing the boundaries of data-driven farming.

“Next-generation diagnostics, robotics, and health technologies are streamlining operations, while revolutionary solutions tackle methane reduction, weed control, and soil enhancement,” adds Chappell. “These pioneering

advancements are shaping the way we work, build, and protect our environment.”

Awards participants will display their entries at

Fieldays in the Fieldays Innovation Hub or on their own site around the event and on the Fieldays Innovation Trail.

The popular People’s Choice Award will return, allowing visitors to vote for their favourite innovation.



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from out of the blue studio gallery - a unique artistic experience

Visiting Viv Davy’s from out of the blue studio gallery at 18 Halse Place, Opunake was a rewarding experience, both inside the studio and viewing the sustainability activities reflected by the environmentally positive one acre section, which it is plastic free, pesticide free, herbicide free and totally organic. Composting is important and even her gaggle of ducks are involved with their soiled hay from their run becoming nutrients for the trees, shrubs and plants growing on the property.

Viv focuses on textiles and fibre art to the exclusion of other art mediums. The Gallery is open Thursday to Monday 1pm to 5pm, although Viv is happy to include visits by appointment. “It is the only fibre gallery in New Zealand,” she explains.

The current exhibition by Marlborough artist Tanya Doty, entitled Heartstones & Gratitude Baskets, is well worth a visit and runs until June 16. There is a considerable number and range of exhibits, including willow and cane baskets, with intriguing and descriptive names. One example is Small Nut Basket (180 mmx200mmx170mm) These are the dimensions, Willow. The Stones exhibits show a wide array of exhibits of stones, wood, bark harakeke (flax), rattan and palm fibre in many intriguing variations.

There are nine exhibitions scheduled each year and each one lasts six weeks. Viv makes no apology when stating that in choosing exhibitions sustainability is very high on her set of criteria.

Incidentally Viv is very



Viv Davy demonstrating the dyeing process.

qualified, having studied in New Zealand where she graduated with a Masters in Visual Art and Design (MVAD 1st) from AUT in Auckland.

Her studies, in Canada, where she lived for some time, involved both the Banff Centre, School of Fine Arts and the Ontario College of Art, Toronto, where she was tutored by the Master Tapestry Artist Helen Francis Gregor and Senior multi-harness Weaver William Hodge. Tapestry and damask weaving, in consequence, became features of Viv’s creativity.

She is an Associate of the Ontario College of Art (AOCA), and has a BA in English and Geography.

She is very involved in the art scene here in Taranaki with 12 years participation in the Coastal Arts Trail.

Workshops are an important part of the Gallery, where such techniques as dyeing are taught, which is held in the Dye Kitchen on the property where many of the dyes are taken from. Willows, dahlia, kawakawa, flowering cherry, mulberry and grape vines are harvested (leaves or bark).

“Teaching the skills to

others was always an important part of this business.”

Upstairs is where Viv’s own studio is and it is a fascinating place. With many creations on display, Viv’s love of fibre, as she creates items including damask weavings, upholstery, floor rugs, wall hangings, dyed fabrics, tapestry, hand-made paper, basketry, (and much more) goes back to her talented mother who was most creative.

One feature is her up-cycled Kauri loom, which is called Lady Sunflower and has been in Viv’s possession since 1977. It even travelled with her to Canada and returned home to New Zealand years later. “It’s gone a lot of miles,” shares Viv, who has created many items (such as shawls) using wool, silk or cotton. “It’s time-consuming, but the creations last, they don’t wear out,” comments Viv.

Nearby is an even larger loom. Viv explains,

“Damasks are woven on this very large, complex

Continued page 23



from out of the blue studio gallery at 18 Halse Place, Opunake.

Judges announced for 2025 Literary Awards

The judges for the Lysaght Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards 2025 have been announced.

Award winning writer Melinda Szymanik is the Poetry Judge. Melinda is an award-winning writer of children’s short stories, novels and picture books,

and has published over twenty books. Notable titles include, A Winter’s day in 1939, Fuzzy Doodle, The Song of Kauri, My Elephant is Blue and Lucy and the Dark. She is known for her use of language techniques, humour and layered story telling. She has over fifteen years’ experience in teaching creative writing to both children and adults.

Tania Roxborough is the Short Story Judge for this year’s competition. Tania is a veteran educator for secondary English/drama and writer of novels, plays, poetry and textbooks. Her latest novel is Charlie Tangaroa and the God of War, sequel to Charlie

Tangaroa and the Creature from the Sea which was named the Supreme Winner, 2021 Margaret Mahy book of the Year.

The judges will be joined by Taranaki Daily News editor Matt Rilkoff, who will be judging the True Story section formerly known as Research.

“We are very excited to welcome these three prestigious judges to South Taranaki’s premiere literary competition this year,” says South Taranaki District Council Senior Community Outreach Librarian Katherine Bosworth.

The competition opens on Wednesday 11 June with the kick off of the secondary

school workshops. As always, open writing and poetry workshops held by the judges are available to the public for free.

Both open workshops will be held on Saturday 14 June at Hāwera LibraryPlus | Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga in Hāwera.

“We’re excited to hold both open workshops at the brand new LibraryPlus building in Hāwera, Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga. We hope this gives people an opportunity to see the new space and have a look around during breaks as well as enjoy the first year of the Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards in the new facility.”


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Sandfords Manaia Golf results

May 25. Junior Golf. Putting. 1. Brontae Arapeta and Micah Gut. Ambrose. 1. Boys. Romyn Tupuse. Liam Lynskey. Micah Gut, Sam Gut. 2.Girls. Olivia Lynskey. Edie Lynskey. Irie Arapeta. Brontae Arapeta.



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CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

Other areas

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church. Kaponga

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

Manaia Union Fellowship

Terou St. Manaia.

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

Friend & Fellowship Group

Thursdays @ Manaia

Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer
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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

Guide to celebrating Puanga in Whakaahurangi, Stratford

Stratford District Council (SDC) extends a warm invitation for people to embrace curiosity and connection when celebrating Puanga, the Māori New Year, in the heart of Taranaki.

Community and Economic Development Manager Saba Afzal says, coming together at this time of year is special. “Puanga gives us the opportunity to celebrate our achievements, remember loved ones, and look forward to the future. It’s also about connecting with whānau and friends, being open minded and interested in what’s possible for the future,” says Saba.

“Whether you’ve celebrated every year with us or you’ve never been involved before, nau mai haere mai, we invite locals and visitors alike to come and enjoy the magic of Puanga in Whakaahurangi, Stratford.”

What’s on?

Puanga rākau reflections and aspirations activity 13 - 23 June. *Percy Thomson Gallery Foyer.* Write down your burdens or the names of loved ones you’ve lost in the past year and these will be burned as part of our celebration event. Hang your aspirations and goals for the year ahead on our Puanga rākau.

Workshop: Rongoa Māori with Kerry Walsh 1 Sunday 8 June, 2pm - 4pm. *Senior Citizens Hall, Juliet Street Stratford* – Free and limited spaces available. Learn about Rongoā Māori (natural remedy, Māori medicine) and the benefits of kawakawa. Participants will make their own whakawaatea (cleanser/freshener) to take home. Hiwa-i-te-Rangi - share aspirations for the year ahead, and how these can be celebrated at home.

Movie: Moana 2 in Te Reo Māori (with English subtitles) 1 Monday 16 June, 5.30pm. *TET King’s Theatre* – Free entry for all ages.

Movie: Whale Rider 1 Wednesday 18 June, 6.30pm. *TET King’s Theatre* – FREE entry for all ages

Puanga Flag Competition. Check out our winning designs from the Puanga Flag Competition flying down Broadway from 12 June – 14 July. You can see all entries on display at the Library and Visitor Information Centre.

Puanganui-o-te-Rangi 1 Thursday 19 June, 4pm - 8pm. *War Memorial Centre, Stratford.* A collaboration between Ngāruahine Iwi Health Services and SDC, this is a free community event for all ages and focuses on entertainment,



Whale Rider Wednesday 18 June, 6.30pm.
TET King’s Theatre – Free entry for all ages.

education, and hauora; a Māori philosophy of health and wellbeing.

Visitors will enjoy an evening inspired by the

stars, including: lighting displays, entertainment from DJ BB, Fire poi by Fire and Flow and Kapa Haka, Weaving wānanga with



Moana 2 in Te Reo Māori (with English subtitles) Monday 16 June, 5.30pm. *TET King’s Theatre* – Free entry for all ages.

Māori Womens Welfare League, Te Reo Māori sessions, poi making and demonstrations, glow face painting and Ta Moke painting, hands-on activities for Tamariki, health and wellbeing stations, free sausage sizzle, ice-cream, Pātea Hangi...and more.

Stratford Library kōrero and crafts for school students 16 – 19 June. Local primary school tamariki will be visiting Stratford Library throughout the week to learn about Puanga and Matariki through creative storytelling and craft activities. These are booked school sessions and not open to the public.

SDC is thankful to Whaakahurangi Marae, Māori Womens Welfare League, Toi Foundation, Taranaki Electricity Trust and Ngāruahine Iwi Health Services for their continued partnership with this year’s Puanga celebrations.

To stay up to date with Stratford’s Puanga celebrations for 2025, people should visit Stratford.govt.nz/Puanga

Puanga

Nau mai haere mai ki a Puanga ki te tau hou Māori!
Come together in Whakaahurangi, Stratford to celebrate Puanga.

Explore our FREE events at
Stratford.govt.nz/Puanga



TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL



The Future Creates at The Village Gallery



The STDC Arts Co-ordinator is organising a youth art exhibition at The Village Gallery in Eltham, to showcase some of the young creative talent in the district and provide an opportunity to youth to engage in the community gallery space.

Twenty students from Eltham Primary School are painting canvases at special workshops held alongside teacher Fleur Le Bas, featuring favourite creatures and exploring a range of painting styles.

Manaia local artist Quinton Robinson.

A group of teens in Manaia, led by local artist Quinton Robinson, are also creating canvases, at weekly sessions in the art space in central Manaia. The exhibition will feature a large collaborative kowhaiwhai artwork, created in the Arts Tipi by kids at Paepae in the Park in Patea on Waitangi Day. The exhibition, called ‘The Future Creates’ runs from 4 – 28 June.

THE FUTURE CREATES

AN EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL ART
BY SOUTH TARANAKI YOUTH
JUNE 4 - 28

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

Advertise your event in the Opunake & Coastal News

Call our sales team on
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**Tui Ora
Heartlands Hub**
Napier Street,
Opunake
11am – 2.30pm

NO APPOINTMENT
NEEDED

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- Childhood and adult immunisations
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- COVID boosters
- Cervical screening self-tests
- Hepatitis C screening

TUI ORA

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

72 Tasman Street, Opunake | www.everybodystheatre.co.nz

Bob Trevino Likes It 1hr 41mins M Thu 05 Jun 7PM Sun 08 Jun 7PM Sun 15 Jun 1PM	Lilo & Stitch 1hr 48mins PG Fri 06 Jun 7PM Sat 07 Jun 1PM Sat 14 Jun 1PM
The Tavern 1hr 41mins R16 Sat 07 Jun 7PM	Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning 2hr 49mins M Sun 08 Jun 1PM
Materialists 30mins TBC Thu 12 Jun 7PM Sun 15 Jun 7PM	How to Train Your Dragon 2hr 5mins PG Fri 13 Jun 7PM
Thunderbolts* 2hr 7mins M Sat 14 Jun 7PM	Ballerina 2hr 5mins R16 Thu 19 Jun 7PM

Bob Trevino Likes It
Offensive language | 1hr 41mins | Rated: M
Thu 05 Jun 7PM

Lilo & Stitch
Violence | 1hr 48mins | Rated: PG
Fri 06 Jun 7PM

CoastalCare Service Information List - Phone Aretha 06 761 8488		
Service	Availability	Contact
Coastal Printers	8.30am – 5pm Mon - Fri	06 761 8037
Opunake Medical Centre	8.30am – 5pm Mon - Fri	06 761 7324 - Reception
Opunake Pharmacy	8.30am – 5pm Mon- Fri and 9am – 12pm Sat	06 761 8144/0800 367 232
Plunket Nurses	Home visits and base clinics every Wednesday and Thursday	Marlene – 027 218 8214 Gaye – 027 275 7749
Community Karitane	Ambulance service	Call 111 for an emergency
St John Ambulance	First Aid training courses Medical Alarm Service	Local base 06 761 8560 Alarms 0800 50 23 23
NZ Post	8.30am to 5pm Mon to Fri	06 761 8488
NZ Transport	8.30am to 5pm Mon to Fri	06 761 8488
Active + Physiotherapy	Mon and Thur 8.30am to 4pm	06 769 9992
Alcohol & Drug counselling	District Health Board (by appointment)	06 753 7838
Community Corrections	Every Tuesday by appointment	06 278 0650
Counselling	District Health Board – various (by appointment)	06 753 7838
	Robert Shaw (Thursday and Friday)	022 0209 779
	Karen Anderson (Wednesdays)	021 213 8513
Foodbank	Alex Jones (Fridays)	021 081 63248
	Mondays and Thursday 11am to 1pm	06 761 8488
HIP – Health Improvement Practitioners	Free clinic for patients registered with Opunake Medical Centre – Mon & Tue	Med Centre -06 761 7324
Lisa Keen Audiology	Every second Wednesday – 8am – 5pm	027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676
Matthews Optometrists	First Thursday of every month	06 759 4126
Needle Exchange Program	9am -4pm	06 761 8488
Paediatrician	As needed by appointment	referral from doctor needed
Public Health Nurse	In schools Monday - Thursday	06 761 8090
Supporting Families in Mental Illness and Addiction – Home visits if needed	A free service for both children and adults who have a family member, whanau or friend who is impacted by a mental illness or addition	06 757 9300
Taranaki Chiropractic	Every Wednesday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 9am to 12noon	027 489 9000
Taranaki Dental	Every Thursday - 8.30am – 4pm	06 759 1047
Taranaki Podiatry	The 2 nd Wednesday of the month	021 753 472
Quit Smoking support	As needed by appointment: Tui Ora TDHB	06 759 4064 06 753 7838
Meeting Room to Hire	Call to enquire availability and cost	06 761 8488
Services for people with Diabetes and various long term conditions - Diabetes Educator, Dietician, Clinical Pharmacist and Social Worker		
Other Health Services in Opunake		
Coastal Community Transport	For health transport	0800 223 390
Depression Rural helpline	Open 24/7	0800 111 757
Healthline	Open 24/7	0800 611 116
Lifeline	Open 24/7	0800 543 354 or Txt 4357
Rural Support Trust - Taranaki	Open 24/7	0800 787 254

What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

Coastal Young Farmers: Meet 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Butlers Reef Bar & Cafe, Oakura.

Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake: Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676

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

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

Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5 .30pm.

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

THURSDAYS

Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.

Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia: Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

FRIDAYS

Eltham Business Association Friday Markets: 9:30am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.

Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm..

MAY 8 TO JUNE 16

Heartstones & Creative Baskets - Tanya Doty Exhibition: At from out of the blue studio gallery, Halse Place, Opunake.

MAY 19 TO JULY 12

Maumahara - To Remember and Reflect - A Community Collaboration: At Lysaght Watt Gallery, High Street, Hawera.

THROUGHOUT JUNE

Celebrating Puanga in Stratford: Various events happening throughout June. See Page 24 of this issue for details.

JUNE 4 TO 28

The Future Creates Exhibition by South Taranaki Youth: Village Gallery, Eltham.

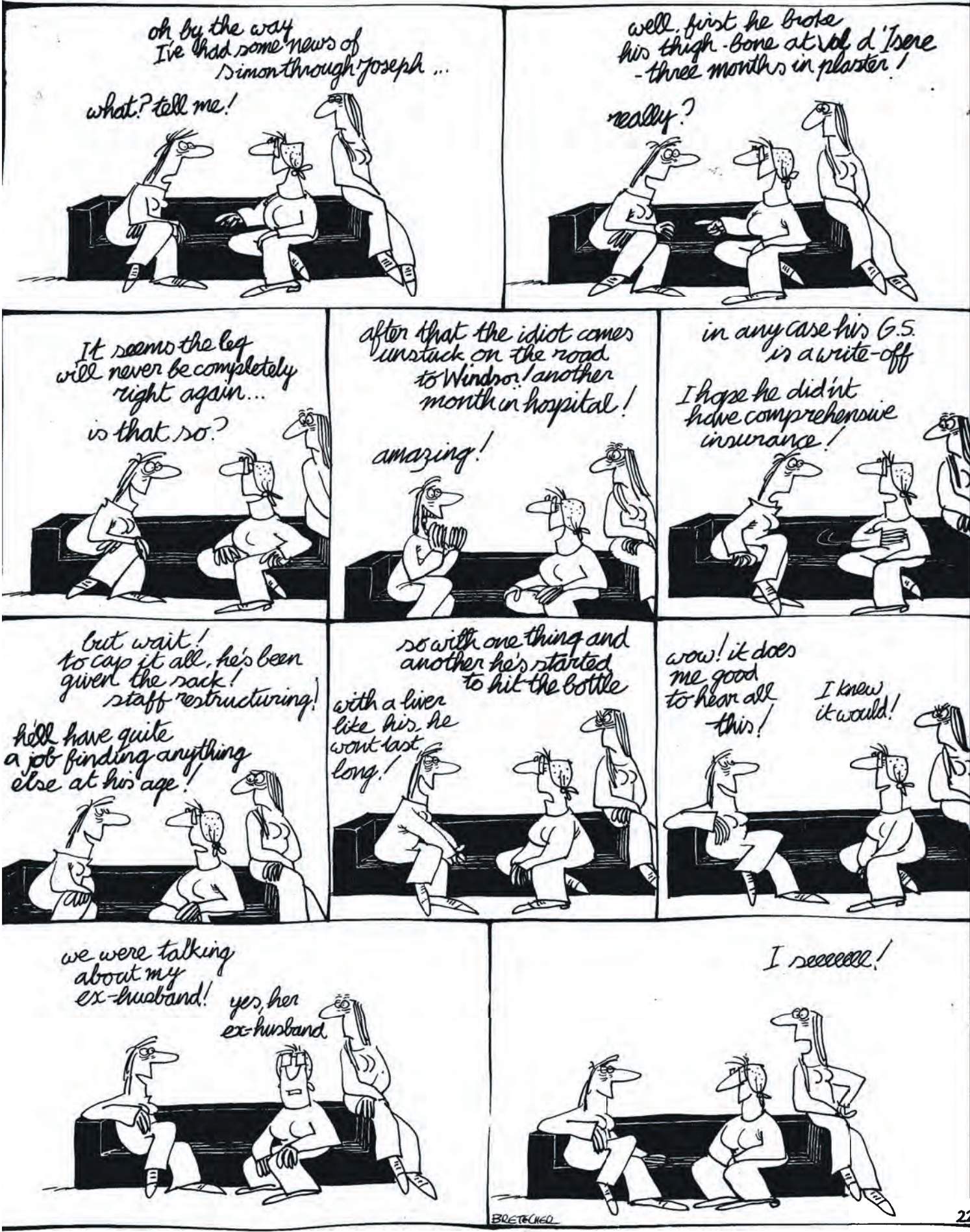
JUNE 7

Otukaia Reserve Trust Oaonui Hall, 11am

JUNE 16

Grey Power South Taranaki Members

tenderness



Meeting: Senior Citizens Hall, Hawera, 10am.

JUNE 17

Tui Ora Drop In Clinic: Headlands Hub, Opunake, 11am -2.30pm.

JUNE 18

Okato Mid-Winter Festive Community Market: Hempton Hall, 4-7pm.

Opunake & District Business Association AGM: Surf Inn, Opunake, 5.30pm.

JUNE 19 TO 22

TSB Festival of Lights Winter pop-up

JUNE 20

Free Star Making Workshop with Lizzie Leckie At the from out of the blue studio gallery, Halse Place, Opunake

JUNE 22

Pungarehu Community Society Inc AGM: 6346 Surf Highway, Pungarehu, 10am

JUNE 23

Opunake Board Riders Club AGM: At the Clubrooms, 6.30pm

AUGUST 2

Waiwiri Family Trust Members Meeting: Te Potaka Marae, 10am.




Advertise your event in the Opunake & Coastal News

Call our sales team on 06 761 7016

DEATH NOTICE

van der SAR, Jack (Jacobus)
Passed away peacefully at Summerset Mountain View on Wednesday 28 May 2025. Aged 96 years. Life-long beloved husband of the late Eelkje. Treasured father and father-in-law of John (deceased), Irene and Steve, Cornelis (deceased), Ian and Lorraine, Susan and Ross Johnson, Mark and Joy, Jocelyn and Brian Tilbrook and friend Dan. Much loved Opa of Jana-Liese and Jozien; Tara, Samuel and Bethany; Nicole and Cameron; Hannah and Aria; Kaitlin and Rebecca and their partners. Special great-grandfather of Charlie, Thea, Hannah, Tom, Zoe, plus two on the way. A celebration of Jack's life will be held at St Paul's Co-operating Church, Opunake on Friday 6 June 2025 at 11.00am, after which a private burial at Opunake Cemetery.

vosper's funeral services

PUBLIC NOTICES



Hawera Budget Advisory Service at the Heartlands offices in Opunake, every second Tuesday from 9am. Appointments are necessary, please phone 0800 333 048. Facebook page: Hawera Advisory Service. Email: info@hawerabudget.co.nz

Pungarehu Community Society Incorporated AGM
Sunday June 22, 2025 10am
Current, past and new members welcome

Agenda:
• Election of officers
• Table financials
• Accept new constitution

6346 Surf Highway 45, Pungarehu

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Waiwiri Family Trust Meeting of Owners Te Potaka Marae Saturday 2nd August 2025 10am

1. Mihi/Karakia
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Trustees Report
5. Financials
6. Distributions
7. Alternative Land use
8. Papakainga Housing Project
9. Urupa
10. Review of Trust
11. General Business
12. Karakia Whakamutunga

RSVP & Enquiries
TeUraura Nganeko
Email: ngant1958@gmail.com

OPUNAKE BOARD RIDERS AGM
Monday 23rd Jun
6.30pm at the Clubrooms
All welcome

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clare.moss@hughson.co.nz


PUBLIC NOTICES



GREY POWER SOUTH TARANAKI
Members' Meeting
16th June, 10am
Senior Citizens Hall
81 Victoria St, Hawera
Guest Speaker: From Hawera Library
All welcome
Jackie Morrow, Secretary



OKATO MID-WINTER FESTIVE COMMUNITY MARKET
Wednesday 18th June, 4 - 7pm
Hempton Hall
All welcome



AGM
Wednesday June 18, 2025, 5.30pm
Opunake Surf Inn,
Tasman Street, Opunake

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



THE NEWSPAPER
TARANAKI
LIKES BEST



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Turbo, Keyless Entry & Ignition, 2.0, Petrol, Auto,
55kms



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Electric Leather Seats, Sports Mode, Sun Roof,
Tow Bar, Driving Lights, HUD, 2.5, Petrol, Auto,
107kms



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2016 Toyota CAMRY GL
Electric Mirrors, Alloy Wheels, Cruise Control,
Traction & Stability Control, Daytime Running Lights,
VVT-i, 2.5, Petrol, Auto, 109kms



\$16,995

2019 Mitsubishi ASX BLK
LOW KM, NZ NEW, STUNNING
Multi Airbags, Tinted Windows, Daytime Running
Lights, Panoramic Sunroof, 2.0, Petrol, CVT, 55kms



\$21,995

2017 Mazda 3 2.0 GLX
NZ NEW
Cruise Control, i-Stop, Keyless Start, Alloy Wheels,
Sports Mode, Reversing Camera, 2.0, Petrol, Auto,
112kms



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THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:
2017 Holden COMMODORE VF2 SV6
6 Cylinder, Cruise Control, Parking Sensors, Blind
Spot Monitoring, Electric Parking Brake, 3.5, Petrol,
Auto, 194kms



\$21,995

2015 Toyota COROLLA GX
NZ NEW 6 SPD MANUAL HATCH
Cruise Control, Stability Control, Reversing Camera,
VVT-i, 1798cc, Petrol, Manual, 208kms



\$11,995

2016 Honda Jazz RS
SPORTY NZ NEW HATCH
Driving Lights, Spoiler, NZ Navigation, VTEC,
Keyless Entry & ignition, 1.5, Petrol, CVT, 34kms



\$16,995

2021 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross VRX
360 Degree Cameras, Dual Sunroofs, Daytime
Running Lights, Turbo, ABS Braking, 1.5, Petrol,
CVT, 29kms



\$29,995

2013 Mitsubishi LANCER
ONE OWNER, NZ NEW
MIVEC, Reversing Camera, Heated Electric Leather
Seats, Driving Lights, Tow Bar, 2.0, Petrol, CVT,
244kms



\$8,995

2013 Mazda ATENZA
Alloy Wheels, i-Stop, Cruise Control, Tow Bar, Driving
Lights, Heated Electric Leather Seats, 2.5, petrol,
Auto, 87kms



\$18,995

2014 Toyota COROLLA GX
POPULAR NZ NEW WAGON
Stability Control, VVT-i, Electric Windows, Spoiler,
Retractable Electric Mirrors, 1.5, Petrol, CVT,
103kms



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Spoiler, Tow Bar, Monsoons, Retractable
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Auto, 264kms



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