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# Robbery foiled by locals

If anyone is thinking of robbing a business in Rahotu they should think again. Locals are watching.

On Friday morning on June 14 at around 7:30am the suspicious behaviour of four people was noted by a local resident who noticed them loitering outside a residential lawn before donning masks and heading round the corner. Realising what they were about to do, the same person then set about trying to stop the getaway car as another local who'd noticed a person darting back and forth across the road to Rahotu Super Mart and their car filmed the action on their cell phone.

The registration of the getaway car and another car involved in the burglary was noted and immediately relayed to the Opunake police and three of the four culprits were soon apprehended in Opunake. The fourth person was also later arrested.

It was a great example of community policing.

The owner of Rahotu



The Rahotu Super Mart, one of several Four Squares targeted recently in burglaries in South Taranaki.

Super Mart Rahul Kumar said it was not good for the community.

"It happened in broad daylight," he said adding that what started with a robbery could have escalated. "What

could happen next," he said.

The robbers helped themselves to cigarettes and cash from the till.

"They broke the till," said Rahul adding they also broke shelves.

He added it was clear they were familiar with the layout of the shop. They knew what they were doing and knew what they wanted.

The culprits were also on the shop's security camera

which the police later viewed "It's pathetic for a small close community," said Rahul adding that it was a worry for other businesses."

There has been a number of burglaries with various Four Squares around coastal and South Taranaki targeted.

Earlier that week there had been burglaries at the Four Square stores in Manaia and Kaponga after two cars had been stolen from Stratford.

A police spokesperson says two youths have been charged in relation to two burglaries in Taranaki which occurred early in the morning of June 11. They have also been charged with the unlawful taking of two motor vehicles and the unlawful attempted taking of a third vehicle.

The burglary charges relate to a ram raid at a store on Main South Road in Manaia, which occurred at around 2.15am on 11 June, and a break-in at a store on Victoria Street, Kaponga, a short time later.

An arrest warrant has been issued for a third youth, and a fourth youth has been referred to Youth Services.

# Barrett to captain ABs

A rugby player with strong Coastal rugby links has been named as All Blacks captain for the upcoming tests against England and Fiji next month. Assisting him as vice-captain will be his brother.

Scott Barrett was named captain ahead of much favoured Ardie Savea who is the current World Rugby Player of the Year. Savea will be one of two vice-captains alongside Scott's brother Jordie.

Scott grew up in Pungarehu and comes with a strong rugby pedigree. His father Kevin "Smiley" Barrett played 167 games for Taranaki, scoring 99 points, as well as playing for the Hurricanes. Scott's brothers Beauden and Jordie are also All Blacks, while another brother Kane has represented Taranaki and played super rugby for the

Blues. Scott has played at lock and flanker. Like his brothers he played his secondary school rugby for Francis Douglas Memorial College.

In 2013 he was in the New Zealander Under-20 team at the IRB Junior World Championships in France, and as a 20-year-old was selected to play for the Crusaders the following year.

His All Black debut was against Ireland in Chicago on November 5 2016, coming on as injury cover. He scored his first international try in that match which was converted by his brother Beauden. It was also the first ever All Black loss to Ireland, losing 40-29.

Scott went on to be the only All Black to play in all four tests on that end-of-year tour.

In the 2019 World Cup match against Canada Scott, Beauden and Jordie became the first trio of brothers to start for the All Blacks in a World Cup match. They also became the first trio of brothers to each score a try in the same match with the All Blacks demolishing Canada 63-0.



Scott Barrett, the new All Black captain.

In 2020 Scott was named as captain of the Crusaders. He has played 69 tests for the All Blacks and scored 35 points.

He attended Lincoln University and has

represented both Canterbury and Taranaki at rugby.

Jordie (27) has made his name as a utility back and was first selected for the All Blacks in 2017 He has also

played for the Hurricanes.

He is not the first player with Coastal rugby links to have captained the All

Continued page 3.



# Letters to the Editor

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

## Folic Acid

Folic Acid is now mandated in all bread in NZ

This is a cause for concern as although they list in the ingredients that folic acid is a ‘vitamin,’ this is far from the truth. Folic Acid is synthetic. Don’t get this synthetically made drug confused with the nutrient folate which we receive from organically grown leafy greens. Synthetic folic acid is lacking the body’s most fundamental biochemical compound – a methyl group. As humans we cannot metabolise folic acid, so what happens when unmetabolized folic acid lurks in our blood stream? Taken long term, folic acid side effects consist of : abdominal cramps, irritability, confusion, nausea, behavioural changes, skin reactions, seizures and other side

effects. Time to think twice about what used to be an innocent sandwich for lunch or toast for breaky. We need to get back to the ways of the ancestors. Of folate. Natural nutrients, not synthetic. We are all staying vigilant to the poisons we are exposed to on the daily, flouride and chlorine and god knows what else in the water ways, chemical lines spraying in the sky. Roundup sprayed abundantly along our sacred waterways and playgrounds. Copious amounts of jobs for this and that being pushed all around. Come on people, where did we come from and where are we going to? Synthetic concoctions are not the answer, we are natural living beings. Anyway may this message be empowering to the reader that although we are being bombarded with toxins, you can heal anything. And, although they may try poisons our bodies our

spirits are unpoisonable. The body electric. Stay vigilant folks.

Julia Cooper  
Opunake

## Three C’s Clarification, Concerns, Confusion

At the heart of the education process lies the child.’ My career in Education. Degrees, Secondary teacher, Primary teacher, Special education adviser, Literacy adviser, Literacy Professional Development Project facilitator. I have questions regarding the implementation of Mandatory Structured Literacy at 67 million dollars.

Clarification. What is the origin of Structured literacy? The basic elements of how

to learn to read through the process of phonological awareness/decoding. Structured Literacy was devised as a program for Dyslexia students. In 2018 it was published by the MOE on the website.

A structured literacy approach is recommended for students with dyslexia and those with difficulty in decoding. It directly addresses phonological skills, decoding, and spelling. “Inclusive Education.” Except where otherwise noted it is Crown Copyright 2018.

How does it link to Marie Clay Professor Emeritus University of Auckland, who founded reading recovery? In Early Detection of Reading, Clay designed a diagnostic survey, and a classroom resource. A six-year assessment in phonemic awareness, ability to hear the sounds in spoken language,

Continued on page 3.

## ADELPHOS

Can you remember how many times you met someone and introduced yourself? Probably not because it happened so often. Moses asked God the Father a seemingly straightforward question about His name and identity. God answered saying that “I AM” was His name. This baffling answer left Moses wondering what God meant. He asked himself how someone like him with a stammer and anxiety could rescue the Israelites out of their Egyptian slavery, which is exactly what God asked Moses to do. So let’s look at Exodus 3:14, the unfamiliar nature of the Hebrew language and this unusual “I AM” answer (Please see Exodus 3:11-15

## What’s His Name?

for the full picture). Ehyeh is a form of the word hayah—to be. In Hebrew it means “I am” and “I will be.” In this Exodus 3:14 context God is identifying Himself to Moses as an eternal uncreated Being existing outside of time, space and matter as we know it. Whew! We could now understand why Moses was anxious about explaining God’s mystifying I AM God language to his people.

Fifteen hundred years later, Jesus came from heaven to earth revealing His identity as God’s promised Messiah-Saviour. He is the human face of the I AM God of Moses. Nine times in John’s gospel and once in the book of Revelation Jesus, the Son

of God, revealed Himself as existing within the eternal I AM Godhead who spoke to Moses: *Before Abraham was I Am; I AM the light of the world; I AM the bread of life; I AM the door; I AM the good shepherd; I AM the resurrection and the life; I AM the way the truth and the life; I AM the true vine; now I AM leaving the world and going back to the Father and I AM the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*

God wanted to rescue the Israelites from their Egyptian slavery. Today, Jesus, the great I Am, desires to save us from the slavery and consequence

of our own sins. Through Jesus’ life, death on the cross and resurrection God offers to permanently restore our sin-broken relationship with Him, giving us a new and eternal life.

When the Bible is read with an open mind and searching heart, the words become “... living and active” (Hebrews 4:12). They will then leap from its pages giving us insight into who God is, who Jesus is, who we are and how we can enter into a healthy life now and an eternal relationship.

Kia kaha,  
Adelohos

## Stop stealing our paper

Whoever steals our Daily News delivered daily to the Opunake & Coastal News, we would appreciate it if you would desist.

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Many thanks.

Editor

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## Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2

knowledge of letters printed word. Letter identification phonics; advanced skills of decoding unknown words, hearing and recording and sounds in words when writing. Children who need extra help receive it through this process. Can you read and decode a pattern emerging?

Who are Resource Teachers of Literacy? They assist learners years 1-8 who experience difficulties with literacy using multiple pathways like Structured Literacy.

Concerns. Government cancelling Reading Recovery teachers to become RtLits. Teachers teach structured literacy, along with multiple strategies for reading will competent readers

become disengaged? Could mandatory be a dangerous word in education? Did the government consult with principals? Who audits 67 million?

Confusion. Why dispose of reading recovery when data shows improvement? Can education policy be mandatory?

Lesley Dowling  
Okato

### Stop procrastinating

I can vividly remember 2015, nine years ago that the Manaia District War Memorial Hall was closed, then a year later in 2016 their Sports Complex was also closed down because both buildings didn't come up to the earthquake standards, then came several

meetings, yet still nothing happened. This discussion has laid dormant, but now Te Korowai Ngaruahine whose office is in Hawera is wanting to shift closer to their rohe, in which I don't blame them at all.

Now, hopefully my suggestions will somehow help Manaia's community service organisations.

1. Demolish the sports complex.

2. Fully upgrade the Manaia District War Memorial Hall as you can have entertainment in this hall and the Robert Gibson Memorial Hall, but my preference is the Manaia District War Memorial Hall, plus the school can use it for their school concerts.

3. Now should this designed complex be done, build it next to and alongside the War Memorial Hall.

Finally to the people of Manaia, opportunities like this don't come along very often, so how about

stopping this ridiculous procrastination as I do believe that once this is done I can see your town of Manaia slowly grow, just like Opunake has done, as now they are going ahead and their population is beginning to steadily grow.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth.

### All mountains are dangerous

Look all mountains around the world look extremely magnificent and so grand, it makes them all alluring to climb, and our own Mt Taranaki is like the rest of them, but every one of them have their own hidden dangers, regardless if any climber is really experienced or no, as so far there have been 84 deaths on our maunga.

Now, reading that interesting article by Ian McAlpine who told us that

the first woman to die on our maunga was Evelyn Oxenham (22) in 1913. The first female guides were two sisters Hilda and Molly Haldane. Sir Edmund Hillary climbed our maunga and went on to successfully climb Mt Everest, while Nick Banks of New Plymouth became the 100th person to actually climb Mt Everest.

I would like to see our

Department of Conservation (DOC) have someone experienced at our I-Site on the Puke Ariki Landing to advise everyone experienced or not about our maunga, knowing some people have climbed our mountain and have got into trouble either losing their lives or having to be rescued.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth

## Barrett to captain ABs

Continued from page 1

Blacks. Graham Mourie who played his club rugby for Opunake was captain for 57 matches, including

their first ever Grand Slam Tour of Great Britain and Ireland. He made himself unavailable when South Africa toured in 1981 because

of that country's policy of Apartheid.

The Barretts are not the first set of brothers with coastal links to have represented

New Zealand in rugby. Alan and Hugh Good from Oeo played for New Zealand in the 1890s.

## Rules for earthquake-prone buildings under review

The terms of reference for the review of the earthquake-prone building system have been released. The earthquake-prone building system aims to manage risk by requiring earthquake-prone buildings to be remediated before set timeframes.

The review will consider questions around how to measure and mitigate risk, implementation and technical matters, finance and funding challenges, regulatory responses, and timeframes.

Dr Lauren Vinnell, Lecturer of Emergency Management, Joint Centre for Disaster Research, Massey University, comments: "A review of how we manage seismic risk in our existing earthquake-prone buildings is important and useful, given misunderstandings and misperceptions of parts of the current system, in particular the interpretation of %NBS (new building standard). We want to keep people safe, but we also don't want people or businesses leaving buildings when they probably don't need to. "Several goals of the review have the chance to improve this system if they are done properly. However, the 'people' side of things can be vastly complicated. Questions of 'willingness to pay' need to consider the full range



The Manaia District War Memorial Hall has been closed since 2016 for failing to meet earthquake strengthening standards.

of (not just economic) costs and benefits of improving building resilience but also an understanding of how people think about their earthquake risk in context. For many, there's an idea that it's a zero-sum game, so any money invested in seismic is money *not* invested in, for example, road safety. This means that conversations focused on earthquakes can miss a large part of the process by which the public balance risk against cost and decide

how much they're willing to invest for a particular hazard. "Many of the words used in this terms of reference are understood differently between different experts, and between experts and the public.

Even 'risk' can mean vastly different things, so key to the success of this review will be whether these conversations are happening with everyone on the same page about what is being said and what is being meant."

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# The Mason Brothers play Kaponga

Wayne Mason is 75 years-old and has been appearing in bands for the last 60 years. Most notably he is remembered for his years in the Fourmyula, and for having, as a 19-year-old written their hit song Nature which in 2001 was named the top song in the APRA top 100 New Zealand songs of all time. In doing so it headed off the likes of Neil Finn and Dave Dobbyn. Since then Wayne has been in other bands, including the Warratahs, Rockinghorse and Two Armed Men. Most recently he has teamed up with his brother Paul Bowers Mason as one half of the musical duo The Mason Brothers, and as the Mason Brothers they were performing at the Kaponga Hotel on May 15.

As well as being a musician Paul is known locally as an

Anglican minister serving churches in South and Central Taranaki. He is 13 years younger than Wayne and told the audience how the two of them teamed up five years ago.

“This band was formed because I had been coming to Wayne and saying, remember how I was too young to be in your band? Well I’m 57 now,” said Paul. With a fire in the background kept stoked up by one of the regulars at the Kaponga Hotel, an appreciative audience enjoyed two hours of music, brotherly banter and reminiscences.

Wayne recalled a trip Fourmyula made to Britain and a visit to the Abbey Road studios when they found out that the Beatles were in the studio next to them.

“I saw John and went to



Paul Bowers Mason and Wayne Mason.

him and said, ‘sorry we stole your studio.’ He said ‘that’s okay. Where are you from?’ I said ‘New Zealand.’ He said, ‘the land of butter,’ and that was my conversation with John Lennon.”

Kaponga is familiar territory for the Masons, and Wayne says he has fond memories of playing at the Backgammon Hall. They had an uncle who farmed at Mahoe who they used to visit and remember the Morreseys family living across the road, including Mark, the current Kaponga publican.

“We had uncles all over Taranaki, at Wharehuia, and an uncle who taught at Pukengahu,” says Wayne.

The Warratahs song Taranaki with its refrain “south of the mountain down

Continued page 5.

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## Celebrating a century

Mrs Isabel Goodin (formerly Robinson) nee Deacon turned 100 on June 2 and family gathered at the Fitz Restaurant in New Plymouth to celebrate the occasion.

Mrs Goodin was born Isabel May Deacon in New Plymouth to Alfred and Emily Deacon.

She is the mother of six children and has 14 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

Isabel spent all her life in Coastal Taranaki and was involved with the Oaonui branch of the Womens Division of Federated Farmers (now Rural Women). She puts her long life down to hard work sharemilking and raising a family.

She has received cards from the King Charles and Queen Camilla, as well as Prime minister Chris Luxon, Governor-General Dame



Left. The birthday came with royal best wishes.



Isabel Goodin celebrating her 100th birthday.

Cindy Kiro, the Minister for Seniors Casey Costello and Rhaphsody Rest Home in the MP for New Plymouth New Plymouth. David MacLeod.

# NORTH TARANAKI



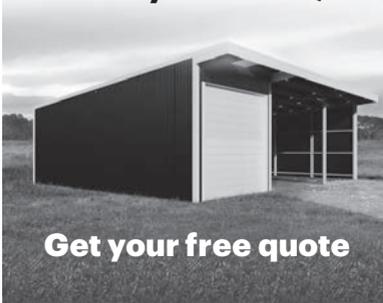
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# Green space draws mixed reviews

To some it's "just what Opunake needs." To others it's "nothing short of ridiculous." These were two of the comments in submissions on the green space being proposed for the square on the intersection of Tasman and Napier Streets.

Submissions have closed and there were 162 of them. Submitters were asked if they liked the proposed concept as laid out, and 43 said they didn't. Among the objections were a loss of parking spaces, harder access for delivery and emergency vehicles, a loss of a sea view and the potential for the Green Space becoming a place for people to loiter.

Ninety-two said they liked the concept and a further 26 said they liked it but would like to see changes. One submission contained only the words "fix the lake." Nine said they wanted to speak to their submission, and on June 12 they got their chance to do so before South Taranaki district councillors at an extraordinary meeting of the Council held at the Opunake Town Hall.

"We should be putting our money into gold and maybe that gold is the green space," said John Smith. "I can give the proposal an A plus for effort, but we've had nearly four to five years of proposals and ongoing meetings and we've got nowhere. It's going to be the most expensive quarter acre in Opunake and there's not a building on it."

Rhonda Crawford said she liked the idea. "Opunake is the jewel of South Taranaki and we have an amazing community of many layers. The green space is an opportunity to add another layer. This space is about celebrating the diversity in our community. We can be proud of what we have and where we've come from. Opunake is becoming more of a destination and this space will enhance what we have."

Four of the nine speakers opposed the green space. "I'm totally against this idea. It's the most ridiculous thing I've heard," said Lynda Corkill.



Lynda Corkill fronts up to the Council.

She said towns similar in size to Opunake had found other ways to promote themselves. Sheffield in Tasmania with a population of 1600 had successfully promoted itself as a mural town, and had attracted 200,000 visitors. This was something Opunake could emulate, she said.

"That's 200,000 visitors to Opunake, 200,000 cups of coffee and fish and chips." Katikati, faced with a downturn in the kiwifruit industry had done something similar and was attracting 300,000 people.

Opunake had other attractions it could promote. "We've got a world famous surfing beach. Why don't elaborate on that?"

Claire Hunn who opposes the green space and spoke to councillors via zoom also said more should be done to promote the beach.

Ann Smith who manages the St Pauls Op Shop said there had been a lack of consultation.

"The businesses have not been consulted where I am, nor the residents down Napier Street."

She said she hadn't been impressed with the meeting at the Sinclair Event Centre as there had been limits on what could be discussed, Corkill.

with limited question time.

"I propose that if people are still in favour of this that they do it as a temporary thing and close it off for six months and then see how the community feels about it."

She said she was concerned about the loss of parking space, and said she'd been told that Armourguard have to be a certain distance from the ATM, otherwise they'll need a police escort.

Andrea Thomas said that for visitors coming into town from the east their first view of the sea is from Napier Street and the proposed

green space would block that view off. She said blocking off streets to create malls had not been a good idea in Hawera or New Plymouth.

"Anywhere that they have blocked off streets it has turned into an inconvenience and I believe it will happen in our town as well."

Others welcomed the idea. Sharon Lovelock said the green space could be a place for people to connect, hang out and reflect.

"There's a lot of research which shows that concrete contributes to carbon emissions, so perhaps there

## Mason Brothers play Kaponga

Continued from page 4.

Taranaki" hit a popular chord with the audience.

"The song Taranaki is mostly about Mahoe," said Wayne. "We are absolutely south of the mountain."

As well as the Warratahs, Fourmyula and their own songs, the Mason Brothers played songs from Two Armed Men and Rockinghorse, a band which Wayne said had as their "one claim to fame" that they were banned from the Lion Breweries Circuit after having celebrated their receiving the Band of the Year and Song of the Year awards.

For the audience however

the high point was Nature, the song given the ultimate accolade by Apra in 2001.

Although Kaponga is familiar territory for the Masons, this was the first time they had played in a pub, said Paul. They have normally played in community halls.

Their next gig is at Whangamomona on August 2, a place where Wayne has never played before. The next night it's "over the hill" to Uruti. In September they will play Putaruru and Hamilton.

Wayne describes himself as a "roadie with music."

"I've been doing this for 60 years and I'm still doing it at 75. I'll be doing this till I

could be more natural paving.

"I'm aware of the rich history of the town and I hope the full spirit could be adopted, and not just back to colonial times."

Other speakers also spoke about the greenspace being somewhere to promote the heritage of the area. Tapakione Ahie Skinner said she would like to see three pou constructed, representing Wiremu Kingi Matakatea (the past), Hapu (now) and Mokopuna (the future).

"We don't have to showcase our beach because that's there. We don't have to showcase our maunga

because that's there. We need to showcase our tipuna."

Paul Bourke said Opunake has a rich history and the Green Space could be a place to showcase some of that, like the swanndris which were once made in Opunake and were unique to the town.

He said smaller centres around the world are doing similar things. He cited "a district the size of Pihama" in Tasmania where there were chainsaw carvings, each representing one of those who went to fight in World War I and did not come back.



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### OPUNAKE COPS

Robbery at Rahotu  
Kia Ora All,  
First of all I would like to thank all of those who called and assisted Police recently following a robbery and the subsequent investigation in Rahotu.  
We had a number of calls regarding the incident itself and then considerable help from members of the community while trying to locate the offenders. This meant arrests were made within a short time of the offence, minimising the chances of them being able to commit any other offences and cause further harm to



**CONSTABLE BRADLEY COAD**  
our community.  
All four persons have been arrested and are before the Hawera and New Plymouth District Court facing charges relating to the incident.

As always we ask that the community continue to report any suspicious activity in our area, as any information no matter how small can assist us in our investigations.  
Call 111 if it's happening now or 105 if its already happened.  
I would again like to remind everyone to take care on our roads, especially now that winter is starting to set in.  
By making better decisions around how and when we drive we should be able to minimise the harm caused on the roads in our region.  
Always wear your seat belt.

Don't drive while under any form of impairment such as drugs or alcohol.  
Be aware of your tiredness levels or fatigue and take regular breaks on long trips.  
Don't be distracted by the use of a mobile phone or other devices.  
Stick to the speed limits and make appropriate adjustments based on the weather, other road users and your own capabilities.  
Drive to the conditions.  
Be safe out there,  
Brad

*Constable Bradley Coad  
Opunake Police.*

### OPUNAKE FIRE SERVICE

A team from Opunake went to the National Road Crash Rescue Competition in Fielding  
The event was a massive learning curve for us, we saw and attempted techniques that we have never done before, these techniques we can bring back to our brigade, which we can apply to any accidents in the local Opunake Community.



We also won the "Spirit of the Challenge Trophy", This was voted on by the other 16 teams that entered.

*Andrew Pentelow  
CFO*

The team consisted of (from left to right) Chris Harvey, Steve Kelliher, Kane Bennett, Andrew Pentelow, Sean Nunes, and Suzie Pentelow.

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## New report sparks call for more support for NZ's volunteer firefighters

The United Fire Brigades' Association (UFBA) is calling for more support for volunteer firefighters with a new report showing they deliver \$823 million of value to Aotearoa every year.  
The UFBA has released the report 'Hidden in Plain Sight.' this morning. It was written independently by Esperance Capital Ltd and highlights the immense economic contribution New Zealand's 11,832 volunteer firefighters make to their communities.  
UFBA chief executive Bill Butzbach says the report confirms volunteers are the backbone of New Zealand's emergency services - without them, many lives would be lost.  
"To put it bluntly, without our volunteer firefighters,

New Zealand's emergency response system would collapse. Our emergency services simply could not operate without them," says Butzbach.  
Volunteer firefighters make up 86% of the country's frontline firefighters and are the first responders to most emergencies across 93% of New Zealand's land mass.  
"Not only does the dedication and selflessness of our volunteers protect our communities, it provides taxpayers and the government with savings of \$823 million a year. Thanks to volunteers, that's \$823 million the government can invest in hospitals, schools and other key services."  
The launch of the report coincides with the UFBA Road Crash Rescue Challenge. Fourteen teams of six firefighters (mostly volunteers) compete to save 20 'live patients' from 54 car wreckages as part of a national challenge,

showcasing the vital importance of volunteers in responding to emergencies.  
Volunteers staff 559 of New Zealand's 638 fire stations. Last year, FENZ were called out to around 15,000 medical emergencies. Of those, 71% were responded to by volunteer firefighters.  
Volunteer firefighters also responded to 70% of the motor vehicle accidents across Aotearoa that FENZ were requested at.  
The Hon.Peter Dunne, UFBA Board Chair, says it's important the contribution of volunteer firefighters isn't taken for granted.  
"It is clear they are a taonga (treasure) and as a nation, we need to protect and preserve them," says Dunne.  
"They are our farmers, teachers, retailers, and tradespeople who answer the call to duty, leaving their daily lives behind to face emergencies head-on, sometimes at great cost to themselves, their families

and their employers.  
"Our volunteers aren't motivated by money - for them, it's about giving back to their communities. It is time for the government and other decision makers to recognise the enormous contribution our volunteer firefighters make and to ensure the needs of our volunteers are always top of mind.  
"Volunteers do not receive the same level of uniform, training, fleet or equipment as their paid colleagues. They also receive less rehabilitation support, compensation, and health and safety cover when they are injured on duty. ACC does not cover mental trauma experienced by volunteer firefighters on duty, or chronic workplace illness because it is considered in law to be a leisure activity. That fact is astonishing and cannot continue."



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# Lockdown led to rethink and own business

For the last year Emerson Field has been running Elmo's Garage. Working out of a shed next to his Arawhata Road home Emerson specialises in rust repairs (including rust repairs for WOFs), exhausts, panel and metal fabrications and full restorations.

Previously he worked for Peter Kuriger Engineering and for Jonesy's Garage in Hamilton for a couple years working on hot rods, classics and customs. He has always liked cars and enjoyed working on them in his spare time.

When the COVID lockdowns came along he decided it was time for a rethink.

"I spent a month at home with my kids in the first lockdown and I realised life is short and thought I'd do something for myself," he said. "I've been working on cars since I left school, so I thought I'd go out on my own."

He wondered whether he might be in the right location to run a business like this, but he's been kept busy all through the last year and regularly works a 7.30am-5pm day. He has even been getting quotes and prices to extend his shed.

"I do mainly rust repairs and it's a good place to do that on the coast," he says. "It's been good so far and I've still got plenty of work on. I've made it this far and I'm happy."

He encourages anyone with vehicles needing rust repairs to pass a warrant of fitness to give him a call.

The vehicles he works on tend to be older in age.

"I see some of the new ones come in, but I mainly do the older ones. The older ones have a lot better steel."

There's a niche character to much that he does.

"There's not a lot of people around who are into doing the old-style rust work," he says. "They don't want to do them anymore."

He says people are often

surprised at how much work needs to be done.

"The rust is often worse than they think it is."

Most customers are local although some have come

from further afield, like the owner of the 1936 Chevy that Emerson has been working on, who comes from Sydney, Australia. He had originally approached

a mate of Emerson's who runs a similar business in Hamilton. He had too much work on so he referred him to Emerson.

"It's getting done to its

original classic state and when it's finished it's being shipped to Australia," says Emerson.

Emerson grew up on the

coast and he appreciates the support he has received from the coastal community.

"I want to thank everyone who has given me work and support," he says.



Emerson Field has just completed his first year running Elmo's Garage.



...and after.



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# Bates welcomes rural banking inquiry



**CARL BATES MP**  
WHANGABUI

Promoting robust competition in the banking sector is vital to rebuilding the economy, Finance Minister Nicola Willis says. Minister Willis has written to the chairs of the Finance and Expenditure and Primary Production select committees asking them to conduct a select committee inquiry into rural banking. Whanganui MP Carl Bates is pleased to see this inquiry is taking place and noted that several farming organisations had spoken directly to him regarding it. “Farmers’ satisfaction with rural banking has dropped in

recent years,” said Bates. “Growing the rural sector is critical to rebuilding New Zealand’s economy and it’s critical that we have an understanding of bank competition in that sector.”

The Finance Minister has asked the Primary Production Committee to work with the Finance and Expenditure Committee to jointly develop terms of reference, join meetings to hear submissions relevant to rural banking, and prepare a report on rural banking to feed into an overall inquiry into banking services. Minister Willis said “I would expect that the inquiry would, as a matter of course, hear submissions from those banks operating in New Zealand with chairpersons and chief executives being made

available for questioning.” “A more competitive economy is a more productive economy – with more growth, innovation, and investment. “Taking action to achieve a more competitive banking sector is all part of our plan to rebuild the economy, lift incomes, and improve the lives of all New Zealanders,” Nicola Willis says. Carl noted that he is looking forward to seeing the outcomes of the inquiry and engaging with our rural and provincial communities through the process.

# DOC advised against scrapping freshwater protections

Email correspondence obtained by Greenpeace through the Official Information Act reveals that the Department of Conservation advised against the coalition Government’s proposal to scrap critical freshwater protections. In response to a draft cabinet bill on proposed changes to the Resource Management Act through the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, the Department of Conservation (DOC) wrote, “Overall, we consider that the proposed changes are

a step backwards for fresh water and will impact adversely on New Zealand’s image and primary sector marketing. Other approaches to addressing costs for some farmers have been and should be preferred.” Greenpeace spokesperson Sinéad Deighton-O’Flynn says, “This is further evidence that the Luxon Government is pursuing its war on nature despite advice from its own Government departments. It appears that dairy industry profits are being prioritised over environmental interests, and that’s unacceptable.” “All New Zealanders should be able to swim in clean rivers and safely drink the water from their kitchen tap. However these policies will lead to more unswimmable rivers and drinking water contaminated with nitrate. “The advice also highlights a rushed consultation timeframe, meaning that even environmental advocates within Government departments are struggling to provide detailed advice on the anti-nature policies being thrown at them,” says Deighton-

O’Flynn. The advice, dated 26 March 2024, states that DOC was given “limited opportunity for input” and so could “only note that the additional adverse effects of the proposed changes may be significant for some catchments, protected areas and species.” Greenpeace has been calling on the coalition Government

to scrap the proposed Resource Management reforms. Nearly ten thousand people have signed Greenpeace’s petition calling on Christopher Luxon to ‘keep his hands off freshwater protections’, and the March for Nature drew more than twenty thousand people in opposition to the Government’s wider anti-nature policies.

# 2024 Matariki viewing prospects

Matariki Heri Kai | The feast of Matariki. This whakataukī comes from the Māori proverb “Matariki whetū heri kai” meaning “Matariki, the bringer of food”. NIWA meteorologists say people living in the upper North Island are likely to get the best views of the Matariki star cluster this week. The early morning mid-winter appearance of Matariki, also known as Pleiades, heralds the start of the Māori New Year. Cloud cover allowing, Matariki comes into view as a small pulsating collection of stars just above the

northeastern horizon. This happens shortly before sunrise. The NIWA weather team have prepared forecasts for early morning cloud cover so whānau around the country can plan their best chances of seeing Matariki rise. Forecaster Seth Carrier says it’s looking fairly cloudy for much of the country. “It’s a mixed bag of weather but cloud is quite dominant across the country over the coming days. However, most places will have a morning or two with just partial cloud, so there may be opportunities to see the star cluster if you’re lucky,” said Seth.

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# Singer songwriters enthusiastically received



for 18 years but this year, it was decided to open it up to the regions. Organiser and host Andre Manella seemed delighted by the reaction in Opunake.

Theatre. Says Andre they also hope to return to Opunake. We'll keep you posted.

New Plymouth Singer Songwriters is on the last Friday night of the month at New Plymouth's Little Theatre in Aubrey Street.



Original music being performed by Jack Fryer at the Singer Songwriters in Opunake.

Photo Monica Willson.

Chloe Danz and Sherrie Flanagan - Moemoeā.

Photo Monica Willson.

Opunake's Singer Songwriters attracted an enthusiastic crowd on Friday June 14 who packed out Opunake's intimate Lakeside Theatre.

accompanying themselves on guitars, singers being accompanied by other musicians - all received enthusiastically by the crowd attracted in part no doubt by the novelty of being able to listen to some original music in Opunake.

elsewhere and beyond, one coming from as far as Marton to perform.

Commented someone who was in the audience, it was "brilliant" and said it was more enjoyable than going to see just one band. She liked the variety of the performances also. "I loved it all," she said.

Clem Coxhead who owns Opunake Discounter, the

following day said here had been a lot of talk about the evening with customers commenting it had been a great night and that they were amazed at the local talent. It was also an opportunity to go out and do something totally different, they said and they hoped there would be more in the future.

New Plymouth Singer Songwriters has been going

Around 20 acts entertained the audience ranging from soloists, to duos, to instrumentalists. There were comical songs, a stand up comedian, singers

Performers ranged from all over Taranaki including Opunake, Kaponga and



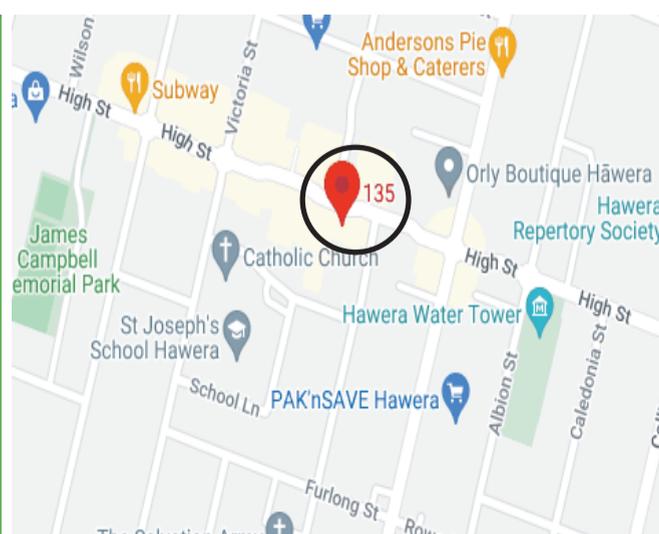
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# Hawera Riding for the Disabled Group celebrate 50 years

In 1973 Mr Atchison, President of the New Zealand RDA was travelling the country encouraging the development of RDA groups. A meeting was held in Hawera with members of the Pony Club and interested citizens attending.

As a result the first rally was held at Les Bent's farm with volunteers and horses from the local pony club and horses from the local area.

Rallies were held there until 1980 when the property was sold. The RDA went into recess at this time until 1982 when RDA resumed with the generosity of the Egmont A&P Association allowing the use of the showgrounds.

Volunteers rode and led horses into the showgrounds every Wednesday. The



Lucy with Cookie.

group developed from this to what it is today.

A horse float was donated from local community

groups and this, along with volunteers who brought their own horses in as well for the rallies.

A small shed was donated to store horse gear in. Then in 1999 Sandy Southcombe shifted a building to the showgrounds. The local community, trades people and local business, volunteer organisations and volunteers showed the true spirit of the community and made this building fit for purpose.

RDA is a worldwide organisation and there are now over 50 groups operating in New Zealand. It caters for people of all ages who have a disability – whether it is physical, social, neurological and other conditions.

We have seen over the past 50 years that our intervention has made a huge difference to many lives.

Without the dedication of many volunteers and our

wonderful patient horses, RDA would not be able to deliver this valuable service. There are many roles that our volunteers cover and everyone enables the “cogs” to turn. You don't need to be “horsey” to make a difference.

We receive no funding from the government and rely on grants, bequests, donations from our organisations, local business and citizens and our own fundraising. We only continue to operate with the very generous support we receive.

With support from our national body, NZRDA, training and guidelines are provided to coaches and volunteers and our group, to provide a professional service that is the same throughout NZ.

We have some volunteers who have contributed to RDA from very new to a very dedicated 40 years of service.

We have progressed from a straw bale to mount to a dedicated mounting ramp; horse floats instead of riding horses in; so much more awareness of disabilities and how to cater for those with them; to trained volunteers and coaches.

We work closely with schools, education and health experts using a goal based programme.

But ultimately it is seeing a rider become confident, animated and happy when riding that makes it worthwhile. It makes a great day at the office.

Hawera Riding for the Disabled Group.

# Venture Taranaki explores opportunities for a Blue Economy

Taranaki Regional Development Agency, Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki hosted thought-provoking event, 'The Blue Economy', featuring lead researchers from Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge.

Held on June 21, the workshop brought together industry professionals from engineering, food, tourism, entrepreneurs, iwi, students,

community groups, and local government to kickstart the conversation of what a sustainable Blue Economy could look like for Taranaki.

Led by the team at Sustainable Seas, who shared their extensive research findings, emphasising the need to take a holistic view to balance marine resource use while safeguarding wider environmental and

community concerns.

Julie Hall, Director of the Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge says the Blue Economy goes beyond the traditional, purely economic concept of GDP.

“The Blue Economy is a whole new way of doing business. We define it as marine activities that not only generate economic value, but more importantly have positive ecological, cultural, and social wellbeing

outcomes.”

With over 300km of coastline wrapping around Taranaki, the Blue Economy presents immense opportunities for a diverse array of sectors in region, from eco-tourism to food ventures, marine conservation, energy, and iwi-led initiatives.

Stacey Hitchcock, Deputy CE/GM Investment, Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki says, “Unlocking

a sustainable Blue Economy could allow us to build our regional resilience, providing sustainable economic growth, employment, and exciting innovative ventures that care for our precious marine environment, people, and community.”

The event also covered informative case studies of the Blue Economy in practice, showcasing innovations from seaweed aquaculture to clever starfish

skincare products that are helping to preserve shellfish populations in Ōhiwa Harbour.

Stacey Hitchcock comments, “Today's event was a great platform to bring our community together to spark the conversation, encouraging connection to collaborate, innovate, and explore the possibilities and current barriers for a blue economy in region.”

## New improved timetable

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Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	6.55	1.30
Rāhotu	Plunket Rooms	7.08	1.43
Pungarehu	Opposite Town Hall	7.13	1.48
Ōkato	Carthew St. (opp. Sinclair's)	7.25	2.00
Ōākura	Ōākura Hall	7.35	2.10
New Plymouth	Spotswood College*	7.50	2.25
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	7.57	2.32
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	8.00	2.35

New Plymouth to Ōpunake		AM	PM
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	11.30	5.05
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	11.33	5.08
New Plymouth	Spotswood College*	11.40	5.18
Ōākura	Ōākura Hall	11.50	5.20
Ōkato	Sinclair Electrical, Carthew St.	12.00	5.30
Pungarehu	Town Hall	12.10	5.40
Rāhotu	Four Square	12.15	5.45
Ōpunake	Dreamtime	12.28	5.58
Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	12.30	6.00

Friday only		PM
New Plymouth	FDMC	4.25
New Plymouth	NPGHS	4.40
New Plymouth	SHGC	4.45
New Plymouth	NPBHS	4.55
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	5.05
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	5.08
New Plymouth	Spotswood College (pick-up only)	5.18
Ōākura	Ōākura Hall	5.20
Ōkato	Sinclair Electrical, Carthew St.	5.30
Pungarehu	Town Hall	5.40
Rāhotu	Four Square	5.45
Ōpunake	Dreamtime	5.58
Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	6.00

\*Spotswood College - AM drop off only & PM pick-up only

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# YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR VOICE, YOUR FUNDING PRIORITIES

# TRANSFORMING PHILANTHROPY

Participatory philanthropy is set to expand across the region with more communities deciding how funding is allocated.



“Participatory philanthropy” – Placing affected communities at the center of grant-making by giving them the power to decide who and what to fund.

## TE AHO POUTIAKI

TE AHO POUTIAKI is a Toi Foundation funding initiative focused on leadership development, cultural preservation, and community empowerment, trialled last year in South Taranaki with great impact and success. Not only because of the funding distributed across the community, but a 10-strong group of taiohi (youth) worked in partnership with Toi Foundation, learning important governance, professionalism, leadership, community engagement and communication skills throughout a 12-month period.

*Te Aho Poutiaki, the name gifted to this programme means – the guardians of the threads that connect us all, linking us to the land and our tūpuna (ancestors).*

## PARTICIPATORY PHILANTHROPY EXPLAINED

A community-led approach to grant-making and social impact that; actively involves the community in the decision-making processes on how resources are allocated and utilised, is responsive to the needs of that community, nurtures and develops the potential of taiohi, addresses inequity in accessing funding, and promotes inclusive, equitable, and sustainable approaches to social change.

EMPOWERMENT + LEADERSHIP

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## TE AHO POUTIAKI IN ACTION



PĀTEA COMMUNITY, SOUTH TARANAKI  
2 FUNDING ROUNDS

10 YOUNG DECISION-MAKERS 45 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED \$80,000 GRANTED (13 GRANTS)



A 10-strong group of taiohi, ranging from 15 to 21 years of age, was established in Pātea to distribute funding into the community. All taiohi involved had a connection to the area and an innate knowledge of the needs of their community.

### PROGRAMME VALUES

WHĀNAUNGATANGA  
Unity and belonging

RANGATIRATANGA  
Leadership

MANAAKITANGA  
Respect and kindness

MATATIKA  
Being accountable

### PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

An independent review of the programme in action in Pātea, identified Te Aho Poutiaki as having a significantly positive impact on the community, particularly for youth. It was community driven, responsive, and had a strong cultural foundation.



- Youth empowerment
- Fostering identity and belonging
- Diversity
- Trust
- Leadership and governance
- Community engagement, communications skills & collaboration
- Cultural preservation and sustainability
- Succession planning & pathways

“Community at the core’ is paramount for Te Aho Poutiaki and inherent in the values that it perpetuates.” (PARTICIPANT)

“The initiative stands as a beacon of hope, fostering leadership and cultural preservation.” (PARTICIPANT)

“This experience has taught me the power of community-driven initiatives and the importance of preserving cultural heritage. These lessons are invaluable and can be applied to other aspects of life.” (PARTICIPANT)

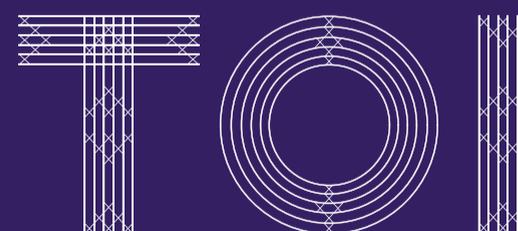
“Te Aho Poutiaki is building our future leaders.” (PARTICIPANT)

## NEXT STEPS

Toi Foundation continues to explore and learn the benefits of placing underserved communities at the centre of grant-making. As we focus our efforts and support on areas of greatest need, we’re collaborating, empowering and celebrating the positive changes and long-term impact this approach is achieving for Taranaki.

TOIFOUNDATION.ORG.NZ

With a view to sustain and extend participatory philanthropy across our rohe, Toi Foundation have committed to continue Te Aho Poutiaki in Pātea, and also grow the initiative, bringing Ōpunake and Mania communities into the fold. Keep an eye out for when the funding rounds open in July this year.



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# GPs warn of fee increases and more closures

GPs fees will have to rise after Te Whatu Ora failed to cover the increased costs of providing community healthcare, the General Practice Owners Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (GenPro) is warning.

And the likelihood of more towns and rural areas losing their family doctors altogether is also increasing, according to GenPro Deputy Chair Stephanie Taylor.

Dr Taylor's comments follow Te Whatu Ora releasing its proposed annual uplift of base funding to support practices to meet their costs, and the Annual Statement of Reasonable Fee Increases, which sets the maximum a GP can increase fees. Te Whatu Ora's proposal is based on funding allocated in last month's Budget.

"General practices are under pressure and many GPs are deciding enough is enough and retiring or closing their practices. Some communities have or will soon lose access to their local medical, injury, and mental health service, or it will lack the key component – an experienced GP."

Dr Taylor said the best approach to sustainable care is proper investment in general practice and increasing the numbers of GPs, but nothing in the

Budget or Te Whatu Ora's statement addressed this. GPs are now forced to face the choice of increasing fees or reducing services to remain viable. Neither is a choice that GPs want to make, and neither benefits patients.

GenPro warns that access to general practice will be lost if underfunding and undervaluing of GPs and their teams are not dealt with immediately. More than 50 percent of family doctors are due to retire by 2030 and there isn't an available workforce to replace them. Of the 300 places available for training future GPs, only 238 were filled in 2023.

"Multiple reports show that the current GP funding model is simply not fit for purpose. For example, about one in three GP practices is losing money. Fixing the situation will require investment to retain the shrinking workforce, attract doctors to general practice, and recognise the quality and continuity of care they deliver."

GenPro says that a greater percentage of the \$30.6 billion health budget must be directed to frontline services in primary care.

"It is disappointing that Te Whatu Ora does not recognise the urgent need to prioritise investment in

general practice," she said.

"People with a long-term relationship with their GP live longer and cost the health system less. The model used to fund general practice needs updating and the government's own reviews into funding have recommended increases of 10 to 20 percent on average to reach sustainability, let alone address some of the unmet needs and inequities accessing healthcare".

General Practice representatives will likely reject the proposed four percent uplift, which is insufficient to retain services and meet needs of patients.

"Successive years of increased labour costs, demand, expectations, regulation and compliance have significantly increased the running costs of general practice without a commensurate increase in funding. General practice owners have been footing the bill for these higher costs, but are becoming increasingly unable to do so," Dr Taylor said.

Dr Taylor said that the proposed uplift is shifting the cost burden on to patients.

"Higher consultation fees result in GPs becoming unaffordable, which means ill people do not seek care,

or they present at crowded emergency departments in public hospitals, or – as we sadly see – some are caught in the embarrassing situation of visiting a GP and then not paying for their treatment."

Te Whatu Ora must increase the uplift, as the amount proposed will create further inequity by shifting costs to patients, many of whom cannot afford to pay more for essential family doctor services.

"This adds to the unsustainable nature of trying to manage a GP clinic. The system is at a tipping point and the government must step in," said Dr Taylor.

Dr Taylor also said Te Whatu Ora's proposed adjustment had come too late for meaningful consultation, as it is supposed to apply from July 1.

"The information was released at the eleventh hour which means we have not been given adequate time to discuss this offer with our GenPro Members and the wider GP community".

GenPro and other contracted provider agents have opted to use the required 20 working day consultation period to engage with members, and seek feedback for consideration by Te Whatu Ora.

## About the property market right now

By Kelvin Davidson, CoreLogic NZ Chief Property Economist

Regulatory change is a huge theme for housing at present, so in this environment CoreLogic's Chief Property Economist Kelvin Davidson draws on some anecdotal insights gathered from market participants 'on the ground'.

1. The economy is hurting. To be fair, that's nothing new, but it's been a useful reality check to hear it directly from 'real world' mortgage advisors, estate agents, bankers, and property buyers. It's also been a timely reminder that Q1's 0.2% expansion in GDP is hardly anything to go overboard about.

2. Property buyers remain keen, but getting deals done is difficult. Even despite the continued high levels of

mortgage rates, buyers are still out there doing their due diligence. But with affordability remaining a key hurdle, until there is a bit more clarity about the potential timing for mortgage rates to start falling, it may still remain tricky for many people to convert a willingness to buy property into an actual deal. However, it's also worth noting that, anecdotally, the affordability/serviceability rules have recently been eased a little by some banks – as covered on recent guest episodes of the NZ Property Market Podcast.

3. Far from being 'bad policy', the balance of opinion is that debt to income restrictions are worth a try. Sure, some people think the DTIs are a terrible idea. But on balance, more people seem to think they're worth a shot, if they

can help slowly restore some kind of normality for our housing market in terms of affordability.

4. Buyers in the provinces aren't unduly concerned about DTI caps. Although there's a strong awareness that longer term declines in mortgage rates will eventually start to see debt to income caps become a more significant restraint on lending, the sentiment in regional markets is still fairly relaxed. That's because property values are lower in relation to incomes anyway, so high DTI lending is always less of an issue in these areas.

5. There is interest in whether or not banks will 'hold' the DTI speed limits for more expensive markets. If the 20% allowances for high DTI lending will actually just be reserved for borrowers in pricier areas,

such as Auckland, that might mean mortgages can flow relatively well for everyone.

6. Early action could be keeping formal mortgage stress indicators low. Given 'higher for longer' mortgage rates, there's a sense that some property owners with large debts are acting early and making a change to their situation (e.g. downsizing, moving to a cheaper area) before real trouble arises. Of course, it's not easy to prove this, as these sales are not readily identifiable in the records – they're 'just another sale'.

7. Where mortgage stress does arise, the first step seems to be a loan term extension rather than going interest-only.

8 Brightline test from 1st July is arguably going to drive more selling activity than buying.

## A time to plant

Winter is planting time so a visit to the garden centre is a must-do. At Palmers New Plymouth we have plenty on offer. Plant deciduous trees now so that they start to put down roots ready for spring. Fruit trees planted now will fruit within 2 – 3

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winter, they allow light into your garden. Then, in spring, many blossom before new foliage that develops into a shady canopy in summer. Cyclamen can't be beaten for winter colour, and they come back year after year. Plant these fragrant beauties anywhere in the garden or a pot, indoors or out. A fantastic buy at \$7.99. Flowering now through

spring are Camellia. Our pick is the Paradise series, five varieties, great for hedging, screening, or as a specimen; were \$29.99 now \$19.99, save \$10. Vegetable and flower punnets are our everyday great buy at 4 for \$18 and single potted colour 5 for \$12. Just arrived are strawberries, 3 for \$12. Plant them now for strawberries on your Christmas pavlova.

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# Ōpunakē High School

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### Principals' Address

**Waiho i te toipoto, kau i te toiroa**

It has been wonderful welcoming so many whanau into the kura these last couple of weeks. Visits from our 2025 Year 9 students were held during Open Day. This current group of Year 8s got to experience a snapshot of what it is like to be a student here at Ōpunakē High School, enjoying team building, cake decorating, toi maori, and making a little explosion in the science lab!! It was fabulous feeling their enthusiasm and energy for learning, and we look forward to these tamariki joining 'the best kept secret in Aotearoa' next year.

We have also been connecting with whanau through Individual Development Planning hui with Kaimanaaki. These meetings are integral in forging connections with whanau, as we all work together towards the common goal of 'growing good people'.

The Year 11 WITT Expo has gone a long way to signposting career pathways for our senior students, along with broadening their horizons, and realising what skills need to be developed and cultivated to reach their DREAMS.



Our Dungeons and Dragons group where students meet once a fortnight to engage in this fantasy game, where it is pivotal to be a problem solver, be theatrical, and understand probability have just acquired their new school hoodies. The Home and School along with Ben Morgan and Noeline Harlen were integral in raising the funds to support this imaginative group with gaining their own team uniform.

Whilst the D 'n' D team face imaginary foes, our Tough Guy 'n' Gal year 12/13 faced the North Island cross country challenge. Apart from being covered in mud they all managed to finish with big smiles on their faces, and buzzing with adrenaline. All of our representatives completed the challenge with Charlie Carr coming 2nd in the North Island. Great resilience and sporting ambassadors for our kura, we are supremely proud of them all.

We wish the Japan Sports and Cultural Tour 2024 all the best on their overseas trip, and again thank the community for the immense support they have afforded our kura to enable this amazing and exciting opportunity to take place. Another piece of exciting news is the employment of our new Head of English, Katerina Papageorgiou who is returning to us after six years. We are incredibly happy to have her back on staff.

On another note we farewell KC McAlister our passionate teacher aide, and wish her well with her future endeavours.

We look forward to seeing you bright and early on Thursday 26th June at Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Tamarongo to celebrate Puanga with us.

**Ko Matariki te whetū hei arataki e  
 A tutuki noa ki te mutunga  
 Puritia ngā tohutohu o te wā  
 Kia manawanui, kia rangimarie.  
 Na Tuini Ngāwai**

*Matariki is the star that guides us  
 To pursue our aspirations to fruition  
 Take heed of the signs before us  
 (So that we may) be resolute and at peace  
 by Tuini Ngāwai*

Ngā mihi nui  
**Andrea Hooper Carr**  
 Principal

# A WARM WELCOME



Future Year 9 students from our contributing schools were given a glimpse into everything Ōpunakē High School has to offer as part of our Open Days Experience. Tasters, display and presentations from right across the full curriculum, in and out of the classroom, hopefully showcased our wonderful kura on the coast. Thankfully no students were hurt, as Mr Bannochie displayed some pretty hot science to wow everyone. Ka rawe.

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Lead by Christian Moeahu and Te Raukura Winiata, the Ōpunakē students heading to Japan get in some haka practice guided by tutor Pelo Rangī (right)

# Lord of the Tree Rings means less work for already busy farmers

A mobile log splitter which has been dubbed “Lord of the Tree Rings” means Taranaki farmers have one less job to do on the farm. The problem of getting rid of those felled trees and what to do with the wood is made a lot simpler, thanks to the splitter, custom-made for Joe Goodin who is perhaps better known for designing subsea tools for the gas, oil and renewable energy sector.

These days it is operated by Josh Barrett whose father Phillip is a cousin of Joe’s.

“Joe built the first one year’s ago for my cousin Kane, and we used to work on that as cousins,” says Josh.

He has been sold on it ever since.

“Joe’s really clever and he’s got some really clever ideas,” he says.

On Tuesday Josh was at his father’s runoff cleaning up a fallen pine tree.

“I go around splitting up wood for farmers who are pretty busy with their own workloads. It’s good to



Josh Barrett and the Lord of the Tree Rings.

go on the farm and it does another job farmers don’t want to do,” he says.

“It can take a week of work to get a year’s worth of firewood. Heaps of farmers have trees come down, so this

clears up their paddocks and their riverways. Everyone has wood on their farms, so with the price of energy you might as well use it for your power bills.”

His work takes him all

around the mountain. Recent jobs have included cleaning up macrocarpas in Pihama and gum trees in Bell Block. He has even cleaned up fallen trees left over from Cyclone Bola. If the wood is

usable and the farmer wants to keep it he will charge the rate of the truck. If they just want the wood out, then he will sell it for firewood.

The splitter is carried on a dual wheel 4WD truck capable of extracting trees from almost anywhere. A lifting table enables rings which are four foot or more in diameter to be lifted to the cutting table where it is crunched into segments and then shifted by conveyor to the ground or a waiting

trailer.

Joe says it can split about 10 cube an hour. He has been doing this full time for the last six months. Before then he was working as a builder.

“I enjoy getting on to the farm and meeting the farmers,” says Josh. “This is something different for the farmers as well.”

Josh can be contacted on ph (022)3431693.



The Lord of the Tree Rings at work.

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## Rural Women back Inquiry

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) have welcomed the announcement that there will be a full Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into banking competition, focussing on rural banking.

“We know from our members that rural communities are experiencing a range of

issues with their banks and that banks are not currently meeting their needs,” RWNZ CEO Gabrielle O’Brien says.

“The range of issues is broad and includes everything from constrained access to lending and high interest rates to the closure of rural bank branches and ATMs.

“Our members are also concerned there’s an over-reliance by banks on digital services as opposed to personal banking services which is leaving rural communities without adequate support. This is especially the case when some rural communities continue to experience poor connectivity,” Gabe says.

“With the food and fibre sector making up 10 per cent of GDP, banks need to support rural communities, farmers and businesses, especially in these tough economic times.

“We look forward to engaging with the Select Committee as part of this important inquiry.”

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# Water models everywhere

A new report says regional councils are often opting to create their own expensive, customised, and single-use freshwater models to help them make decisions when they could potentially be saving time and money adapting already existing models.

Freshwater modelling can help councils make decisions such as how much water to take from a source, but councils are taking an uncoordinated approach to using them, says a new report by the Parliamentary

Commissioner for the Environment. The review found at least 75 different freshwater models being used across New Zealand, many of which overlapped in uses. Furthermore, 60% percent of the models evaluated were used only by one council for a single use.

The report makes recommendations for a more coordinated and supportive approach among regional councils to help to turn around the declining state of New Zealand's lakes, rivers and streams.

Dr Roger Young, Freshwater Ecosystems Group Manager, Cawthron Institute, comments: "This review identifies various shortcomings with the way that models are used to assist with freshwater management in Aotearoa New Zealand. These challenges are largely a consequence of the way water management in New Zealand is devolved to regional councils. A lack of national leadership and guidance on model development and use has resulted in multiple

models for similar tasks, inconsistencies in the way that models are being applied and the benefits of modelling not being fully realised.

"The review explains the wide variety of model types that can help freshwater management and the wide range of topics where models can contribute. Models can be simple or incredibly complex. Regional differences in climate, geology and land use mean that some models are critically important in some places, but less relevant in

others. Models tend to focus on specific topics, such as river flow, water quality, cultural values, and sediment inputs. No single model can do it all.

"Many of the current models used in freshwater management are based on good data but a lack of model transparency and accessibility creates uncertainty and limits use. The review rightly emphasises that monitoring data and models are dependent on each other. It is not helpful to consider that

one is better than the other.

"The Commissioner makes some useful recommendations about developing national guidance and support that could contribute to improved freshwater management, although establishing a national freshwater modelling support centre would be a complex task. There are certainly challenges with providing on-going maintenance and support of key freshwater models."

# Drier conditions continue through May

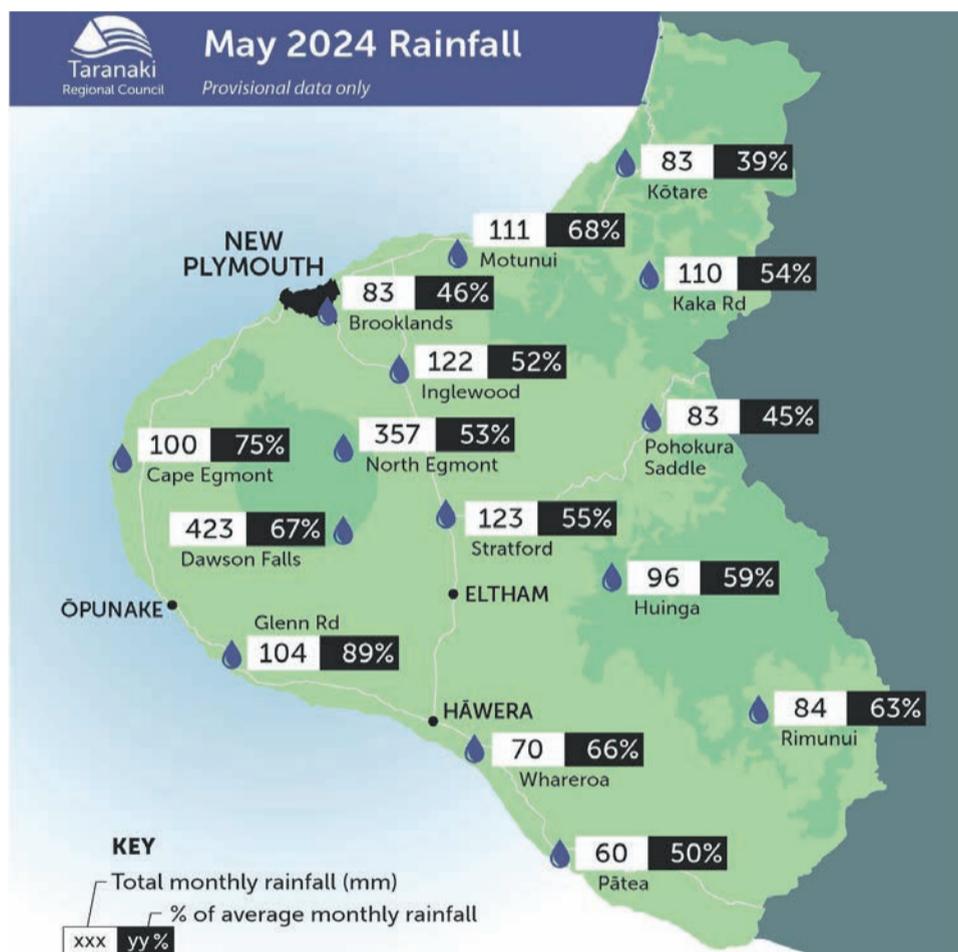
On average May rainfall was 104.5mm, 41% less than usual, ranging from 62% less rain at Kotare at OSullivan's, and 12% less at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

Year-to-date rainfall is lowest at Waitotara at Hawken Rd with 43% less rainfall than usual. Manganui at Everett Park has had the highest year to date rainfall with 100% of normal rainfall. On average there has been 19% less than normal across all rain gauges.

Compared to typical full year totals, on average sites have only received 30% of a typical year's rainfall, with the highest value at Manganui at Everett Park, 36% of normal, whereas Waitotara at Hawken Rd sits at 23% of the typical year's total.

Mean river flows for May were 40.8% lower than typical values, low flows were 28.4% greater, and high flows 68.6% lower than typical values. The maximum river flow recorded in May was 209.2m<sup>3</sup>/sec at Waitara at Bertrand Rd, at 8pm on 21 May 2024.

Mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 10.7°C, an average of 1.4°C cooler than long-term May



Nighttime-low water temperatures were on average 0.6°C cooler than historic lows, and daytime high temperatures were on average 2.5°C cooler than historic highs. The maximum river water temperature recorded in

May was 15.07°C at Patea at McColls Bridge, at 9:30pm on 1 May.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 10.9°C, which is 1.6°C cooler than long-term May averages. Low air temperatures for

May were on average 0.4°C cooler than the May average for previous years. Day-time high temperatures were on average 2.2°C cooler than historic highs. The maximum air temperature recorded in May was 19.89°C at Brooklands Zoo

at New Plymouth, at 4:10pm on 3 May.

The average soil moisture for May across sites in Taranaki region was 31.4%. Soil moistures were on average 0.5% drier than typical May values. On average, low soil moistures were 6.1% wetter than previous lows, and the highs were on average 3.7% drier than previous values for May.

May soil temperatures were generally 1.3°C cooler than long-term averages. Average nighttime low soil temperatures were 0.1°C cooler than recorded lows, and upper day-time soil temperatures were on average 2.6°C cooler than

long-term May highs. The maximum soil temperature recorded in May was 15.62°C at Kapoiaia at Lighthouse, on 1 May

May average wind speeds were 12.8km/hr, with average gust strength of 39.5km/hr, these were 1.3km/hr lighter, and 2.9km/hr weaker than the long-term average. Average calm weather wind speeds were 0.1km/hr stronger than recorded lows, and windy conditions were on average 2km/hr stronger than long-term May highs. The maximum wind gust recorded in May was 101.2km/hr at Kapoiaia at Lighthouse, on at 3:50pm on 29 May.

## Urban fish being fed plastic diet

Fish living near Dunedin City are ingesting around nine times more plastic than their rural cousins, according to a new study.

Scientists checked the guts of fish at three spots: Dunedin City, Port Chalmers, and Pūrākaunui. Dunedin City fish had an average of 23 pieces of plastic in their bellies, while

rural fish had less than three. The researchers say this study further supports the idea that being close to a city is an important factor in how many microplastics a fish is likely to consume.

*New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*

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# HortNZ backs approval process review

Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) welcomes the announcement that the Ministry of Regulation will review the complex approval processes for new agricultural and horticultural products under the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS).

“Attaining regulatory approval to register a new product in New Zealand takes an excessively long time and is very costly,” says Michelle Sands, Manager Strategy and Policy at HortNZ.

“The EPA is currently responsible for a significant backlog of applications stuck in the regulatory process for new products designed to control pests

and diseases in the most sustainable ways. A recent Sapere review estimated that if the EPA were to put all their resources to work processing the applications already in the queue, it would still take at least 2-4 years to clear this backlog.

“HortNZ is concerned that the approaches the EPA and NZFS are taking to reassessments is leaving the horticulture sector with fewer options to manage risks in an increasingly risky environment.

“New Zealand growers are actively working to lessen the use of agrichemicals. Ironically, the complex regulatory approval processes and EPA’s backlog of applications are preventing growers from accessing products that

are more environmentally friendly and sustainable with lesser impacts on the environment.

“The horticulture sector is front-footing initiatives to reduce use of chemical sprays through the A Lighter Touch (ALT) programme. This is funding extensive demonstrations with the aim of transitioning from agrichemical pest management to agroecological crop protection.”

Horticulture New Zealand holds the contract with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to deliver this programme, which is a partnership between horticulture product groups, the arable, and viticulture sectors. The programme partners are contributing \$16

million to the programme, with \$11 million coming from MPI.

Crop protection products are vital to horticulture production, says Sands.

“For example, without crop protection products, horticulture would lose 75 per cent of the value of its crops. Vegetable growers would incur losses of about 88 per cent of the value of vegetable crops - 80 per cent of vegetables in New Zealand are grown for domestic supply. New Zealanders food security, as well as our economy, is dependent on the new product regulatory system working well.

“To manage that risk, we need to ensure regulatory interpretations of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act are not creating barriers to horticulture’s success. These Acts need to enable



Michelle Sands.

growers access to new tools so they can produce healthy fruit and vegetables for New

Zealanders and achieve the Government’s vision of doubling exports.”

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## Progress towards national pest management plan

DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ) have welcomed the Government’s confirmed commitment to implementing a National Pest Management Plan (NPMP) for Mycoplasma bovis (M. bovis).

DairyNZ and B+LNZ are partners in the programme alongside the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). The plan is designed to safeguard results achieved to date and add resilience to the country’s biosecurity system through OSPRI’s management of the M. bovis eradication programme.

Until now, the eradication programme has been the responsibility of the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) partners, MPI, DairyNZ and B+LNZ, but with the response shifting to a focus on surveillance before eradication is confirmed, it’s appropriate that full responsibility transfers to OSPRI.

“The spirit of collaboration is a key part of New Zealand’s

response to eradicate M. bovis from New Zealand and it’s great to see the success of this approach affirmed,” says DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel.

“Via the NPMP, the partners will continue to support work to protect our national dairy and beef herds. It will ensure that OSPRI, which manages the M. bovis programme – alongside the TB programme and the National Animal Identification Tracing (NAIT) system – has the tools needed to continue to work towards the goal of eradication.”

Farmers will see little practical change on the ground under the new plan but there are opportunities for efficiencies in managing bovine TB, M. bovis and the NAIT system in the same entity. The M. bovis programme is now six years into a 10-year eradication plan.

B+LNZ chair Kate Acland chair says: “The effective

response to managing the M. bovis challenge hasn’t been easy but the Government’s announcement marks another significant milestone in the programme.

“Farmers affected by the eradication programme have experienced significant disruption to their business and made sacrifices – we owe it to them to finish the job. The programme partners are committed to supporting OSPRI in finding any remaining infection to protect the wider sector.”

Jim says the programme to eradicate M. bovis took a large financial and emotional toll on farmers but the cost of letting it spread would have been much higher.

“While we may still see a few more cases, we are now approaching the surveillance phase and costs have reduced, thanks to a huge combined effort.”

The National Pest Management Plan will come into effect by the end of 2024.

## DairyNZ appoints new chair

Following seven years at the helm and having seen through a new strategic direction for DairyNZ, Chair Jim van der Poel has announced he will step down at the October AGM.

Farmer-elected Director Tracy Brown has been selected as chair-elect.

Deputy chair Jacqueline Rowarth will also step down, opening two new positions for farmer-elected directors

on the Board.

Jim has been chair of DairyNZ since 2017, following his election to the board in 2013.

He served as a farmer-elected director on the inaugural board in 2007-2009, then again from 2013. Prior to this, he was appointed to the foundation board of DairyNZ’s predecessor Dexcel in 2000, becoming chair in 2003.

During his third reappointment as chair in October last year, Jim said he would remain to support the transition of new chief executive Campbell Parker, the development of DairyNZ’s new strategy, and see through the change of Government.

“DairyNZ is in good health and it’s time to pass the baton to the next generation,” Jim says.

# Funding boost for sports at Waitara school



Manukorihi Intermediate is a small school that caters to Year 7 and Year 8 students in Waitara, New Plymouth.

Manukorihi Intermediate School has received an \$18,285 grant from New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT) to upgrade and expand its sports equipment. The funds will be used to replace old football goals, replenish balls, racquets, and sports uniforms, and introduce new SNAG golf equipment, enhancing athletic opportunities and offering diverse physical activities for students.

“Many activities wouldn’t be possible without the provided gear, like netballs, basketballs, netball goals, rugby balls, and tackle bags. We enjoy varied sports like badminton and table tennis. Our unique uniforms give us pride and individuality.”

- Myah, Kiriana, and Shay, students.

Principal Fiona Low says “It’s great to host other schools with brand-new gear. I’m proud that our students can have a choice of sports because we have the right equipment. You cannot put a price on the happiness that we see and hear when they are out doing what they love.”

Manukorihi Intermediate is a small school that caters to Year 7 and Year 8 students in Waitara, New Plymouth. Standing on the historic site of Manukorihi Pa in Waitara, Taranaki, the kura draws its students from the town of Waitara and surrounding country schools.

## New life member



Coastal Adult Riding Club president Maree Collins (left) with new life member Glenda Schumacher.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Coastal Adult Riding Club, Glenda Schumacher of Stratford was awarded her Life Membership.

Glenda joined the club in 2006 and in that time, she has been President for 16 years and has also represented the Coastal Club at the North Island Teams’ Event 16 times. She has designed and built the cross-country course for this event twice and has officiated as show jumping course builder on numerous occasions.

She has been on the NZRC National committee since 2011 and still holds a role on the general committee.

Glenda is a hard-working club member who has helped host both NITE and the National AGM twice in Taranaki. Congratulations, Glenda. This award is well deserved.

Maureen Drylie (Publicity Officer.)

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# Home Work Maunga Auaha:

Temporary Gallery, Ground Floor, Puke Ariki Museum. 6 July 2024 – 10 November 2024

Taranaki art of the present moment takes centre stage

in this expansive celebration of local talent. Over seventy artworks by established and emerging artists will inspire visitors and highlight the creativity that this region

inspires through its natural beauty, and extraordinary history.

The selection has been made by prestigious guest judges artists Lisa Reihana,

Michel Tuffery and Justin Morgan of Puke Ariki, who were impressed with the range of skills and the sense of joy in the uniquely crafted pieces.

View Taranaki as reimagined by our artists in paintings, photography, intricate weaving, chiselled stone and digital imagery. Explore personal stories,

origins and our collective experiences, as artists contemplate what it means to be here, in this place, in these times



Home Work Exhibition at Puke Ariki will also feature music from Taranaki performers including Graeme Woller formerly from Opunake.



## HOME WORK MAUNGA AUAHA TARANAKI ART 2024

A celebration of the art our region is known for, inspired by the maunga we live beneath, invoking creativity that permeates our way of life in a way that is unique to Taranaki.

**6 JULY - 10 NOV 2024**  
 TEMPORARY GALLERY, PUKE ARIKI



*Becoming by the Kohekohe Tree (2023). Leighton Upson*

# IT education boost with WITT-Learner Me partnership



Left: Jan Lockett-Kay (Director of School at WITT), Olivia Hall (Executive Director at WITT) and Simon Singh (CEO of Learner Me).

security, software and web development, digital and game design as well as technical support.

Dr Jan Lockett-Kay, Director of School, says WITT is mindful of the needs of the local business sector. "Having IT graduates who can understand and manage the diverse demands and innovative developments in the digital world is crucial for our local economy," she says.

Simon Singh, CEO of Learner Me, agrees. "IT is part of everything we do. We want to ensure the current and next generation of digital natives are well-equipped to help deliver the latest IT skills and knowledge to the community – whether for business, education, health, food or in the creative sector. In Taranaki, IT plays an important role in all sectors including agriculture, conservation, and new energy innovations."

From apps and algorithms to advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) – understanding how to use IT is vital for businesses to thrive in a fast-changing world. That's why WITT and Learner Me have partnered to collaboratively deliver high quality IT training in

Taranaki. The arrangement will enable WITT-enrolled students the chance to study with Learner Me at their central New Plymouth campus for NZQA-accredited Level 4 and 5 IT diploma programmes. The option to study these

programmes at the WITT campus is ongoing. The collaboration meets the growing demand for programmes on cyber

## Discover your path

Make a start on your journey. Gain new skills to be work-ready.

Enrol now for a July start!

witt.ac.nz  
0800 WITT NZ



hair

### What's On Listings

#### ONGOING

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

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

#### TUESDAYS

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

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

**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

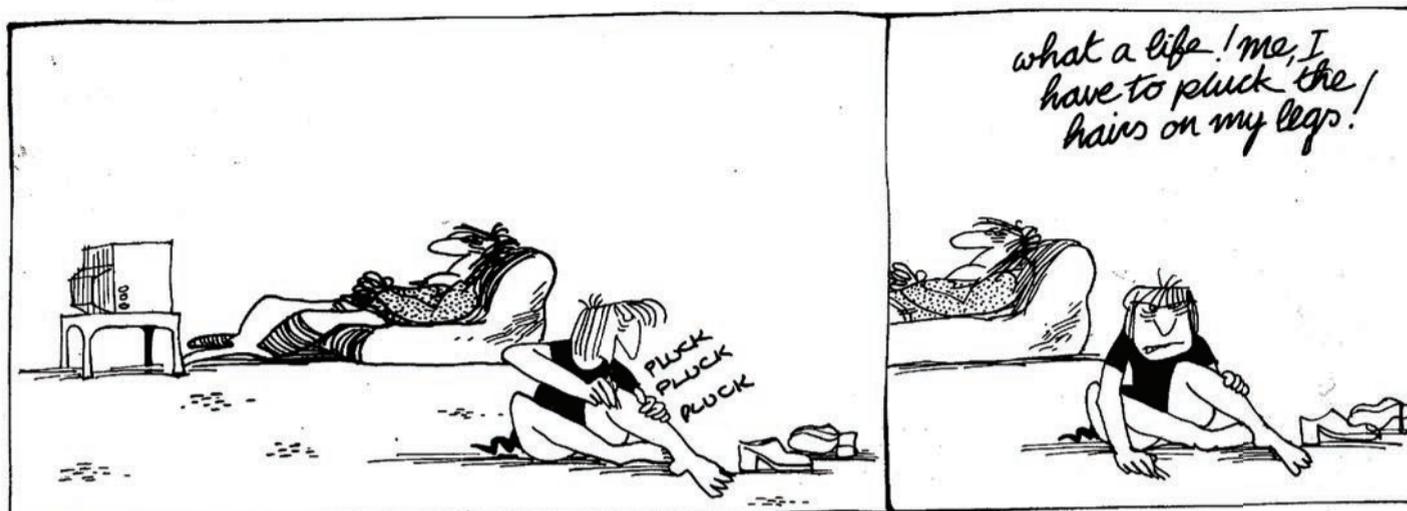
**Egmont Euchre Club:** Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.

**Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia:** Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia. Contact Helen Braithwaite 0274 825 108.

#### FRIDAYS

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

**Singer Songwriters, New Plymouth:** Last Friday of the month at Little Theatre, 29 Aubrey St, NP from 7-11pm.



and WHY should I pluck the fine healthy hair on my legs? to conform to the feminine stereotype

a woman doesn't have hairs on her legs, that's what's been decided once and for all!

HAIR IS FOR MEN!

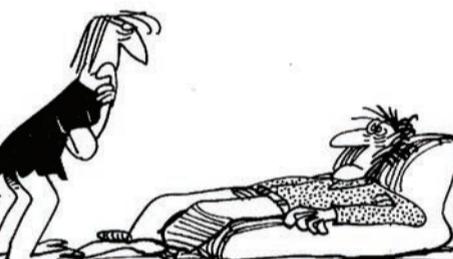
wait...now I think of it...



how many hairs have you got on your chest? three if I remember right?

no four! I must be smoking too much!

well that's not enough, you don't conform! If you want me to go on removing the hairs on my legs you'll have to stick a chest wig on it!



what's going on? stop it! are you out your mind! then stop pawing me! what's wrong with my chest? stop!

I ask you!



Call us on 06 761 7016

TO SEE HOW THE

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

CAN HELP YOUR ADVERTISING REACH YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

#### AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:

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

#### NOW TO OCTOBER 13

Te Kitenga o Hina Exhibition: Puke Ariki Museum, New Plymouth.

#### JUNE 5 TO 29

Land & Sea Exhibition by Jennie Purdon & Frank Eustace: At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

#### JUNE 27-30

TSB Festival of Lights Pop-Up: New Plymouth.

#### JULY 6 TO NOVEMBER 10

Home Work - Taranaki Art Exhibition: Puke Ariki, New Plymouth.

#### JULY 7

Te Namu Iti AGM: Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier Street, Opunake. 10am.

#### JULY 8

Opunake & District Business Association AGM: Opunake Business Centre, 6pm.

#### JULY 10-20

Hilda's Yard - A comedy: New Plymouth Little Theatre

#### JULY 17

Opunake Beach Carnival Committee meeting: Sinclairs Event Centre, Opunake, 7pm. All welcome

#### JULY 28

Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust AGM: At the Cape Egmont Boat Club, Warea. 12pm.

MIND MATTERS

Mediation is a mystery to many. Often, when a separated parent wants to go to court to sort out arrangements for their children, they get sent to mediation. A court official, a judge or a lawyer tells the anxious parent that they must first try mediation and if that fails then they can go to court.

A previous MIND MATTERS considered some of the things to think about when parents separate. The agony that goes with breaking attachment bonds is a psychological tragedy that may be accompanied by uncertainty about accommodation, finances and property.

This MIND MATTERS, considers the more practical side of separations which involve children.

About a decade ago, I qualified as a mediator and began to work in New Plymouth with separated parents who needed to care for their children. I still work as a mediator in South Taranaki and online. It is this experience which has brought me to the views expressed in this MIND MATTERS.

The most you will pay for a mediation about children is \$448.50. If you do not earn much money, or have several children, mediation may cost you nothing. The government pays because it is important that parents do not damage their children.

The key point to remember in a mediation is that nothing is decided unless it is agreed to by both parents – and they sign an agreement. You are in control. Do not sign anything you cannot live with, but understand you are



DR. ROBERT SHAW

not going to get everything you want. In the bad old days, some mediators used to pressure parents to sign. This approach frequently hands the issues on to another day.

Parents are directed to mediation for several reasons. The best of these reasons is that research tells us that parents are more likely to follow a mediated agreement than the directions of a judge. When arrangements for children are imposed upon parents, some, out of resentment, undermine the arrangement.

Court decision-making might well take a year or more and the issues and the children change in that time, mediation is quicker. It is also much cheaper.

If there is current drug use or violence, the mediator might refuse to mediate and recommend court action. If there are allegations about drugs and denials, we generally end up with an agreement that everyone produces to the mediator the results of a recent drug test (expensive, but it settles arguments).

Be it through mediation or the court, you need a "Parenting Agreement." This can be written in a legal way

(which often uses the words from the Act of Parliament) or it can be in the words of the parents. When I mediate an agreement, I usually draft it myself, working on it with both parents in turn.

It is important that the agreement is precise. Dates, times, places, methods, details. Do not leave any decisions for another day. The worst agreement might say something like "The arrangements for Christmas will be worked out in advance and the parents agree that they will both see the children." You want an agreement that will make a police officer smile. If the police have to enforce your agreement, they would like it to be very clear and practical.

It is important that the agreement says which school each child will attend. This relates to decisions about where the parents can live. If you want to accept a job in Auckland when your child is at Opunake Primary School, you must re-negotiate with the other parent.

When I start to work with a couple, they are often relieved to learn that they do not have to sit in a room together. I will see them separately and try to figure out what agreement they might both sign.

At the start of a mediation, I generally begin with a discussion about the early years when the relationship was better. I ask: "how long did you know him/her before you separated?". The most amusing answer was "about twenty minutes", said in complete seriousness. Most couples know each other well.

Parents tell the story of their

Mediation is cheap or free

miser and the deficiencies of the other, and then that is done – the mediation is about decisions for the children going forward. As I get older, I get stricter with parents stuck in the past. A mediator is not a counsellor. If you are still unsettled about your former partner, get a counsellor.

There are two approaches to parenting after separation: co-parenting and parallel parenting. Co-parenting is where there is regular interaction between the parents, decisions are taken together and everyone cooperates.

Few parents who come to a mediator are able to co-parent (if they were, they would produce an agreement and get on with it).

Parallel parenting agreements keep the parents apart. The children learn to live in two houses with different rules (research tells us this does them no harm). There are reasons why we have parallel parenting: First, children need to know both their parents, this is important for their psychological development, the child is entitled to benefit from what each parent can offer, and it is also a right which children have in our law. Second, conflict between parents damages children. Being separated from a parent whom they

know and love is harmful. As is their being encouraged to think ill of a parent (do not project your fear and anger onto your child).

You can do more harm to your children by fighting the other parent than you do by separating. You need discipline – for yourself, not for the children. If peace does not break out, your children will suffer. Be like the wise Japanese monkeys: "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil." Children hate hearing ill of a parent, they also quickly learn how to play their parents off against each other and cultivate the idea that we are victims. You may teach them how to destroy their future relationships.

Wise grandparents can play an important role in keeping things peaceful. The immature grandparent, who helps their child perpetuate the battle, harms everyone. Sometimes, support people in mediations do not understand that their role is to help the parent to adjust to a new situation. It is not their job to pass the ammunition.

When you separate, you part from your partner 100 percent. You do not think much about the fact that you are also parting from your children 50 percent. In some countries, the law establishes the 50:50 arrangement.

Poor parenting skills are not

a reason to keep a child from their parent. The child must learn to cope with imperfect parents. Criminal activity is not a reason to keep a child from their parent. Drug misuse is a different matter. If you believe that drug use impacts on your children, go to the police. All the mediator can do is close your mediation and recommend court action.

Keep the school informed about the arrangements. The school is the best monitor you have of how your children are doing. A good teacher is an independent, professional monitor of a child's mental and physical state. Talk to your child's teacher at least once a term. Do not be embarrassed about this, it is not uncommon for half the children in a class to have experienced separation. Some of them several times round.

For a small fee, you can have your parenting agreement made into a court order. This can help with enforcement (phone the Family Court or see the Ministry of Justice website, www.justice.govt.nz). Finally, if you want to find a mediator, you can fill out the form on https://fdrc.co.nz

Dr Robert Shaw  
Registered Psychotherapist  
opunake@mail.com

Your invitation to help us celebrate our exciting changes!



**COASTALCARE**  
Tuesday 9th July  
1pm onwards  
26 Napier Street  
Opunake

We'd love to see you there!



*You are invited!*  
CoastalCare has undergone some changes within the building and we invite you to come along, grab a nibble and have a look around our facility!  
Guest speakers from 1.30 pm.



Guest SPEAKERS

**DR. NICK LOVERIDGE-EASTHER, OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE**  
Nick will be talking all things Winter Wellness  
**BEN ARABA, OPUNAKE PHARMACY**  
Ben has some exciting new pharmacy tech advances to share

**EVERYBODY'S THEATRE**  
OPUNAKE

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

<p><b>The Trust Fall: Julian Assange</b> 2hr 8mins   E Thu 27 Jun 7PM</p>	<p><b>Ka Whawhai Tonu - Struggle Without End</b> 1hr 55mins   M Fri 28 Jun 7PM   Sun 30 Jun 7PM</p>
<p><b>Despicable Me 4</b> 1hr 34mins   PG Sat 29 Jun 1PM</p>	<p><b>The Promised Land</b> 2hr 7mins   TBC Sat 29 Jun 7PM</p>
<p><b>The Road to Patagonia</b> 1hr 31mins   E Sun 30 Jun 1PM   Thu 11 Jul 7PM</p>	<p><b>The Watchers</b> 1hr 42mins   M Thu 04 Jul 7PM</p>
<p><b>The Garfield Movie</b> 1hr 41mins   G Sat 06 Jul 1PM   Thu 11 Jul 1PM</p>	<p><b>The Bikeriders</b> 1hr 56mins   TBC Sun 07 Jul 1PM   Sun 07 Jul 7PM</p>

**The Trust Fall: Julian Assange**  
2hr 8mins | Rated: E  
Thu 27 Jun 7PM

**Ka Whawhai Tonu - Struggle Without End**  
Violence, offensive language & content that may disturb | 1hr 55mins | Rated: M  
Fri 28 Jun 7PM



Hilda's Yard which will be opening on July 10 at New Plymouth's Little Theatre.

# Hilda's Yard

An exciting summer day in 1956 for Hilda and Sam Fluck. Newly on their own since their thirty something children Gary and Janey moved out, they are finally ready to relax. Hilda plans to hang her laundry while

Sam goes to buy a shiny new television. What could disturb their simple peace? Turns out fences and doors are merely decoration as Gary and Janey literally fall into the backyard, looking for help to get them out of sticky situations. Gary has lost his job, is enamoured with his new girlfriend Bobbi,

and running from a bookie named Beverly, while the ever-dependent Janey has unexpectedly left her husband.

The family careers into an afternoon of calamity, showing them that ultimately they must celebrate how they can be together rather than apart.

New Plymouth Little Theatre presents

# Hilda's YARD

A comedy by Norm Foster  
Directed by Sharren Read

## 10-20 JULY 2024

Book now at [iticket.co.nz](http://iticket.co.nz)

PRIMO TICKETS

## Healthy aging is all about how you feel

Whether you're rich or poor, your mental wellbeing may be the most important factor in determining how healthy you are as you age, according to Chinese scientists who looked at eight different genetic datasets, including a total of 2.3 million Europeans. Using a technique called 'Mendelian randomisation' - which uses DNA to see whether one thing causes another, rather than them just being linked - they found that people with better mental wellbeing tended to be healthier as they aged, with healthy ageing characterised

by improved resilience, higher self-rated health, and longevity. Although this held true regardless of people's financial background, they also found that higher earnings, a higher level of education, and people's jobs all had an influence on their wellbeing. To improve your wellbeing, they found being active and not smoking helped, as well as, slightly randomly, eating more cheese and fruit. A bigger focus on maintaining people's wellbeing could help them stay healthy as they age, the scientists conclude.

## Self-driving cars better drivers, mostly

A comparison of accident data (mainly from California, USA) from 2,100 self-driving vehicles and 35,133 human-driven vehicles found self-driving vehicles were involved in fewer accidents than human-driven vehicles in most situations, according to US researchers. However, self-driving vehicles were more prone to accidents

in some situations, such as during low-light conditions at dawn or dusk and while executing turns, the authors say. The findings suggest self-driving cars could potentially improve road safety, they conclude, but only if their performance can be improved in situations where they're more dangerous drivers than we are.

## 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

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**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

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**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**  
2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays of the month Mass at 6pm. However during winter the time will be 5pm i.e. Saturday 10th June, 24th June and 8th July. After this date the time will revert back to 6pm.  
Sunday Mass 8.45am.  
Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).

**St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato**  
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

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**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

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**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

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

---

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

## SITUATIONS VACANT

**HOUSE WORK.** Two hours per week. \$30 per hour. Phone 022 0209 779.

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

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Opunake High School  
Te Kura Tuarua o Opunake

## ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL

### TEACHER AIDE

We are looking for a Teacher Aide to work alongside students who have diverse learning needs in class, small group and individual situations. You will need good literacy and numeracy skills and the ability to work as part of a team and interact with the whole school community.

This is a wonderful opportunity to work in our collegial, student centred, innovative kura.

25 hours per week, term time only.

Applications should include a covering letter and CV to:

The Principal  
Opunake High School  
PO Box 4  
Opunake 4616  
[sl@opunake.school.nz](mailto:sl@opunake.school.nz)

Applications close Friday 12th July, 2024

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO GRAZE RESERVES**

Under Section 73 (i) and Section 119 of the Reserves Act 1977, the South Taranaki District Council hereby notifies its intention to enter into a Licenses to Occupy for a period of five (5) years, subject to the provisions of the Act, for the Recreation Reserve listed below:

**I. CEMETERY RESERVE – ŌPUNAKĒ CEMETERY RESERVE**

The land intended to be licensed to occupy, known as Section 2 Town of Ōpunakē, Suburban, is part of the Recreation Reserve known as Ōpunakē Cemetery Reserve. The license would be granted for an area of approximately 31.9613 hectares for the purposes of grazing.

For further information on the above proposal, contact the Property Manager: phone 0800 111 323 or email: [propertymanager@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:propertymanager@stdc.govt.nz)

**SUBMISSIONS**

Written objections to the licensing of this reserve for grazing purposes will be received up until 4pm on Friday 12 July 2024. All submissions must include your name, postal address, daytime telephone number and an email address if applicable.

**Submissions must be sent to:**  
**Reserve Lease Submissions**  
**South Taranaki District Council**  
**Private Bag 902**  
**Hawera 4640**  
**Or email: [propertymanager@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:propertymanager@stdc.govt.nz)**

**Te Namu Iti (Ngātītamarongo 6)**

To all Owners and Beneficiaries

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held on 7th July 2024  
 at 10am

In the boardroom, ex old Council Building  
 23 Napier Street, Opunake

**AGENDA**

Karakia Timatanga  
 Apologies

Minutes of previous AGM  
 Chairman's Report  
 Treasurer's Report  
 Election of Officers  
 General Business

Karakia Whakamutunga

Enquiries to: [Tapiukura Young](mailto:Tapiukura Young)

Secretary/Treasurer

[tapiukura@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tapiukura@xtra.co.nz) or  
 027 248 5858



**AGM**

Monday July 8 2024, 6pm

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

*ODBA providing pizza and drinks.*

**TRADES & SERVICES**



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**Stevenson Calf Rearing  
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Troy Stevenson 027 469 7636

E: [troystevo@gmail.com](mailto:troystevo@gmail.com)

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**SCRAP METAL** - for all scrap metal Taranaki wide, give us a call. Molten Metals (06) 751 5367. [www.moltenmetals.co.nz](http://www.moltenmetals.co.nz)

**GRAZING**

**GRAZING AVAILABLE** for all Dairy Heifers. Phone Richard 027 510 9667.

**TO LET**



*Accounting for the future, today*  
 23 Napier Street, Opunake

**Office Rooms/ Board Room available**

Long term, short term or casual basis  
 Building has kitchen facilities, wheelchair access, cleaning services and plenty of parking on Napier Street or at rear of building on King Street.

Inquiries to Clare Moss - Ph 06 278 4169  
[clare.moss@hughson.co.nz](mailto:clare.moss@hughson.co.nz)



**Notice of 2024  
 Cape Egmont Sea Rescue Trust  
 AGM**

To be held at Cape Egmont Boat Club,  
 Bayly Road, Warea  
 On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 12.00 pm

All welcome

Contact: R. Carr on 027 7848859

**Opunake-Rahotu Veterinary Trust**

PO Box 117, Opunake - Phone: 021 729 471 - Email: [ORVTrust@gmail.com](mailto:ORVTrust@gmail.com)

Applications are now open for tertiary students to apply to the

**Opunake Rahotu Veterinary Trust**

for financial assistance.

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

Applications close 31st July 2024.

Request a form by emailing  
[ORVTrust@gmail.com](mailto:ORVTrust@gmail.com)

The forms can then be emailed back or delivered to Coastal Care, Opunake

**CARPETS** second hand, large selection After Disaster Ltd 223 Devon St West, NP. Phone (06) 769 9265

**CIRCULATION PROBLEMS.** Cold hands, cold feet, Try Kyolic Circulation formula with Cay & Vitamin E. Helps with poor circulation. At The Health Shop, Centre City. Ph 06 758 7553.

**BOWEN TECHNIQUE.** At The Health Shop, Centre City. Ph 06 758 7553.

**SINGING LESSONS** by professional singer. Contact Mike 027 932 1947.

**LAWNMOWING,** and section maintenance by local contractor SOS. Free quote. Ph 027 605 8437.

**HAWERA BUDGET** Advisory Service Heartlands offices, Hawera every second Tuesday from 9am. Coastal Care, Opunake every second Wednesday 9am to 12pm. Appointments are necessary, Please phone 0800 333 048 to make them Facebook page: Hawera Budget Advisory Service Email: [info@hawerabudget.co.nz](mailto:info@hawerabudget.co.nz)

**OLBAS OIL** available at the Health Shop. Cleans blocked sinuses. Also available as lozenges and as an inhaler. At The Health Shop, Centre City. Ph 06 758 7553.



**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**  
 THE NEWSPAPER  
 TARANAKI  
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### 2016 Nissan NAVARA DX

LOW KMs

2WD, Stability Control, Auto Headlights, Tow Bar, 2488cc, Petrol, 6 Spd Manual, 69kms



\$24,995

### 2017 Ford Fiesta SPORT

Low Km's NZ New Hatch

Factory Body Kit, ECOBOOST, Turbo, Stability Control, 999cc, Petrol, Auto, 68kms



\$16,995

### 2016 Ford KUGA AMBIENTE

GREAT BUY NZ NEW SW

Keyless Start, Tow Bar, Turbo, Cruise Control, ECOBOOST, NZ Navigation, 1498cc, Petrol, Auto, 103kms



\$16,995

### 2017 Mazda CX-5 LTD

Auto Headlights & Wipers, Collision Avoidance, Driving Lights, AWD, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Roof Rack, Sun Roof, Tow Bar, 2191cc, Diesel, Auto, 150kms



\$18,995

### 2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON ELITE MPI

SUPERBLY APPOINTED

2WD, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Auto Headlights & Wipers, Driving Lights, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Sports Mode, 1999cc, Petrol, Auto, 76kms



\$28,995

## THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL: 2018 Mazda CX-5 GSX PTR

HIGH SPEC, LOW KMs. POPULAR SUV

4WD, Heads Up Display, Sports Mode, Parking Sensors, Keless Entry & Ignition, 2488cc, Petrol, Auto, 57kms



WAS \$32,995

NOW \$29,995

### 2006 Honda Integra Type S

DOHC VTEC, Spoiler, Driving Lights, Alloy Wheels, Coupe, Tow Bar, 1990cc, Petrol, Auto, 99kms



\$11,995

### 2014 Mitsubishi LANCER LS

NZ NEW, LOW KM's

Cruise Control, MIVEC, Stability Control, Tow bar, Parking Sensors, 1998cc, Petrol, CVT, 83kms



\$13,995

### 2004 Subaru IMPREZA

5 Spd AWD, One owner

Boxer Engine, Roof Rack, Dual Airbags, Hi/Low Range, Tow Bar, 1994cc, Petrol, Manual, 243kms



\$7,995

### 2014 Nissan FUGA V6 HYBRID

Driving Lights, Sports Mode, Auto Headlights & Wipers, Keyless Entry & Ignition, 3490cc, Petrol, Auto, 98kms



\$15,995

### 2012 Mazda Demio

HANDY HATCH!

2WD, Tinted Windows, ABS Braking, Spoiler, 1340cc, Petrol, CVT, 123kms



\$10,995

### 2015 HYUNDAI TUCSON GDI

FAMILY SIZE, 2WD, Parking Sensors, Descent Mode, Tinted Windows, Daytime Running Lights, 1999cc. Petrol, 6Spd Auto, 193kms



\$14,995

### 2011 Toyota HILUX DC UTE

TIDY 5 SPD, T/DSL

2WD, Nudge Bar, Tonneau Cover, Alloy Wheels, Tow Bar, ABS Braking, Reversing Camera, 2982cc, Diesel, Manual, 255kms



\$18,995

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