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Offshore wind project proposed

Offshore wind energy could be set to come to South Taranaki, and while it's still a few years away early engagement with local communities about what this might mean for towns like Ōpunake is starting to happen.

Next Wednesday 13th March, the BlueFloat Energy & Elemental Group team will be coming to town to host their first community information evenings about their planned offshore wind project. The team are looking to build a 900 MW offshore wind farm that would generate enough clean electricity to power around 430,000 homes.

The planned offshore wind farm would be located around 22km off the coast of Ohawe Beach near Hawera but is expected to create benefits for the South Taranaki region.

Communications manager for the partnership Bianca Ruakere said that the project would create around 600 jobs firstly in the construction

phase and then in operations and maintenance:

"Large infrastructure energy projects like these, as we have seen with the oil and gas industry, tend to create benefits across the supply chain, as there are all sorts of opportunities associated with offshore wind farms which operate for up to 40 years.

"Having grown up in Ōpunake I would love to see this sort of opportunity come to the region. As a country we need more clean energy to meet increased demands for electrification and help us meet our net zero targets to help combat climate change. New Zealand is ranked internationally as the fifth best country in the world for its offshore wind resource and within the country the South Taranaki coast has been identified as one of the best locations."

The BlueFloat Energy and Elemental Group partnership is one of four international developers that has currently expressed an



Making use of wind power and creating jobs.

interest in South Taranaki for an offshore wind farm.

"The reasons are simple," adds Ruakere. "Firstly, the wind resource is amazing and 100% renewable and second, Taranaki is already the heart of the energy industry in New Zealand, and we already have a skilled and knowledgeable workforce who are used to

building and operating major offshore energy projects. Many of the skills currently used in the energy sector now will be transferrable to offshore wind. We are also lucky to have the only deep-water port on the west coast in Port Taranaki that could assist in constructing and transporting the turbines."

Ruakere says that their

project is still some way off if it gets approved: "We are still in the early stages of the project but believe this is the right time to start talking with communities.

"In terms of the timeline the Government is currently developing a regulatory framework that would allow

Life honour for Shirley

After 32 years with the Taranaki Disabled Persons Assembly, including being "president for years," Shirley Hazlewood decided to call it quits. She was therefore surprised when she got a phone call inviting her to a function where she was presented with a life membership of the New Zealand Disabled Persons Assembly.

Shirley, who lives in Kaponga is well known as an advocate for people who have had polio and for a time ran a post-polio support group. She was awarded a QSM in the 2006 Queens Birthday Honours List.

Her work with the Disabled Persons' Assembly has included helping disabled people in their dealings with WINZ and with their medical appointments. She has been able to get a disabled toilet installed at the Kaponga Hall as well as widening the doors to make the hall more user-friendly, and getting a ramp put in for the Kaponga Library.

"I keep the Council aware of overhanging trees on footpaths. I do Neighbourhood Watch so I notice these things," she says.



Shirley Hazlewood (left) receives her life membership certificate from Kirsty Linnell.

There are always other issues to keep an eye on, including footpaths.

"Footpaths are a real big thing as if they are not level people can't get across and they can tip out of their wheelchair or their scooter," she says. "Even in shops the aisles can be too narrow so that people can't get through."

The Assembly meets once every six weeks in different parts of Taranaki. Her involvement has included attending conferences around the country.

"Up to 3-500 people, all disabled come from all over to New Zealand to them," says Shirley.

It was back in 1991 that Shirley was invited to be a member of the Taranaki Assembly.

"It had been going for three years at that stage and they were putting out feelers for members," she recalls. "They gave me a call and I joined up there and then."

As well as her advocacy work Shirley is well known for her Horse Ornament Museum which she continues to run from her home in Kaponga.

"I still get people coming through," she says.



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.

Giant snails in Egmont National Park

The Department of Conservation Science advisers from Palmerston North stated on the 26th February with the headline of ‘New Zealand’s giant carnivorous snail at risk of extinction’.

Sadly hearing these beautiful giant snails, Powelliphanta, are on the decline in New Zealand.

Fair enough, Ms Walker, but have you ever been to the Egmont National Park?

Yes these carnivorous snail (Powelliphanta Egmont) live

in the Egmont National Park and I wonder whether Dr Kath Walker and colleagues spent any time looking, recounting and documenting the giant snails here in the park.

I remember groveling on hands and knees with Jim Clarkson in the 1970s, 1980s finding, counting and documenting details on these snails in our local park, plus reporting any snail sightings with them during track vegetation cleaning during the 1990s-2000s.

During the decades between 1970 to 2000 Jim Clarkson, DoC Science Officer kept complete documentation of the Powelliphanta population in the Egmont National Park and almost knew each snail by name.

Jim has lead many, many groups on snail counts to the Kokowai area during his time with DoC.

The question I ask is 2023-2024, did Kath Walker and team do any research in the Kokowai and Pouakai areas

before stating all areas the snails are declining.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth



Giant carnivorous snails.

EDITORIAL Internet parasitic on traditional news media

The proposed closure of the news arm of TV3 has caused shock waves in the media industry.

But it’s hardly surprising.

The Internet is gobbling up a sizable quota of advertising revenue using news generated by hardworking journalists paid for by print and television media.

Years ago when the Internet first came into being, I attended newspaper conferences where the besotted print media, so keen to be part of this exciting new digital development were busy rewriting their news stories to suit the new digital media.

I never saw the point in wasting time on this and remember thinking only when I could put the whole paper holus bolus - ads included on the Internet - would I do so? That way advertisers would also benefit from our journalism.

For some time the infatuation continued and dailies continued to give away their news until predictably people stopped buying their papers. Why would you pay for something if you can get it free? Then, even more alarmingly, the Internet became a competitor in the advertising market using this news – they hadn’t paid for – to attract advertising, further endangering traditional media which of course was financed largely by advertising.

While the daily newspapers were particularly affected by this trend, the community newspapers – many free – still had a role. Their news is often local and thus exclusive to their paper, their community. With the daily newspapers a lot of their news was national – or international – and therefore accessible from a variety of sources on the internet.

When we finally put the entire paper on the Internet (when technology had reached the point you could) I thought perhaps there could be some benefit particularly as regards marketing. We got a web page and on it went, in addition to each edition of the newspaper so it could be read online, our

advertising rates, publication dates, a map showing our wide distribution area and sat back and waited with bated breath for advertisers to beat a path to our door. No longer would we have to tread the streets approaching advertisers approaching advertisers in person.

But alas it didn’t happen. In fact, advertising the newspaper on the Internet resulted in very few additional adverts. Certainly, people got to read the paper in far off places ie., around the world, but it didn’t lead to attracting advertising which, if nothing else, suggested the Internet was ineffective as a marketing tool.

So, we resumed our ad runs, visiting people, building relationships that way and generally reflecting our community. This included

doing periodic stories for those who enabled us to do this, our advertisers. And we’re still doing it because as a car dealer once said to me, it’s people who sell cars. We are complimented on the fact that we still visit advertisers.

The dailies have now cottoned onto the fact that giving away their news was cutting off their nose to spite their face and are now attempting to charge news accessed on the Internet via subscription.

The internet meanwhile has now become a huge juggernaut. It’s difficult to find things on it. Businesses on it may no longer exist.

Like everyone I do read articles on the Internet – free ones – and watch music and comedies – British mainly – but I find ads an irritating interruption and I’ve still to

buy anything advertised on the net. Sufficiently irritated by continual interruptions I have occasionally vowed to never buy the product.

In Australia Google, to their credit has agreed to make a contribution for some of the news it publishes but did not generate.

Meta (formerly Twitter) and Facebook however have refused to.

So the working media continue to struggle to survive as advertising revenue declines.

Journalists lose their jobs, news its objectivity and the vital role it plays in both reflecting its community and calling others to account, as the bloated Internet which the world has in its thrall, continues to chart its course.

Newshub is its latest casualty.

The end of Newshub

There were emotional scenes as owners propose closing the Three news operation, drastically shrinking New Zealand’s TV news landscape.

Newshub’s parent company, Warner Bros. Discovery, said it made the proposal to shut down the newsroom, amid plummeting TV advertising revenue, and changes in viewing habits. A confirmed decision is expected in April, but if it goes ahead, around 300 journalists, producers, editors, camera operators and other staff would be out of a job. The closure was described as “heartbreaking” and “devastating” by Newshub at 6pm host Mike McRoberts, and all three AM hosts teared up when opening the show the following morning.

AUT Senior Lecturer in Journalism, Dr Greg Treadwell, said the loss of Newshub is a loss for diversity in the media. “TVNZ on its own will not be able to reflect the complex, multicultural and socially diverse country New Zealand is,” Dr Treadwell said. “Neither will it have the competition essential

to doing its best work on behalf of the public.” It’s the government’s job to ensure the media market is competitive, said Massey University journalism programme leader, James Hollings. “In other words, progress the [Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill] and stop dragging their heels.” Associate Professor Hollings said. This bill has been described as a “lifeboat,” and would force

tech companies like Google and Facebook to pay for news that is shared on their platforms, as they are currently profiting from ad revenue which has been diverted away from news producers. News executives from across the media appeared at select committee to urge the government to support the bill, describing the current situation as an “extinction-level event” for journalism in Aotearoa.



Newshub readers Samantha Fox and Mike McRoberts after announcing the proposed closure on the 6 o'clock news.

Offshore wind project proposed

ADELPHOS

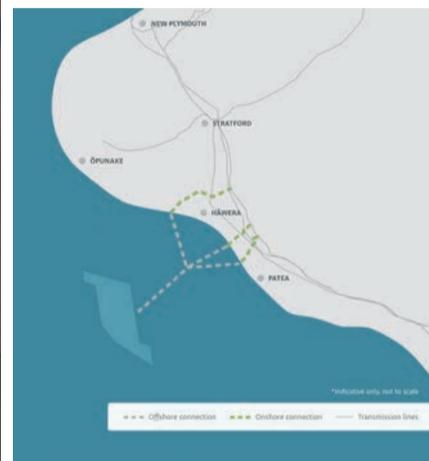
Easter Haikus

Haiku One
His side pierced by sword
Soldiers drew lots for His clothes
Crucified to death

Haiku Two
Days of darkness gone
See the empty tomb...Jesus
Risen from the dead

Haiku Three
And maranatha
In the blinking of an eye
Jesus will return

Adelphos



ABOVE:
Map indicating proposed site.

Continued from page 1

offshore wind to be developed in New Zealand. We expect this to happen this year, and this will be followed by a rigorous consents process. Before any developer is given permission to go ahead there are a number of studies that need to be carried out both technical and environmental to ensure that we are managing and minimising any risks associated with the project. For example, there is a lot we still need to understand about seabirds, fish and mammals that live and breed in the area. If we do get to progress we expect we would be constructing in the early 2030s.”

When asked about what the project would look like Ruakere says the project would consist of 60 turbines which would be fixed to the ocean floor. Each of the turbines would generate 15 MW and be nearly 300 metres tall.

“If you want to conceptualise this these turbines are not much shorter than the Sky Tower. Because they are so much bigger than onshore wind

turbines, they have much greater capacity and mean that we can build new renewable energy capacity at scale. That’s really helpful when we need to increase electricity generation for things like e-vehicles as well as look at new innovations like sustainable aviation and transport fuels though green hydrogen production.

Offshore wind could play a huge role in supporting the hydrogen economy.”

“Another benefit of being out to sea is that there is much more room. Our projects will not be located close to shore so even though you could see them on a clear day you won’t be able to hear them.”

BlueFloat Energy &

Elemental Group are inviting any interested members of the community to join them for their first information evening in Ōpunake where Technical Director Oliver Mills, Partnerships Director Justine Gilliland and Communications Manager Bianca Ruakere will be on available to answer questions. Tea, coffee and

light refreshments will be provided.

When: Wednesday 13 March. 5.30 – 7pm

Where: Maui Room, Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Event Centre, 156 Tasman Street, Ōpunakē
RSVP: info@



Bianca Ruakere, Justine Gilliland and Oliver Mills will be in Opunake on the 13th March representing the BlueFloat Energy and Elemental Group team. Bianca is seated second from left, Justine fourth from left and Oliver is standing



SOUTH TARANAKI
Offshore Wind




SOUTH TARANAKI OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENING

Offshore wind presents a fantastic opportunity for Aotearoa and South Taranaki offers one of the best locations. Developing this new industry can help us decarbonise our economy, meet growing demands for renewable energy and create long-term and meaningful jobs across the supply chain.

To find out more about our plans for the South Taranaki Offshore Wind Project please join our team for a community information evening.

Date: Wednesday 13 March 5.30-7pm

Where: Maui Room, Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Event Centre
156 Tasman Street, Ōpunake

RSVP: info@southtaranakioffshorewindproject.com

southtaranakioffshorewindproject.com

A homage to my family

At the age I am I wish to forward and pay homage to my family. I am grateful for their kindness to me, by those past and present. Firstly, here are admiring

memories of my parents – James Edward Sole (29 March, 1889 to 17 October 1958) and my dear mother Lola nee Robinson (25 October 1901 to 2 May 1986).

Secondly, I pay homage to my siblings who have passed away:

Edna, 31 May 1922 – 10 November 2005.

Tom 11 May 1923 – 22 March 2021.

Bill 16 July 1924 – 14 September 2010.

Les 7 April 1926 – 28 December 2008.

Molly 19 August 1927 – 29 September 2021.

Jim 5 October 1928 – 17 May 2014.

My siblings who are still treading this troubled planet include:

Thelma 12 July 1930

Marie 14 September 1938

Shona 19 October 1941

I also must add my dear daughter Maire Diana, plus

my much-loved grandmother Maria Robinson nee Shelton (1868 – 1947).

These people are forever remembered.

Moe Mai I To Moenga roa. Long sleep in your final Resting Place.

Aroha Nui Gordon (Mac) Sole.



Gordon (Mac) Sole.

Hei Maumaharatanga In Remembrance



Mary 'Molly' Isobel Mathews

19 August 1927 – 29 September 2021

Mac's sister Molly.



Mac Sole as a small boy.



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Gordon Mac Sole



Marking 150 years of the Sole family in New Zealand. Taken in New Plymouth 1991. From left. Tom, Moll, Jim, Thelma, Les, Edna, Shona, Bill, Maire, Mac.



Maire Diana Sole (Centre). Taken in Sydney, Australia 35 years ago.



Mac's grandmother. Maria Shelford Robinson.(centre).



RIGHT:
The Sole family shield.

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Two roses for Taranaki

This year we are happy to announce that we have the unique opportunity to send two of our young women to the New Zealand Rose of Tralee selection in Invercargill 23-26 May. Both young ladies shone through the judging process and performed beautifully on stage. A fabulous night was enjoyed by all at the Taranaki Rose selection on February 17. Taranaki Irish Social Club President Louise Buhler welcomed everyone to the evening, Foundation and

Life members Aidan Tierney and Josie Hogan travelled great long distances to be with us, Aiden and wife Ros from the Bay of Plenty, and Josie and daughter Trish from Te Awamutu. Josie was the first Taranaki Rose Organiser in the contest's earlier years, encouraging young women to enter and organising many Rose of Tralee events including two New Zealand finals. Great dance music from Shaun Campbell got everyone up on the dance floor from the start of the

evening. Peter McDonald MC guided us through the evening, Peter McDonald MC guided us through the evening, Rosebuds Maeley Buhler and Dagny Ludlow presented a single Rose to our Roses when introduced to the audience. Ruth and Martha Hagenson performed Irish dancing, sang Irish songs, and sang the 'Rose of

Tralee' during the Rose Sash presentation. Kelis Wallace our NZ Rose travelled from Dunedin to be with us, and chatted with Peter McDonald about the experience of becoming the NZ Rose and being a Rose at the International Rose of Tralee Festival in Ireland, giving us all an insight of the fabulous time enjoyed by the International Roses. A

busy year for Kelsi who just recently married her number one supporter Brad Stringer. Kelsi delighted the audience by playing the Tin Whistle. Sophia Hickman spoke beautifully about her year and experience as the 2023 Taranaki Rose and made the presentation to our two new Taranaki Roses. Olivia Scott is our 2024 North Taranaki Rose and Abigail

Landsborough is our 2024 South Taranaki Rose. Both will travel to Invercargill for the National final in May. A surprise for both Olivia and Abigail and their families who will now continue the celebrations together. A joyful evening and a great result for the Taranaki Irish Social Club.

Louise Buhler
Taranaki Rose Organiser



From left, 2023 Rose Sophia Hickman, 2024 North Taranaki Rose Olivia Scott, 2024 South Taranaki Rose Abigail Landsborough, 2023 New Zealand Rose Kelsi Wallace.

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Lower your blood pressure with tai chi

Want to reduce your blood pressure? Give tai chi a go, say Chinese researchers. The team conducted a trial with 342 participants aged 18 to 65 with prehypertension – a warning sign that they may

get high blood pressure in the future. Participants were randomly assigned a Tai Chi group or a cardio group that performed four 60-minute supervised sessions, every week for 12 months. Tai Chi was found to be

more effective than cardio in reducing blood pressure in these patients. The team say the practice could be useful in helping reduce blood pressure, especially as a safe activity for all ages that is easy to

introduce in community settings.
JAMA Network Open

On this month in history National Symphony Orchestra has debut

On March 6, 1947 The National Symphony Orchestra of New Zealand, now the NZSO, made its concert debut in the Town Hall, Wellington under the baton of Andersen Tyrer. In the audience was the prime minister Peter Fraser as well as some foreign diplomats. The 65 instrument orchestra was led by Vincent Aspey. After God Save the King was performed, Carnival came next, composed by Czech composer Antonin Dvorak. Later work by Johannes Brahms, George Butterworth, George Enesco, Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss followed.

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One simple thing a day to change the world

A leading figure in the world's largest service organisation visited Hawera recently.

Mark Lyon who hails from Connecticut in the United States is Third International Vice President of Lions International and was guest speaker at the Lions District 202D Convention held on February 23-25.

District 202D extends from Uruti to Foxton and includes the Ruapehu area. As district governor Tobi Hipp is a member and past president of the Normanby and Districts Lions Club, it was Hawera's turn to host the annual convention.

The Convention got underway on Friday evening with registration, a meal and entertainment from the Patea Maori Club. South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon welcomed everybody and noted that in the 1980s he was for 10 years a member of the Normanby Club.

On Saturday the business session got underway with the traditional flag ceremony.

"No one knows your local towns and cities and villages better than you do," Mark told everyone. "All we need to do is one simple thing a day to change the world."

At 1.4 million members, Lions is the world's largest service organisation. It was founded in the United States in 1917, with Canada being the second country to have Lions in 1920 followed by China in 1926. In recent years the Chinese government had put a cap on the number of Lions in that country but now they were asking how Lions could help them, Mark said.



Lions district governor Tobi Hipp with Third International Vice-President Mark Lyon.

He spoke about a visit to Poland where he saw a Lions Club assisting refugees from the war in Ukraine.

Mark posed the challenge "What will you bring?" "We need to look at the invisible parts of our community that are not being served," he said.

Denis Hurcomb from the Kaponga Club was elected district governor for the 2024-2025 year. He has been a member of Lions for 48 years and later that day was presented with an International President's Leadership Medal. Mike

Powell from New Plymouth was elected vice district governor and Megan England from Eltham was endorsed as the district's candidate for International director. Megan is a past District 202D district governor and has held the position of Council chair, the highest Lions position in New Zealand. That position is currently held by Steve Barr who also took part in the convention. Steve is also a past 202D district governor and has Coastal Taranaki connections. He now lives in the Manawatu but grew

up and farmed in Pihama. His parents were Coastal Taranaki drama identities Jim and Gabrielle Barr. Among the awards

presented was an International President's Certificate of Appreciation awarded to brothers Trevor and Edgar Smith who

started, and for the last 30 years have headed up the Normanby Club's project of growing daffodils for Daffodil Day. In the last five years this project has raised \$29,000 for the Cancer Society.

During the Convention the Lions Glob caravan was parked in Hawera offering the Lions Free My Health Check. The project, which had been started by the Rongotea Club received the Waverley Award. The Convention was told that on average a quarter of the people coming in for health checks were referred to their GP for follow-up.

Ebony Kalin founder of Empower Youth which is working with Lions to set up a Leos' Club in South Taranaki also spoke to the convention.

On Sunday there was a remembrance service in honour of the Lions who had passed away in the last year, held at South Taranaki Funeral Services in Hawera. The director of South Taranaki Funeral Services is Glenn Rogers, who is also the current president of the Normanby Club.

The next convention will be held on February 28 next year at Stratford.

As the end of the financial year approaches for businesses with a 31 March balance date, it's time to gear up for the annual end of year accounting process. From reviewing debtors to assessing fixed assets and discussing your financial data with your accountant, there are several crucial steps to ensure a seamless transition into the new fiscal period.

Firstly, it's essential to review your debtors to identify any potential bad debts. This process involves assessing outstanding invoices and determining whether any are unlikely to be collected. Writing off bad debts before year-end can help accurately reflect the financial health of your business and ensure you are not paying tax on income that you are unlikely to receive.

Similarly, a thorough review of your fixed asset register is necessary to identify any items that may need to be written off or are depreciated at incorrect depreciation rates. By ensuring that your asset register is up to date and correct so that you can ensure you are getting the correct deductions against any taxable income

Engaging in discussions with your accountant about the overall performance of the year is also vitally important. This includes reviewing profits, expenses, and cash flow to gauge the financial health of the business. Additionally, discussing the third instalment of provisional tax allows for proactive tax planning and essential cashflow planning for possible tax liabilities.

Conducting a stocktake is another essential aspect of the year-end process for businesses that carry inventory. This involves physically counting and valuing all inventory items to ensure accurate reporting of assets and cost of goods sold.

At Murphy & Landrigan, we understand the importance of streamlining the annual accounting process. By actively managing our client's financial information throughout the year, we minimize the complexity of the year-end preparations for our clients. Our proactive approach ensures that the turnaround time for annual accounts is significantly reduced, subject to clients providing the necessary information.

It's crucial to remember that the earlier you get your end of year financial statements prepared, the sooner you can assess any tax liabilities or claim tax credits. By staying organized and proactive in your approach to year-end finances, you can set your business up for success in the new financial year. Let us at Murphy & Landrigan help you navigate through this process with ease and efficiency. Contact us today for a free one hour free no obligation meeting appointment to see how we can support you grow your business.



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Live animal exports a risk to reputation and trade

In May 2022, the Labour Government passed the Animal Welfare Amendment Act to end the export of livestock by sea. It demonstrated our commitment to upholding New Zealand's reputation for high standards of animal welfare. The new Government want to reintroduce this outdated practice.

Typically, in order to pass a law, legislation must be considered by the relevant select committee and the public are given an opportunity to make submissions. This



JO LUXTON
LABOUR MP

particular Bill came to the Primary Production Select Committee, which I chaired at the time. We considered 637 submissions and heard oral evidence from 33 of

these submitters. It is a topic many have strong opinions and feelings on.

The National and ACT parties were opposed to the Bill. It was their opinion that we should be making regulatory improvement, rather than banning live exports outright. Undoubtedly, this will be their argument for repealing the ban. However, New Zealand already had a world-leading regulatory system for the export of live animals and no improvement to the previous regulations will be enough to protect the welfare of these animals and

to protect New Zealand's reputation.

It was not long after the Labour Government initiated a review of the trade that Gulf Livestock 1 tragically sunk, resulting in a devastating loss of life. It highlighted that no matter how high we set animal welfare standards and despite crews' best efforts, exporting live animals in this way has the potential to put lives in danger and inflict lasting harm to New Zealand's reputation and trade.

In 2021, we announced our decision to ban live animal

exports over a two-year transition period. This was done to acknowledge the economic benefits some farmers still received from the trade, but we could no longer ignore the fact that support for it was not universal. The question we had to ask was whether the activity aligned with international consumers' image of Aotearoa New Zealand. In 2022, it accounted for 0.2 percent of our primary sector revenue since 2015. It simply was not worth continuing to put our \$50 billion export industry, largely reliant on our good

name and reputation, at risk. It still isn't.

National, ACT and New Zealand First will take us backwards by reintroducing the export of live animals. They will put our export industry at risk. They will put the lives of people and animals in danger, and they will do it to appease a small minority. The benefit simply does not stack up against the risks of this trade.

Jo Luxton
Labour Spokesperson
for Agriculture, Rural
Communities and
Biosecurity

Construction cost growth continuing to cool

The average cost of building a home in New Zealand Aotearoa's main centres has increased by 0.3% this quarter and 5.2% since February 2023.

This is in stark contrast to previous CostBuilder construction cost updates in the Covid-19 era, which showed the cost of building a standard three-bedroom home increased by an average of 20.9% in the year ending June 2022, and by an average of 9.5% in

the year ending June 2023.

"Since the onset of Covid-19, we've seen some very rapid building cost inflation. I'm pleased to say this is now firmly on the downward trend, reflecting a somewhat improved economic outlook internationally and the easing in many of the global supply chain difficulties that arose throughout the pandemic," said CostBuilder spokesperson and quantity surveyor Martin Bisset.

"However, there is still an

abundance of economic and political uncertainty that could still impact construction costs in the future – including the Israel-Hamas conflict and the ongoing disorder on the Red Sea."

More than 10,700 rates were updated in CostBuilder's February update, producing roughly 25,000 changes to the data across six centres, with trade rates falling by 0.1%. This included a decrease of 28% for T&G

plywood flooring panels and a 4% fall in diesel prices.

Elemental rates increased by 0.2% on average since CostBuilder's last update in December. The cost of ceiling finishes increased by 0.7%, structural walls increased by 0.6%, and exterior walls/exterior finish also went up 0.5%.

"There are no significant reasons for these increases, but some are related to a small increase in the labour rate. Fuel costs have come

down, inflation is in decline, and increased migration is helping to fill labour shortages, which is helping to keep most costs in check," Mr Bisset said.

"It's important to remember these figures are averages and the cost of building will always be dependent on the level of finishes, internal layout, and all manner of other elements, including whether or not a home has a single or double garage." CostBuilder is an online subscription-based building

cost platform, powered by state-owned enterprise Quotable Value (QV), with a database of more than 60,000 rates across Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

It covers everything from the building costs per square metre for warehouses, schools, and office buildings, to the approximate retail supply cost of GIB and more than 8,000 other items, plus labour rates, labour constants, and more.

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New Zealand's hungry teens four years behind in their learning

--Food poverty has contributed to New Zealand's poor performance in an international educational achievement test for 15-year-olds, reigniting calls for broader access to free healthy school lunches. "The 2022 PISA (Program for International Student Achievement) data shows achievement for students who miss meals due to lack of money is two to four years behind their peers who never miss meals," says researcher Dr Pippa McKelvie-Sebileau. Analysis by Dr McKelvie-Sebileau and Health Coalition Aotearoa (HCA) co-chair Professor Boyd Swinburn in the latest Public Health Communication Centre Briefing found New Zealand's food poverty rates were among the highest of the 25 countries that provided the data.



Children enjoying their meals from the healthy lunch programme.

For the first time the test questionnaire asked students how many meals they had missed in the past 30 days due to a lack of money to buy food. The data showed that each week 14 in every 100 Kiwi students were missing a meal at least once, and 6.5 per cent were going without meals more than four times.

"Students who missed meals even just once a week scored much lower than their peers who never went hungry," Dr McKelvie-Sebileau said. "For example, in maths the gap was 60 points between students who never go hungry and those who miss a meal once a week and 83 points for students who miss

meals two to three times a week." To put this into perspective, twenty points on the PISA scale is regarded as equivalent to one year of learning for 15-year-olds. This analysis accounted for known effects of socio-economic deprivation on educational achievement so

that the effects of hunger on the PISA scores could be determined, irrespective of socio-economic status. The Ka Ora, Ka Ako healthy school lunch programme offered to 230,000 students in about 1,000 of the least advantaged schools, is a major safety net against food poverty.

"Increasing the number of schools receiving Ka Ora, Ka Ako would definitely help remove the barrier to learning for these students," Professor Boyd Swinburn says. Health Coalition Aotearoa (HCA) is calling for the programme to be doubled, to reach more students

affected by food poverty and thus have a greater impact on educational outcomes. David Seymour, who is the Associate Minister of Education with responsibilities for Ka Ora, Ka Ako, has talked about improving the programme's cost-effectiveness. An important design feature of the programme to ensure efficiency and protect against the significant stigma associated with food poverty is its universality within the school - all students receive the lunches. The PISA data is in line with the latest NZ Health Survey results which showed the largest jump on record for the number of children aged 2-14 years living in food insecure households.

Professor Swinburn said the PISA food poverty data strengthens the case for greater investment in Ka Ora, Ka Ako.

"This PISA data shows that hunger has a significant impact on achievement and an expanded Ka Ora, Ka Ako would provide the coalition Government with an evidence-based solution to raise educational achievement."



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Ministry of Education funded In-Home Learning Programme Arrives in South Taranaki

Families in South Taranaki now have access to a Ministry of Education funded in-home early learning programme, following the introduction of HIPPY (Home Interaction Programme for Parents and Youngsters) into the district. An established, worldwide programme, HIPPY was brought to New Zealand by Great Potentials Foundation in 1992 and has benefitted over 30,000 Kiwi children in

that time.

HIPPY, a free home-based programme equips parents with the essential tools and resources needed to prepare their 2-5-year-old children for future learning. Parents receive weekly workbooks containing activities to do with their child at home for 15 minutes a day, five times per week that strengthens the home learning environment. The workbooks and activities

develop both the cognitive and non-cognitive skills that are essential for children to become competent learners.

"Parents are supported through this by weekly visits from a HIPPY tutor," says Blake Gibson, HIPPY Coordinator for South Taranaki and Stratford, "as well as monthly Group Meetings where they can connect with other parents in their area. HIPPY is



HIPPY in home education for 3-5 year old children.

about hands-on learning experiences. It's about recognising parents as primary teachers for their children and fostering an environment where parents can learn from and support each another."

All the workbooks, storybooks and stationery needed for the programme are provided free of charge, ensuring that everyone has access to the tools and resources that HIPPY provides. "In fact, the only provisos for entry to the programme are that the family lives in South

Taranaki or Stratford Districts, their child is between the ages of 2-5 years old and that the child isn't regularly engaged with ECE - which we define as an average of 8 hours a week or less. So even if they are doing a couple of days of Kindy or Playcentre each week, there's a good chance we can get you into HIPPY."

Two generations benefit from HIPPY. As well as setting children on a positive pathway through education, parents gain valuable skills and confidence that empowers them in their role

as educators. HIPPY also opens doors for parents into training, education and employment and HIPPY South Taranaki are currently seeking a tutor to help deliver the programme to parents.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the HIPPY programme or want to learn more about becoming a tutor contact Blake Gibson, HIPPY Coordinator for South Taranaki & Stratford on 027 298 9542 or blake.gibson@greatpotentials.org.nz.

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Funeral Directors Association warns about funeral live stream scams

The Funeral Directors Association of New Zealand is warning New Zealanders about a new funeral live streaming scam that asks for money to view a funeral live stream.

Chief Executive, Gillian Boyes, says scammers create fake Facebook pages then send friend requests to families and friends of the deceased with links to the scam sites. Users are asked for personal details including a credit card number to watch the live stream.

"Sadly, New Zealanders saw this scam with the recent high-profile funeral of Fa'anānā Efeso Collins, but our members are also starting to see it with

everyday families as well," says Ms Boyes.

"It is sickening. We know many New Zealanders these days rely on these services when they can't attend a funeral in person and for someone to take advantage of people in a time of grief is just really low."

Ms Boyes explains that legitimate live streaming links are provided direct from the funeral home to the family and the costs associated with running the service are paid for by the family as part of the funeral bill.

"We are not aware of any legitimate live stream service that asks for money to view," she says.

The Funeral Directors

Association says people should be on the look out for the following warning signs:

- Facebook or other social media friend requests from people you don't know.
- A request to enter personal and credit card details in order to access a live stream. This is not required for legitimate live streams.

- Pressure to act quickly to view. Typically, live stream recordings remain available for viewing for up to a year.

They also warn that if you are not sure about a live stream link you should check with close family or view the link directly from the funeral home website.

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Silver Snapper Okato Takeaways



Denise Baker, Rachel Briggs, Benjamin Briggs, John Briggs and Heath Briggs.

With a modified name - Silver Snapper Okato Takeaways at 63 Carthew Street, Okato, the iconic food shop is flourishing under the ownership of John and Rachel Briggs. It is a family business with sons Heath (a building apprentice) and Benjamin (Otago University) helping when they can. An excellent staff member is Denise Baker from Rahotu.

“Denise is a perfect fit,” says Rachel with a smile.

The new owners took over at the beginning of September 2023. “We’ve had really good response from the public and community with excellent feedback,” shares Rachel.

The reason for John and Rachel’s new venture is simple, “We just wanted to work for ourselves.” John adds, “And the timing was just right.”

The couple have extensive experience in business, including Ruby Café in New Plymouth recently. John’s original vocation, incidentally, was as a sign writer.

We are regular patrons and are very pleased with both the prompt service and friendly manner of the staff

when we head there every Friday.

The new owners are very conscious of ensuring their made-on-the-premises food is fresh and healthy. Their fish and chips are cooked in vegetable oil, the most health option. With their flexible menu they also have gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options, such as their homemade falafel patties (GF). They pride themselves on the tasty sauces they make themselves.

“Everything we make and provide is what we would eat ourselves,” they explain.

As much as possible they source their produce locally. The fish is fresh, although occasionally they have to use the frozen option.

A wander through their shop, before opening, reveals spotlessly clean premises. There is a good selection of reading material while you wait for your order, although it has to be said, you don’t have to wait very long.

The shop is open from 4pm to 8pm, Wednesday to Friday. They are also open on the weekends 3pm to 8pm. (They are closed Mondays and Tuesdays).

The range of food on offer is amazing. They have

several whole family options such as the Coastal Basket (sea food), Family Feed and Mean Feed – great value for money.

Apart from Fish of the Day, just some of the food on offer includes kumara fries, potato fritters, Mussel fritters, hotdogs, curry rolls, seasoned wedges, toasties, weggies, as well as a variety of imaginative burgers, such as Finding Nemo (Battered fish, homemade tartare sauce, red onion, lettuce & tomato). For seconds are pineapple fritter donuts and banana fritters.

Beverages include ten flavours of milkshakes and thickshakes, as well as cans and bottles of fizzy drinks from the inviting drink cabinet. For a cold treat there are Magnums and Trumpets.

Despite their busy life Rachel and John still find some time for hobbies. Rachel is a keen reader with biographies her first choice. As well as cooking, John enjoys spending time in his workshop where he creates saw fish, a selection of which are on display in the shop (and are for sale). These are made to order (POA). The family also enjoy beach walks.

I thoroughly recommend Silver Snapper Okato Takeaways for their delicious food and friendly service.

Rolland McKellar

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Egmont A&P Show fly by



The Royal New Zealand Air Force's aerobatic display team, the Black Falcons conducted a fly by at the show on Saturday 24th February. which was a very impressive display.

Kathy Keddle – Best Mates Photography

Palms

Gardening with Palmers Gardening Centre



Palms bring a tropical vibe inside. Most thrive indoors, and compact root systems make them ideal for pots. Our indoor favourites include the fast-growing *Bangalow Palm* with decorative, feather fronds. It enjoys bright light and moist soil as does the gorgeous *Dwarf Date Palm* with fine, dark green fronds. The *Cascade Palm* is beauty. Needing consistent watering and tolerant of low light, it will eventually reach 2m.

Probably the most graceful of all is the **Wedding Palm** with a slender stem and arching fine fronds with narrow, long leaflets. Palms require regular, thorough watering especially during summer. Yellowing leaves or brown leaf tips may result from underwatering or being too cold. Brown spots may be due to overwatering or a sudden chilling. Only repot your palm when it becomes pot bound. Do so in early

summer at the start of the new growing period. Use a quality potting mix that retains moisture yet allows excess water to escape. Sparingly apply slow-release fertiliser or diluted liquid fertiliser in early summer. It is natural for the lowest leaves to turn brown and droop. Trim them by cutting rather than pulling. Scale insects and mealy bugs can be problematic. We suggest Groventive spray for severe infestations. Regularly sponge fronds with a damp cloth to remove dust and keep your palm looking beautiful

Have your say on Taranaki's future

Taranaki Regional Council wants the public's views on six key focus areas as it looks at how to meet the challenges the region faces over the next decade.

Feedback on the draft 2024/2034 Long-Term Plan (LTP) will run from 10 March to 12 April with the views set to shape the Council's strategic direction and funding.

Decisions have to be made on six areas which are crucial to many of the work programmes the Council delivers including how it continues to care for freshwater, protect biodiversity, control predators, adapt to climate change and manage resources.

Chair Charlotte Littlewood says the LTP will enable the Council to respond to the gathering pace of regulatory reform and funding changes while ensuring work continues on improving lifestyles, supporting livelihoods and taking the region forward.

"We want as many people as possible to get involved with our community conversation and share their views on the big decisions we have to make," says Mrs Littlewood.

"The six key focus areas cover many parts of our core work. Public feedback will help determine what we prioritise and where the funding goes to ensure we keep delivering services essential to the wellbeing and

future of our communities."

The Council is proposing an overall rates increase of 16.3% for 2024/2025. While in percentage terms this is higher than previous years, for most ratepayers the financial impact will be measured in tens of dollars over the course of a year.

Mrs Littlewood says the Council had worked hard to keep the increase as low as possible, as it was very aware of the pressures many in the community were facing. The Council's rates remain among the lowest in New Zealand.

"However with growing costs and demands, the reality is our budgets must rise if we are to deliver on our plan for the future."

The six areas the Council is seeking feedback on are:

- Improving resource management
- Delivering on freshwater
- Adapting to and mitigating climate change
- Our approach to possum control
- The future of Towards Predator-Free Taranaki
- Protecting indigenous biodiversity.

"These areas affect everyone's day to day lives and livelihoods so we've got to get our approach right. These are long-term issues and we need long-term planning," Mrs Littlewood added.

"Improving resource management is about how

we can plan for the future of Taranaki. Given that central government regulations can be uncertain and change after an election, we think a coherent and consistent approach to planning is vital for the region and will help protect our natural resources and environment.

"We also need to think about how we respond to climate change. It's an existential threat to our environment and we need to take action sooner rather than when it might be too late. The same goes for how we care for freshwater. Although the rules are uncertain, we need a plan to protect this precious resource in the short and longer term.

"We've seen so much improvement in how we're protecting biodiversity and dealing with predators in recent years. The question now is how we build on this, especially when there is no guarantee or continued external funding for some of our programmes.

"That's a lot of information to take in so we've summarised things in a consultation document which sets out all the options including the key question of the impact on costs. We're urging people to read this and we're looking forward to hearing their views."

The consultation on the LTP runs from 10 March to 12 April. The finalised LTP will become active on 1 July this year.

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Coastal Kickback the place to be



Coastal Kickback.

For anybody wanting somewhere to chill out, a certain converted Pickering's bus may be the place to be.

The bus, which has been purchased and renovated by the Wave Church has been parked outside the Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration

Event Centre and is open for anybody of any age to drop in from 3-6pm on Thursdays and Fridays and 12-3pm on Saturdays. The bus seats have been taken out and replaced by comfortable seating, with hot and cold water, a refrigerator and

games available. When it's open there are sausages on the barbecue at no charge.

The bus has been open for the last three weeks. There are about 18 volunteers wanting to give their time on the bus and all have been police vetted so that

it's a safe place to be, says volunteer Bill Hayward.

There are a minimum of two supervisors on at any one time for everybody's protection.

"Things are falling into place," says Bill. He says opening times could change depending on the amount of interest.

"There's been a slow growth in numbers. On the first day we had one. On Saturday we had 11. Numbers are slowly increasing as word of mouth gets out."

He says he has enjoyed getting to know the young people who have dropped by, with one of them being a regular opponent at checkers.

The bus has been named Coastal Kickback. Opunake High School student Jimmy Heke-Foote, who has become one of the regular visitors to the bus came up with the name. He has also come up with his own ideas about what kind of design he would like to see on the bus.

What drew him here?

"The fact that it's a bus and the design we're going to put on it," he says.

When the Opunake and Coastal News dropped by last Thursday Jimmy was there with friends Piripi Tito-Rangitaawa and Brooklyn Matthews.

"I was just hanging out and walking around and I came to the bus," says Brooklyn. "We get a feed and a drink and just talk about life."

Piripi said he liked being able to get a hot milo and a barbecue.

"I first started coming here when I heard about the design and wanted to help Jimmy think about the

design."

The bus has been getting an artistic makeover with Cam the artist at work as and when conditions allow.

"I'll have mountain, surf, some flax and the name on the front," he says.

The Wave Church say they want something reflecting the two meanings of Opunake- the Prow of the Waka and the Place where Streams have been.

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

Although they plan to run things alongside the school programme anybody of any age is welcome to drop in.



Brooklyn Matthews (left) having a game of checkers with Bill Hayward inside the Coastal Kickback bus.

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The Cliff Top Garden

The Secret Garden, the cliff top garden, call it whatever you like but it sure has become a big part of the Loop Trail and the Opunake community as a whole.

It is run by and carefully manicured for all to enjoy by a group of ageing volunteers. There is the pest man who traps all the rats and possums, there is someone who keeps the beautiful library boxes full of interesting books. There is someone else who is up at the crack of dawn to sweep and rake all the paths to keep them neat and safe for everyone, and at Christmas time there are those who spend hours putting up the beautiful lights to transform the garden into some fairy wonderland for adults and the kids. Then there are the gardeners who cut back, dehead, prune, shift and plant the garden areas, and who continually attack any weeds or grass that dares to



Maree Drought, grand-daughters Tamzin, Bella and daughter Hannah at the Cliff Top Garden in Opunake.

raise its head.

We want to thank anyone who has given us donations,

both monetary or in the form of plants they no longer want. Any kind of support is

gratefully accepted.

If anyone is interested in joining us in the garden there

is usually some of us there on a Thursday morning from 10am onwards. One only has

to work down there to realise the scope of visitors to this special place. There are the mountain bikers, school groups, visitors from all round the world, those that were bought up in Opunake and have come back for a visit, those who are camping down at the beach, and who come up to find themselves a good book, the dog walkers, walking groups, and the daily walkers and runners. And they all tell us how much they are enjoying walking

through the garden we need to remind ourselves that nothing happens by its self and we thank the founding members who over 12 years ago worked hard to transform an area of slash, weeds and grass after large old trees were removed.

A contact number for garden group is (027) 391 8970.

Maureen Martin

Virtual Power Plants can play important role in managing winter peaks

A collaborative pilot unlocking the potential of residential solar batteries contributing to the national grid during winter peak demand has concluded, marking a technical success with valuable insights gained.

In May 2023, Ara Ake teamed up with solar-and-battery-as-a-service provider, SolarZero, to explore how solar batteries and smart technology could help manage electricity supply shortages during peak demand periods over

winter. The collaboration also involved the Electricity Authority and Transpower as the system operator.

The eight-month pilot integrated distributed energy resources (DER) at 10,000 homes with solar and battery storage using Virtual Power Plant (VPP) technology. A VPP is a network of individual energy resources, such as solar panels and batteries located in different places that generate, store, distribute and manage power collectively and share the benefits.

The amount of energy that could be generated from 10,000 SolarZero customers with solar batteries adds up to 30MW that can be fed back into the grid when supply is tight.

SolarZero Chief Executive, Matt Ward, says, "During Cyclone Gabrielle, our technology proved that solar and batteries can keep the lights on at individual houses. Alongside Ara Ake, we have now proved that solar and batteries can help keep the lights on at the national level during



Residential solar batteries.

times of extreme electricity demand."

"An incredible amount of innovation, hard work and collaboration went into developing and running this pilot, and now that the technology has been demonstrated in action, it's essential that market mechanisms and the regulatory environment enable this technology and empower Kiwi consumers to provide flexibility to the electricity market as we are seeing overseas," adds Ward.

"This pilot stands out as an illustration of the multiplying impact of collaboration to accelerate the development of innovative solutions to help manage real challenges, such as security of supply during winter peaks. The lessons and insights from this pilot are now available for all interested parties to use and build upon to create a more sustainable, resilient and affordable energy system," says Dr Cristiano

Marantes, Chief Executive of Ara Ake.

Although there were several tight supply periods during the pilot, none were severe enough to trigger dispatch of the SolarZero VPP. However, testing proved that SolarZero's VPP product was ready to be used and could have been triggered to charge and be market-ready when needed to offer electricity back into the national transmission grid.

Transpower Executive General Manager Operations Chantelle Bramley said that as operator of the national power system, Transpower encourages greater investment by industry in flexible power system resources.

"Flexible resources like distributed energy resources (DER), fast starting generators, grid scale batteries and the ability to control demand are critical to provide the rapid response required when the power

system is tight," she said.

"The SolarZero initiative provides a small but important buffer against the risk of power cuts when the electricity supply is tight by providing stored electricity back into the grid. These types of pilots will pave the way for more innovation across the industry to provide the flexibility that the system needs."

As a result of the pilot, amendments to the Electricity Industry Participation Code will take effect on 1 March 2024 in respect of the dispatch notification product to reduce barriers to participation for load aggregators.

The pilot revealed further learnings that must be considered for future integration of DER as part of the electricity market, including determining where the greatest value for DER lies. This will require continuing industry-wide engagement.

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Council completes new Loop Track for Patea

Patea's new Loop Track was officially blessed by Ngāti Ruanui kaumatua on Wednesday 28 February marking the culmination of an eight-month project, part of the Council's Pathways Programme.

The ceremony, attended by South Taranaki District Council Deputy Mayor Rob Northcott, Chief Executive Fiona Aitken and Patea Community Board members, celebrated the successful completion of the 5km multi-use loop pathway.

A community-driven initiative, the pathway is designed to accommodate various activities such as walking, jogging, and cycling. A shorter 3.5km loop through Kent Street has also been added, which is accessible for all members of the community.

Locals had already been using a part of the loop pathway frequently prior



The opening ceremony for the Patea Loop Track.

to the upgrade project, prompting the Community Board and Council to see the potential and opportunity to turn an important part of the town into something vibrant for members of the community and visitors to enjoy, while adding some new elements along the way.

Deputy Mayor Rob Northcott says the 5km track offers lots of flexibility and can be started on either York Street or Bourke's Lookout.

"The Patea Loop Track not only enhances the recreational opportunities for the community but also reflects a collaboration between Council, community leaders and residents towards supporting vibrant communities," he says.

"I expect the track will become a hub for community well-being, providing a scenic and accessible space for everyone to enjoy."

Physical activity could help with pain in cancer survivors

Being physically active may help with the ongoing pain that people with cancer often experience, according to Australian researchers. The team analysed information from 10,651 with past cancer diagnosis as well as 51,439 adults

without a history of cancer, including information about how much pain they felt on average and their usual physical activity. For both groups of people, the team found more physical activity was linked with lower pain intensity. Among those with

a past cancer diagnosis, those exceeding physical activity guidelines were 16% less likely to report moderate-to-severe pain, compared to those who failed to meet those guidelines. Those who were consistently active or became active in older adulthood also

reported less pain than those who remained inactive. While this kind of research cannot establish cause-and-effect, the results may indicate exercise may reduce cancer-related pain, just as it does for other types of pain studied in the past, the authors say.

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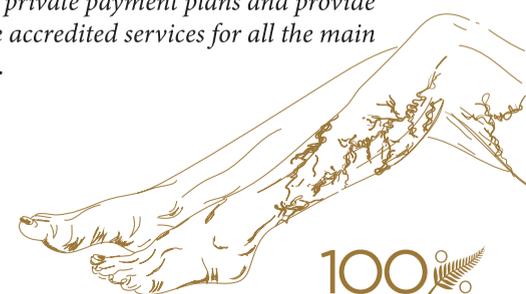
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Americarna attracts visitors from far and near

On February 21, Americarna, that paean to the American car culture was in full swing at Opunake Beach. There were vehicles of all shapes and sizes as well as a good crowd of visitors and fine weather to match.

In the last few years the visit to Opunake Beach has become the car carnival's first major public outing before visits to Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford, Hawera and finally the Americarnival in New Plymouth.

"It's pretty chill and everyone's smiling," noted Graeme Hawkes. "You always have a good turnout down here. There's a few new cars here this time round which is good."

Among the new cars there was the Custom 1929 C Cab Delivery designed and built by Don Ross of Whangarei.

"I custom-built the whole thing," says Don. "It's the only one there is. It took two years to build it and another nine months to do the main work on it. I finished it on Christmas Day."

He had been hoping to bring it to the last Americarna, but unfortunately he was in hospital at the time.

"So this is its first real unveiling."

In the time since the last Americarna his brother Clive had done the paint



Don Ross's hand built C Cab Delivery attracted a lot of attention.

Plymouth was there with his 2008 206 Chevrolet Corvette with a number plate bearing the name Batman. He's had the car since 2009 and has been along to every Americarna.

"I looked around at all the different cars I'd like to own and thought I'd like to get one of them," he said.

He bought it from the United States on the conditions that it be in mint condition, be coloured red and have chrome wheels.

Since then it has been to the Beach Hop at Whangamata as well as many Corvette Car Club functions.

The car is 7 litre LS7, six-speed manual, has a Vortex supercharger, and is 800 HP at the wheels

With Malcolm was Harvey Miller who had come along for the ride.

"I drove it from Okato to Rahunu and it's an absolute handful to drive," he says. Harley says he is 32 and has been "into American cars since he was 18."

"Once you get the feel of a V8 nothing else does it," he says.

Barry and Pru Cullen from the Gear Jammers Club on the Kapiti Coast, together with their three-year-old dachshund Max who had been to every Americarna since he was born were there with their 1932 Ford Tudor. They have had it since

Continued page 17.



Cars parked along Opunake Beach.

job which came to \$60,000. The bright purple colour is Fuchsia Candy and had to be

imported from Australia. This is Don's fourth Americarna and he has

brought along hot rods to previous ones. Malcolm Gunson of New



Pru and Barry Cullen with Max and their 1932 Ford Tudor.



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Americarna attracts visitors from far and near

Continued from page 16.

2016. Before then they had a 1932 Roadster, but after this was involved in an accident they used some of the insurance money to buy the Tudor. It had been imported from the United States by Clive Taylor, also of the Kapiti Coast who supplied the head and the carb.

The Cullens kept the body and did up the chassis to make it more driveable on the open road.

“This is real deal Ford steel,” says Barry proudly. “They have reproduced every Ford model, but this is genuine.

“1932 was quite a unique year. It was a one model year. Henry Ford made 14 derivations of the same vehicle. By way of today, how many derivations do manufacturers make today?”

Other vehicles Barry owns includes a 1954 Chevrolet pickup, which Barry believes, having right-hand drive may have been made in New Zealand.



The cars come into town.



Malcolm Gunson and his Corvette.

Rainfall figures show north-south split

On average January rainfall was 108.4 mm, 2% more than usual, ranging from 53% less rain at Waitotara at Ngutuwera, and 39% more than at Uruti at Kaka Rd, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures. In January, the north to south gradient in rainfall observed in December 2023 has persisted, with even rainfall on Mount Taranaki being 55-60% of usual values.

Compared to typical full year totals, on average sites have already received 6% of a typical year’s rainfall.

Mean river flows for January were 7.7% lower than typical values, low flows were 36.7% greater, and high flows 10.3% lower than typical values. The maximum river flow recorded in January was 386m3/sec at Waitara at Bertrand Rd. River flows in the southern ring plain area were particularly low, with the consequence river water temperatures in certain southern streams and rivers were particularly high.

Mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 18.8°C, an average of 0.4°C

warmer than long-term January values. Night-time-low water temperatures were on average 0.4°C warmer than historic lows, and day-time high temperatures were on average 0.6°C warmer than historic highs. The maximum river water temperature recorded in January was 28.9°C at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd.

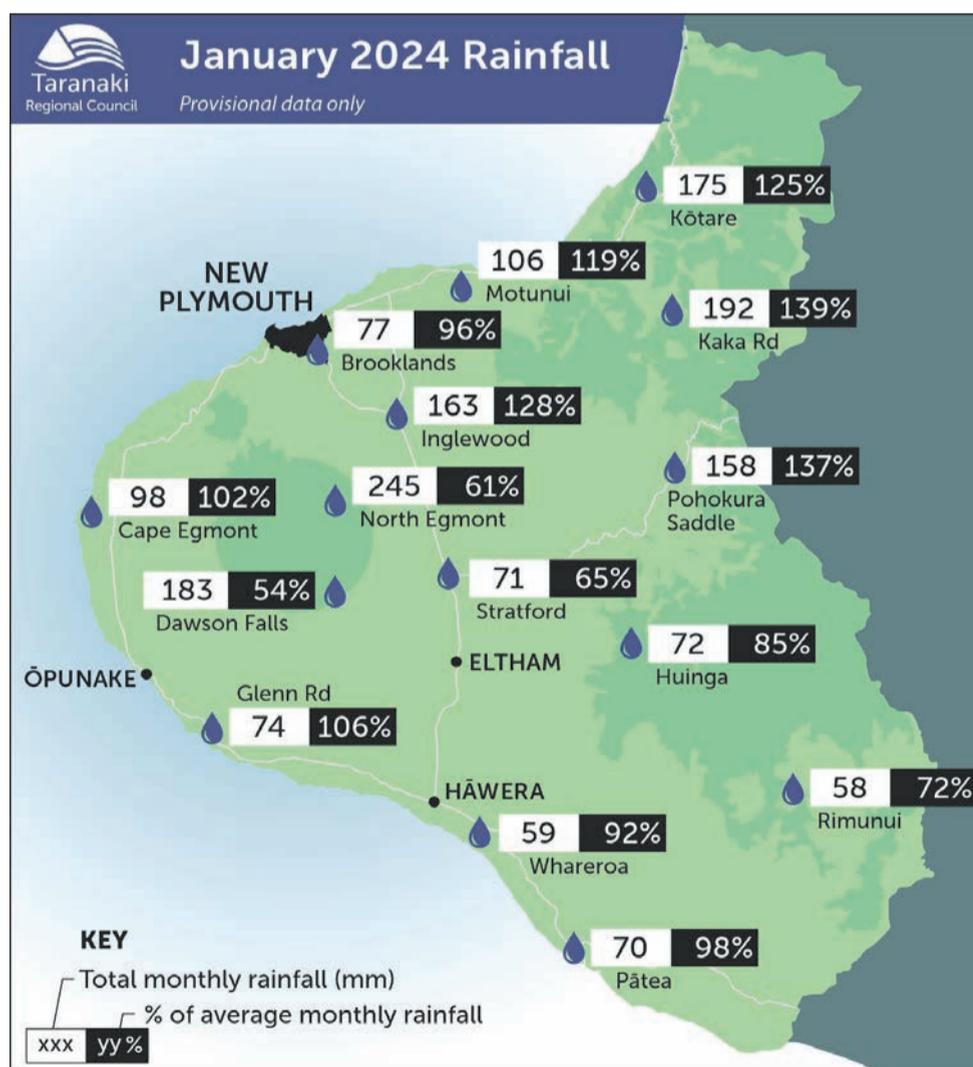
The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 18.2°C, which is 0.6°C warmer than long-term January averages. Low air temperatures for January were on average 0.3°C warmer than the January average for previous years. Day-time high temperatures were on average 0.9°C warmer than historic highs. The maximum air temperature recorded in January was 30.3°C at Waitotara at Hawken Rd.

The average soil moisture for January across sites in Taranaki region was 26.6%. Soil moistures were on average 1.8% wetter than typical January values. On average, low soil moistures

were 8% wetter than previous lows, and the highs were on average 2.6% drier than previous values for January.

January soil temperatures were generally 0.5°C warmer than long-term averages. Average nighttime low soil temperatures were 1.2°C warmer than recorded lows, and upper day-time soil temperatures were on average 0.2°C cooler than long-term January highs. The maximum soil temperature recorded in January was 28.3°C at Waitotara at Rimunui Station.

January average wind speeds were 14.3km/hr, with average gust strength of 40.5km/hr, these were 1.9km/hr lighter, and 2.5km/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 3.4km/hr lighter than long-term January highs. The maximum wind gust recorded in January was 95.4km/hr at Waitotara at Ngutuwera.



Which coasts are most at risk from tsunamis?

Tsunamis don’t happen very often and we only have a few decades of modern data, so it’s difficult to assess this infrequent but potentially deadly hazard. Computer modelling can help by producing “synthetic earthquake catalogues”

that simulate earthquakes in Aotearoa over very long periods of time.

Researchers looked at 30,000 years of a synthetic earthquake catalogue, and modelled the tsunamis generated from more than 2,500 earthquakes of

magnitude 7 or greater. Preliminary results suggest that tsunamis could reach up to 28 metres, and that the northern and eastern coasts of the North Island are most at risk from the largest waves. This new method could also be used to estimate risk from

earthquake-induced perils such as tsunamis, ground-shaking, landslides and liquefaction.

Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth



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Taranaki Dairy Industry Award winners announced

The 2024 Taranaki Dairy Industry Awards Share Farmers of the Year have a passion for dairy farming and a strong track record of farm performance.

Daniel Barnard and Jess Matthews were named the region's Share Farmers of the Year at the annual awards dinner which was held in Hawera on Saturday evening. Sarah Avery was named the 2024 Taranaki Dairy Manager of the Year and Eric Fa'anoi the 2024 Taranaki Dairy Trainee of the Year.

Daniel and Jess are Lower Order Sharemilkers on Roger Dickie's 500ha, 1600-cow property at Waverley.

Jess grew up on a sheep and beef station and worked in the agriculture service industry. Daniel entered the industry as a farm assistant in 2003 after attending Taratahi training college, working his way up to farm manager before moving into contract milking in 2014.

"We have a solid understanding of all the levels of the dairy farming ladder, meaning we can relate to staff well and have built a strong team culture where everyone enjoys coming to work."



From left. Eric Faanoi - Dairy Trainee of the Year, Jess Matthews and Daniel Barnard - Share Farmer of the Year, Sarah Avery - Dairy Manager of the Year

The couple are proud they have turned their income into equity and built assets

that they are now using to buy cows for their 50/50 position next season.

"We intend to be hands-on farmers for the foreseeable future and look forward to seeing if our kids want to be involved in working on the land," they say.

Runners-up were Jeffrey and Sharon Nicholas who are 50/50 sharemilkers on Steve and Ann Nicholas' 110ha, 350-cow Hawera farm.

The former rural banker and accountant jumped at the opportunity to sharemilk on Jeff's family farm in 2022 and are currently in their second season.

"We were involved in people's businesses in our previous roles which motivated us to give it a crack ourselves," they say. "We also wanted to be able to raise our family on a farm."

Third placegetter was awarded to Kingsley Young who is contract milking on the 50ha, 176-cow Todd

Energy farm at Hawera.

The winner of the 2024 Taranaki Dairy Manager of the Year category is Sarah Avery who is farm manager for Carl and Shey Kowalewski on their 130ha property, milking 300 cows at Midhirst.

Sarah grew up on a sheep and beef farm in Toko and holds a Bachelor of Agri Commerce from Massey University and loves working in the dairy industry, beginning as a farm assistant then progressing to manager.

"I started calf-rearing and relief milking while studying and I love the variety that being a dairy farmer gives," she says. "I love working outside and with animals and couldn't imagine ever working inside."

Sarah enjoys the science behind dairy farming and the progression pathway within the dairy industry. "There is always something new to learn."

A passionate New Zealand

Young Farmers member, Sarah also plays for the Hawera Women's hockey team.

Runner-up was Daniel Warren, who currently works for Bruce and Katrina Warren on their 130ha Okato property, milking 310 cows.

The qualified builder and former foreman entered the dairy industry six years ago and enjoys working alongside his family.

Future farming goals include contract milking and equity partnership.

Third placegetter was Jacqui Smith who is farm assistant on Rob and Gwen Willcox's 155ha Rahotu property, milking 420 cows.

The winner of the 2024 Taranaki Dairy Trainee of the Year category is Eric Fa'anoi who was encouraged to enter the Awards by his employer, Matthew O'Connell.

Eric is 2IC on Simon O'Connell's 98ha, 330-cow farm in Hawera.

The 24-year-old grew up in

Porirua and holds a Bachelor of Science majoring in Environmental Science and Chemistry.

"I've wanted to be a farmer since I was a teenager and watching Country Calendar got me daydreaming about working the land.

I used to tag along with a family friend who worked for DeLaval on his deliveries to farms and one day a farmer asked me to walk the cows up - I couldn't get out of the van fast enough."

Eric has been dairy farming full-time since October 2023. Prior to that he was a Freshwater Advisor and a research assistant on the Native Fish team with Horizons Regional Council, assisting landowners with riparian planting.

"I chose to move into farming as it has always been my passion - my grandad and his brothers back in Samoa were revered horticulturists in the village."

"They enjoyed working the land, mainly crops of fruit and taro and I think that's why my heart is in working the land also."

Farm assistant Saffron Astwood placed second in the Dairy Trainee category.

The 24-year-old works on Louis and Barbara Kuriger and Rachel and Kenneth Short's 168ha Opunake property milking 350 cows.

Saffron says it is exciting to see all the new technology in the industry that is assisting farmers and their businesses.

"Collars, ear tags and boluses can assist farmers in mating, calving and day-to-day jobs, reducing workloads and benefiting a work/life balance."

"However, I think it's important farmers maintain their stockmanship - it could be easy to slip in this skill if the only contact with cows is in the shed."

Shicaela Kane was third placegetter and is farm assistant for Alpine Rose Ltd on the 300-cow, 95ha Hawera farm.

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Strengthening food resilience and farm diversity

Next Wednesday and Thursday, 13th and 14th March, Nourish Taranaki, in partnership with Pihama/

Oeo Catchment Community, Earthcare Education Aotearoa, and supported by Taranaki Catchment

Communities, invites the community to two unique yet complementary workshops. These events aim to grow

local food resilience and opportunities, farm diversity, and community connections.

Local Food Resilience Workshop: Wednesday, 13th March @ Ōpunakē Surf Life Saving Club Rooms, Ōpunakē Main Beach. Doors open at 9:00 am for a 9:30 am start, wrapping up by 4:00 pm.

Robina McCurdy and local food-growing expertise will lead presentations and sessions, including Angela Teasdale (Taranaki Iwi). This event is ideal for anyone interested in local food production, from farmers, growers, whānau, eaters to entrepreneurs.

Evening Session: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Drop ins welcome through the day and registration is appreciated.

Farm Diversity Event, Thursday, 14th March Location: Pihama Hall and a local dairy farm Time: 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Both workshops offer a chance to learn, share knowledge, and contribute to a sustainable future.

Bring a plate for shared meals, finger food for evening and a koha/donation is appreciated.

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To register and for more details, also to link up local food initiatives, skills and interest, contact Fiona Young at NourishTaranaki@gmail.com, 027 580 3502.

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THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, FARM DIVERSITY WORKSHOP
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Organised by Nourish Taranaki,
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Shackleton's milk



George Marston on one of Shackleton's expeditions to Antarctica. Photo by Eric Marshall via Wikimedia Commons

100-year-old powdered milk brought on the Shackleton expedition has been studied and found to be remarkably similar to its modern equivalent. Fonterra scientists found that the only major differences were due

largely to how the antiquated storage, manufacturing and processing techniques impacted the milk product. They note that, unlike whiskey also found on-site, it is "highly unlikely" that the 1907 product will

be recreated as a modern gimmick.

Journal/conference: Journal of Dairy Science

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Tracking world's methane emissions from space

The MethaneSAT satellite with its mission control to be based in Aotearoa is New Zealand's first-ever government-funded space mission, however, it's primarily funded by a US-based nonprofit.

Scientists in New Zealand will use the satellite to study global emissions from agriculture, while the US-side of the project is focused on finding and measuring methane leaks from oil and gas production.

Dr Johannes Laubach, Scientist, Manaaki Whenua

Landcare Research, comments:

"The primary purpose of the satellite MethaneSAT is to locate large point sources of methane, like leaks in natural-gas facilities and pipelines. Such leaks could be quite easily repaired, reducing methane emissions immediately and thus reducing global warming. The idea is that by publishing the satellite findings, the operators of leaky facilities will be put under pressure to take action.

"However, about half of the

global methane emissions related to human activities are from agriculture (mainly livestock and rice-growing). These emissions are often much more 'diffuse', i.e., when looking from space they appear as of low intensity spread over large areas. In New Zealand, over 80% of methane emissions related to human activity come from cattle and sheep.

"New Zealand's government is funding a research programme to explore whether the MethaneSAT data can be

made useful to quantify regional agricultural emissions. The researchers will combine the satellite data of spatial methane distribution with wind field data and ground-based measurements of methane fluxes and atmospheric-column concentrations, and feed these into airflow models. Goals are to test how well source strengths and regions of origin can be inferred and how they compare to inventory calculations of methane emissions."

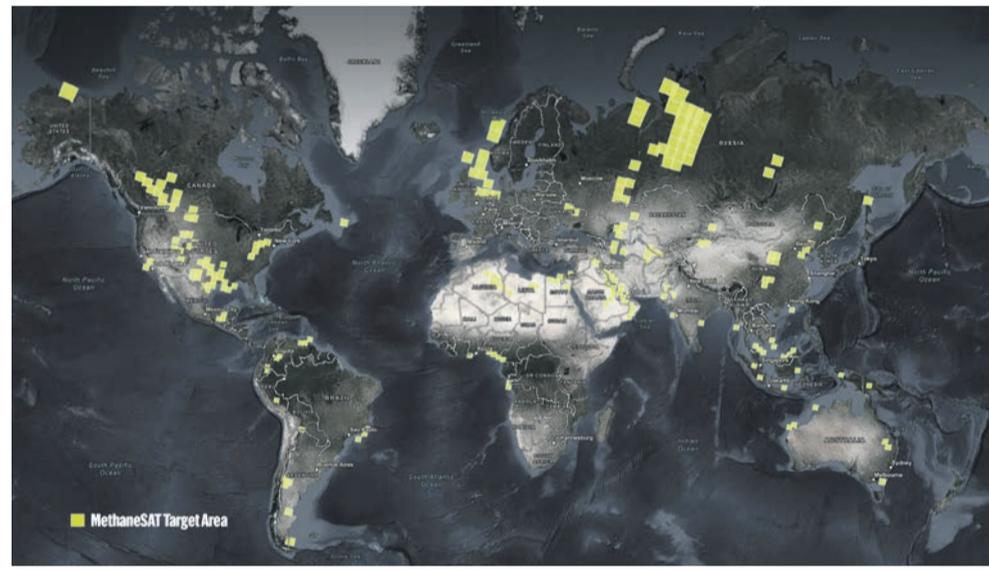


A New Zealand government funded space mission is looking for methane emissions.

At the A & P Show



Tom Sandford, Jessie Freer, Stacey Smith, Sonia King and Jamie-Lee Nicke at the Sandfords exhibit at the Egmont A&P Show the winner of the fertilizer guessing jar was Mike Mckinlay.



Memory for maths better before bed

Got a maths test in the morning? You're better off studying before bed, say researchers from the UK. They say that, in a small study, complex mathematics learned before bed was

better recalled at a later time, when compared to learning in the morning. The team suggest that, similar to previous research on sleep improving our ability to

recall words, catching some Zs after studying could help your chances on your next maths test.

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Opunake Surf Lifesaving success

Results from North Island IRB champs held at Waipu Cove

A large contingent of volunteer lifeguards headed away to compete. All up there were eight teams (driver and crewman) and four patients (Alika Hunn, Melah Sinclair, Bernie Vanner and Crystal Jordan). There were good racing conditions and Opunake were the second overall club coming in behind the Sunset Club who have been the national champs for many years in a row.

The highlight was when you could feel the tension in the air as we took on the top New Zealand and International team in the Teams Rescue and we won. Shout out to Samuel, Caleb, Jack, Jacob and Crystal.

Mass Rescue Gold U19 girls (Caro, Macy with patients Melah and Jack). Mass rescue bronzes for U23 female (Bella and Ella)

and male (Jacob/Jack). Gold medal single rescue U19 Caro, Macy, patient Melah. Silver medal U23 single rescue Jack, Jacob, patient Melah. Silver medal U23 single rescue. Bella, Ella, patient Crystal. Bronze. Tube rescue U23 female Bella, Ella, patient Crystal. Silver. tube rescue U19 female Caro, Macy and patient Melah. Assembly U19 Girls gold. Macy, Caro, patient Melah. Assembly U19 Girls bronze. Georgie, Maddy, patient Bernie. Assembly U19 Boys gold. Liam and Joe, patient Kate. Assembly U19 Boys bronze. Harrison, Ethan, patient Crystal. Assembly U23 gold. Jack, Jacob, patient Melah. Assembly U23 bronze. Caleb, Samuel, patient Alika.

Opunake Surf Life Saving Club.



Beating the top New Zealand and International team in the Teams Rescue. Samuel Drought, Caleb Lawn, Jack Feaver, Jacob Whittle and Crystal Jordan.



Liam Drought, Joe Edwards and Bethan Upton Hansen won two Gold medals and Silver at the South Island Champs last weekend.



Opunake Oceans'24 team.



Roy Gibson at Oceans 24.



Johnny Elsmore.

Junior Surf Life Saving Opunake

Recently Opunake Surf Life Saving Club sent thirteen competitors away to compete in Oceans'24 – a national Junior Surf Competition held in Mt Maunganui annually for youth aged 10 - 14. You may have seen these kids training most days at the main beach, preparing for this highly competitive event.

A massive congratulations to Johnny Elsmore – Opunake's only competitor to come away with placings this year, winning GOLD in Beach Flags and BRONZE in Beach Sprints.

Another notable achievement is the overall improvement from Opunake in water events with several competitors making the Board Race and Swim FINALS. Historically Opunake has only ever won two medals in the water at

Oceans – both by Rebecca Heemi back in 2007.

It's great to see the confidence growing among this age group as they are increasingly being noticed by other clubs with a number of life members congratulating Opunake Coaches about the notable confidence in the water. Even the photographer at Oceans'24 felt compelled to capture Opunake on the water. Images supplied by Jamie Troughton/Dscribe Media Tauranga.

The future is looking bright for Opunake Surf Life Saving Club with our Junior Surf programme preparing these athletes to become future lifeguards. If you want to know more about getting involved with Surf Life Saving visit the Facebook page for more details.

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Young Drivers Showcase Talent

It was the turn of the young drivers to race in the limelight on the weekend at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway when the Repco Youth Ministock Spectacular was run. Youth Ministocks cater to the younger generation of racers with competitors needing to be between the ages of twelve and sixteen to be eligible to race. The class is a popular and successful breeding ground of champions with many of Stratford's and Speedway's top drivers throughout the country having began their racing career in the class.

The Repco Spectacular was supposed to run on Saturday with a heap of qualifying races in the afternoon before the finals in the evening but persistent unforecast showers that would not dissipate forced the event to transfer to Sunday, running a reduced race format to squeeze everything into an afternoon of racing.

Competitors were divided into two groups for qualifying before the top tier of drivers were taken to race in the tier one event over three twelve lap heats while the remainder raced in tier two over two ten lap heats.

Rotorua competitor George Crawford, who

qualified well with a second and a fifth placing proved to be the fastest driver on the track and won the tier one event after winning race one of the finals before placing seventh in race two and then third in race three. He won overall by a two point margin from Palmerston North racer Boston Joblin while Stratford driver Lucas Hurley was the first of the locals home in third place.

Neeve Smith from Hawkes Bay won tier two ahead of Vindylin Stanway and Cadyn Booker, both from Stratford.

Although the Youth class isn't the fastest it was great to see the skill and capability of these young drivers, many of whom aren't even able to drive on the road yet and with almost every race being won by a different driver, showing that there are plenty of future champions coming through the ranks.

On the same day the Demolition Derby Teams Champs were held. Six teams battled over qualifying races before facing off against each other in the finals. Brogan Racing and JYD won a qualifying race each while Naki Bits and Karmageddon won two apiece. With all points tallied the finals saw Unforgivin take on On Smoko for fifth and sixth



Competing at the Repco Youth Ministock Spectacular.

place with Unforgivin taking the win. JYD beat Brogan racing to take third place while after a brutal race that saw a number of cars eliminated, Karmageddon won the final against Naki Bits. After the teams racing, any cars left running raced in the all in Demolition Derby which was won by Joshie Aldworth.

The Saloon Plews Memorial was won by Blake Hooper who won race two

and finished second in the others. Bradley Korff, who was gifted a race one win after Jarrod MacBeth's driveshaft blew apart on the final lap was second overall after recording two wins and a fifth place finish while Craig Korff claimed the third step on the podium.

Superstocks raced for their 60th Anniversary Cup over three heats. Shane Denham raced well all day, including a win in race two and won the cup ahead of New Zealand ranked number two Blair Uhlenberg while Logan Sharpe was third.

The next event at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway is on 8th and 9th March and will feature the Plant & Fabrication Services New Zealand Modified Championship along with the CANAM Minisprint series.

Jarrod MacBeth



Speedway Action.

NEXT EVENT

FRI/SAT MARCH 8TH/9TH






Qualifying Friday - Finals Saturday

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Superstock KOM Champs & Best Pairs both nights!
Youth Ministock 60th Cup Friday,
Adult Ministock 60th Cup & Stockcars Saturday

2 great nights out for the whole family!

Gates Open - 4:00pm Racing Starts - 6:00pm
 Adult \$25, Child \$8 (14 & Under) Car Parking \$2
 Family \$55 (2 Adults & up to 4 Children) (Sat Only)
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Please visit our website or find us on Facebook to find more information on each race meeting, what's coming up each week and to see online ticketing options.

www.stratford-speedway.co.nz






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Opunake Outdoors And Service Family Fish and Fun Day



This group had a great day out with Megan Dymond from Opunake Outdoors and service learning how to catch fish on her learning for beginners day.



These cuties loved catching fish.



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TET Athletics Taranaki flies off the handle

TET Athletics Taranaki has been awarded a \$20,000 NZCT grant to purchase a world class hammer cage which is set to transform athletics in the region.

President of TET Athletics Taranaki, Jason Cressingham said, "It's a game-changer. The new cage not only ensures top-notch safety standards but also paves the way for Taranaki to host bigger and better regional and national meets – which will be great for the local economy."

"The new cage speaks to our unwavering commitment to excellence. By exceeding global athletics safety standards, we're not only safeguarding athletes and spectators but also making a statement to our athletes, that we believe in their potential and are equipping them with the best tools and infrastructure to help them shine on the national stage and beyond."

NZCT's GM Grants, Marketing and Communications, Ben Hodges says "New Zealand



Safeguarding the province's athletes.

has a proud athletic history on the world stage and Taranaki has no shortage of talent who deserve the best.

Thank you to our Taranaki venues - for their help in raising the funds that made this grant possible."

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Group Portrait Exhibition

The community is invited to view Face to Face: A Group Portrait Exhibition at Lysaght Watt Gallery, 4-6 Union St, Hāwera (March 4-30th, 2024). The exhibition features 27 artists from Taranaki and Whanganui regions who

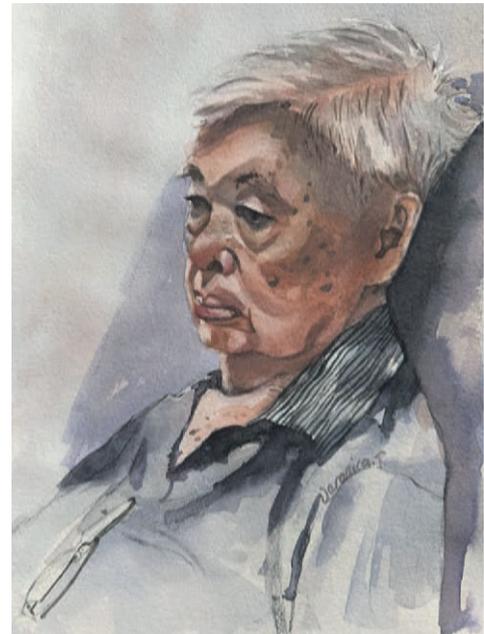
answered the call for portrait entries earlier this year. It includes artwork by New Plymouth's Milarky, Tanya Paton and Reyna Henderson, works by Whanganui's Duncan Smith, Polly Cleverley and Melanie Fleet, other less well-known

portrait artists and several exhibiting for the first time. Portraits on display are in a range of mediums including oils, acrylics, pastels, pencil, and photography; and gallery visitors encouraged to support a People's Choice Award by casting a vote for

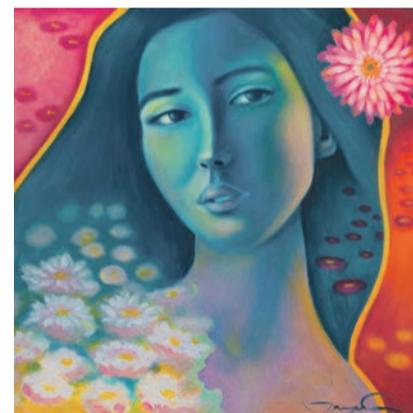
their favourite piece. The People's Choice winner will be announced on Saturday March 30th after votes are counted and the successful artist receives a small cash prize of \$200 to honour their portrait, hard work and encourage

future endeavours. All are welcome to Lysaght Watt Gallery 10am - 4 pm

Monday - Friday, Saturdays 10am - 1 pm.



F. I. L. (Father in law) , Veronica Tee



Exhibits at the Lysaght Watt Group Portrait Exhibition currently on show.

RIGHT: Daisy. Tanya Paton

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Email your name & preferred time to: info@roadsafetaranaki.nz



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engineering@agfirst.co.nz
agfirstengineering.co.nz



The Stratford Park Motorsports Complex

The Stratford Park Motorsports Complex is revving their engines as they prepare for the 2024 AutoCity MotorFest.

Scheduled for the 20 April from 11am-4pm, MotorFest is all things automotive. From an extensive display of cars, bikes and trucks from clubs and individuals Taranaki wide, to live entertainment, add the extensive kids zone with loads of activities to keep the young ones amused, to live demonstrations and an array of stalls and food carts; MotorFest will be sure to get your engines humming.

Project Manager, Tracey Blake says "I am excited that MotorFest is back, better than ever for another year. Not only is this a great day out, but for every car enthusiast, there's literally something for everyone, and for those who fancy a day listening to great music, eating great food with good friends sounds like them, well this is your day too."

For the car enthusiasts, the swap meet will allow them to sell unused or unwanted items where they can bring a trailer load for just \$20.

Clubs and individuals can participate by simply heading to Eventbrite. co.nz and searching for

MotorFest and all info is there to register, or you can head to the Stratford Park Motorsports Complex on Facebook.

All just \$5 for adults and children 14 and under are free, it will be sure to be a great day out in the heart of Taranaki, Stratford.

MotorFest is of course, just one of the many events that the Stratford Park facility have planned. A extensive multi-sports, multi-recreational facility was developed with the collaboration of the Stratford A&P Assn and the Taranaki MotorSport Facility Trust.

Knowing the need for a venue that could allow events being held at the same time, on a purpose built facility was the driving focus to create a separate Stratford Park MotorSports facility, that would allow circuit racing, a drag strip, even a car museum, as well as having the land for gravel sprints, driver education and training, then house a comprehensive equine facility in another area with all weather arenas, even one Olympic sized, sheds, yards, wash bays and grazing on site, so that people can train and graze their horses, knowing they're safe and in a central location. Add to

this an updated Agricultural and Pastoral facility with a variety of event venues, yards, and grounds that offer multi use, Stratford Park is well on its way to getting

that spade in the ground.

An array of documentation and consents are well underway or completed and the Board are nearing the end of this long haul so that

major fundraising has now commenced.

Offering a wide range of opportunities, those interested in supporting the project are invited to reach

out to Tracey through her email on projectmanager@stratfordpark.co.nz or through their website www.stratfordpark.co.nz or feel free to ring 027 3056467

At the White Sail Gallery

At the White Sail Gallery, we invite you on a journey of artistic discovery. Whether a seasoned enthusiast or a



Golden Hour by Jill White.

newcomer, our gallery aims to captivate and ignite your passion. Immerse yourself in a collection featuring Taranaki and Aotearoa's artists. From exquisite sculptures, ceramics, to breathtaking art pieces. Join us in celebrating the beauty

and unparalleled creativity of New Zealand's vibrant art scene in our exceptional venue. Overlooking the tranquil Breakwater Bay, our gallery is a haven for all art lovers. Come, connect, and immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of local artistry.

THE WHITE SAIL GALLERY



35 Ocean View Parade
Port Taranaki
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TUES - SAT: 10AM - 4PM
SUNDAY: 10AM - 3PM



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

St Martins, Pungarehu: 8.30am every 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
Other areas
Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays of the month Mass at 6pm. However during winter the time will be 5pm i.e. Saturday 10th June, 24th June and 8th July. After this date the time will revert back to 6pm.
1st and 3rd Sundays of the month Liturgy of the Word with Communion at 8.45am.
Thursday Mass 9.30am (subject to change).

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church. Kaponga

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

Manaia Union Fellowship

Terou St. Manaia.
Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion

Friend & Fellowship Group

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

Opunake Women repeat Coach McKean Memorial Cup win



Ko te kōwhiringa hākinakina mō tō oranga

Opunake Women have won the Coach McKean Memorial Cup again this year with strong performances against the other Taranaki teams from Waitara, Hawera, Stratford and New Plymouth Congratulations ladies.

Back from left Zoe Kensington, Olivia Bright, Paige Taylor, Lily Bright, Ella Bright, Dwayne Tamatea, Front row Iritana Hohaia, Tenaeya Sutcliffe and Khlaia-Rose, Jenna Kensington, Simone Cook and Jorja Symes.

Don't forget to get along to some of the action at Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Event Centre this weekend for the Jubilee celebrations and activities.

Photo credit: Ken Davies.

OPUNAKE INDOOR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

50 years

Jubilee Weekend

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th March 2024

SATURDAY 9th MARCH
 12pm - Year 7/8 Girls Game
 1pm - Year 7/8 Boys Game
 2pm - OHS Jnr Girls v Invitational Jnr Girls Team
 3pm - OHS Jnr Boys v Invitational Jnr Boys Team
 4pm - SHOOT OUT and DUNK COMPETITION
 6pm - MIX and MINGLE in STADIUM BAR and RESTAURANT

SUNDAY 10th MARCH
 10am - OHS Snr Boys v Invitational Snr Boys Team
 11am - OHS Snr Girls v Invitational Snr Girls Team
 12pm - MASTERS Women
 1pm - MASTERS Men
 2pm - Opunake Women v THUNDER
 3.30pm - Opunake Men v TARANAKI AIRS
 6pm - BUFFET DINNER

All events and dinner to be held at Sinclair's Event Centre 156 Tasman Street OPUNAKE

STADIUM BAR and RESTAURANT OPEN ALL WEEKEND but closed for private BUFFET DINNER

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS



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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

MIND MATTERS

Brave people come to counselling because of sexual harm. It takes tremendous courage to seek help when you have suffered sexual abuse or assault. Your instinct may be to hide, blame yourself, forget quickly, or avoid conflict. You may worry about having to say things which you would rather not say. You may fret about meeting a stranger. Often abused people do not seek help until later in life. They may, from time-to-time, think about what was done to them, but, they do not take the big step and seek help. Later they see how the abuse still impacts on them – persistent stabbing thoughts, how they feel about others, how they feel deep inside, possibly along with anxiety and depression. If you relate to this, today's Mind Matters, is for you.



DR. ROBERT SHAW

an excellent system to help people who are sexually abused. The system is managed by ACC, and they call it by the funny name "Integrated System for Sensitive Claims". The "integrated" bit means that all the different services a client might need are provided via ACC. Your "Lead Provider" (previously called a counsellor) works with your "Recovery Partner" (previously called a case manager) to provide

all the different services that you need. The term "Sensitive Claims" is much better than the horrid labels of "victim", "applicant" "injured person" or "sexual harm". ACC might one day win a prize for creative names.

People only became aware of the effects of trauma relatively recently. The important discoveries were made when war veterans were rather obviously mentally damaged by their experience. Sexual abuse is just one form of trauma, and the treatment for all forms of trauma is broadly similar.

The ACC system is designed to help those who suffer illegal sexual harm. The Police website says: "Sexual assault is a term used to describe a range of sex crimes committed against a person. It is any unwanted or forced sex act or behaviour that has happened without a person's consent." Children cannot give consent.

ACC and sexual harm

It is not required that there be a complaint to the police or a court action. The therapist needs to believe the abuse was probably a crime. It need not be a recent event. Many older people suffer because of abuse that occurred when they were children. It may not be much that is said: "I was forced on (approximate date) at (place) by (description of person, often "my cousin", or something similar).

If you suffer mental problems which you think may relate to sexual abuse, the first step is to find a therapist who works with ACC. Try their website: www.findsupport.co.nz. If you do not like websites, you can phone ACC or send an email: 0800 735 566, sensitiveclaims@acc.co.nz

Once you find a counsellor, make your first appointment. You may attend in person or meet on Zoom. ACC will pay for two sessions with that person. Your

counsellor will complete an "Engagement Form" and send it to ACC, who will then approve four further sessions to enable a plan to be made with you. From that point onwards, there are plenty of options to address your particular needs. Some people need a psychiatric assessment, some want to work with Māori providers, some go to therapeutic yoga. You will probably begin weekly sessions with your counsellor (Lead Provider).

Some people worry that they are going to have to tell the counsellor all about the abuse: this is the "face-up-to-it theory". Once that approach was used, but today we know it can be unhelpful. You will not have to talk about anything you do not want to talk about. You can be sure that everything you say is confidential.

In the last 20 years, the approach taken to the treatment of sexual abuse has changed dramatically.

Much more is known about how abuse damages brains and affects bodies. Abuse has very long-term impacts. Trauma is very common in our society.

Perhaps the most important factor in your treatment, is that you and your therapist work well together. Slowly, you can come to trust your therapist. You can recognise the way early trauma and abuse has an ongoing impact on your body. You can replace the old patterns of fear and anger with new, more healthy expectations and feelings.

One popular book must be recommended. The book by psychiatrist Bessel van der Kolk is excellent – "The Body Keeps the Score". Listen to Bessel in this video <https://youtu.be/BjfmfkDQb14>.

*Dr Robert Shaw
Registered Psychotherapist
opunake@mail.com*

When compared with other countries, we have

The Great Escaper



The Great Escaper is on at Everybodys Theatre Sunday

plays his long-suffering wife Rene.

Bernie Jordan was dubbed the Great Escaper when it was revealed he had jumped his rest home and turned up in France. It is a moniker which Jordan, as played by Caine is not entirely

comfortable with. Neither is he comfortable with the celebrity status accorded to him on his return.

It's not entirely clear what he is escaping from as his return to France sees him dealing with various personal demons from his past.

He strikes up an unlikely friendship with Arthur, an upper-class former bomber pilot admirably played by 89-year-old English acting veteran John Standing. It turns out Arthur has demons of his own to come to terms with. Bernie also develops a rapport with a group of German veterans and counsels a younger British veteran who has lost his leg in Afghanistan.

Alone among the graves at the British military cemetery in Bayeaux he cries in despair "What a waste."

In a series of flashbacks he reflects on what happened

70 years ago. Meanwhile back in Britain Rene who had encouraged Bernie to make the trip is reflecting on their life together. Danielle Vitalis gives a suitably empathetic ear as nursing home attendant Adele.

The Great Escaper is one of those movies that has several layers to it. As well as the story of the 90 year-old returning to the battlefield of France it is also a celebration of a romance that lasted 70 years.

It is also a piece of cinematic history in its own right.

Caine and Jackson have

both given many memorable performances during their long film careers. The Great Escaper is no exception. For Glenda Jackson who died last year it was her final performance. Michael Caine has since said he will not be making any more movies.

For both The Great Escaper makes a fitting swan song.

The Great Escaper is showing at Everybodys in Opunake. Friday March 8 at 7pm. Sunday March 10 at 1pm and Sunday March 17 at 7pm.

Bryan Kirk.

FILM REVIEW

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

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

Drive-Away Dolls 1hr 24mins R16 Thu 07 Mar 7PM	The Great Escaper 1hr 36mins M Fri 08 Mar 7PM Sun 10 Mar 1PM Sun 17 Mar 7PM
Inspector Sun 1hr 28mins PG Sat 09 Mar 1PM Mon 11 Mar 10AM	How to Have Sex 1hr 31mins R16 Sat 09 Mar 7PM Sun 17 Mar 1PM
Dune: Part Two 2hr 45mins M Sun 10 Mar 7PM Mon 11 Mar 1PM	Bob Marley: One Love 1hr 47mins M Fri 15 Mar 7PM
The Canterville Ghost 1hr 29mins PG Sat 16 Mar 1PM	Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire 1hr 49mins TBC Thu 21 Mar 7PM

Drive-Away Dolls
Sex scenes, sexual references, violence & offensive language | 1hr 24mins | Rated: R16
Thu 07 Mar 7PM

The Great Escaper
Offensive language & sexual references | 1hr 36mins | Rated: M
Fri 08 Mar 7PM

COASTALCARE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME SARAH GILLUM TO OUR FACILITY



LY BEAUTY
by Sarah

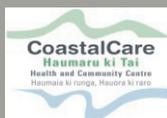
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8.30 am to 5pm

Lash and Brow Treatments and Massage at this stage, further treatments will be added later, watch this space!

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L.Y Beauty by Sarah

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Facility Manager on 06 761 8488



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COASTAL PRINTERS

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TARANAKI CHIROPRACTIC

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Leonie Landsheer 027 559 0982

Alex Jones 021 0816 3248

Manuka Matthews 027 239 5896

Steph Vaitupu 021 090 79597

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Wednesday fortnightly

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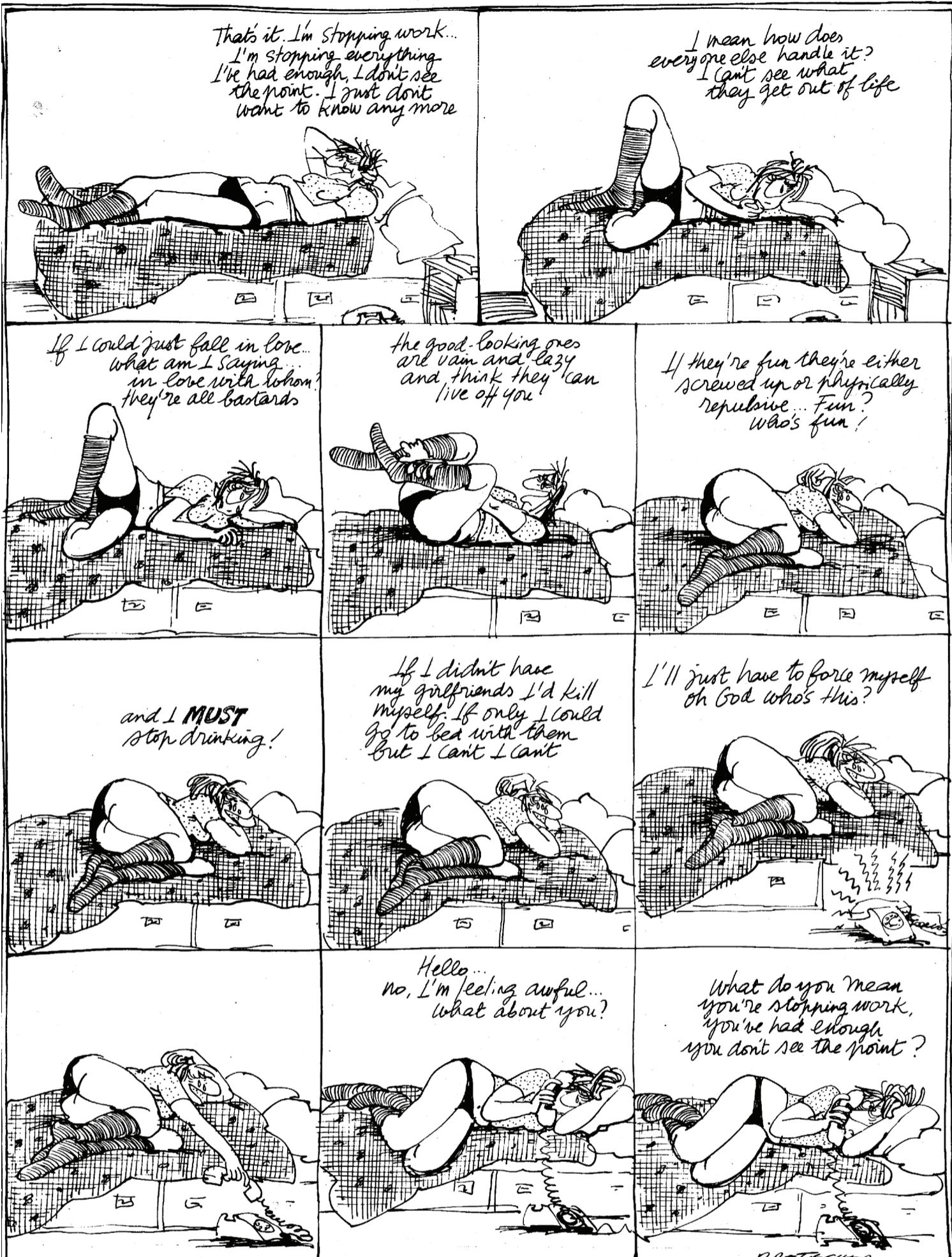
Every Tuesday

DID YOU KNOW?

CoastalCare offers for hire private, well-appointed room's for meetings, training opportunities and social gatherings.

The Pits

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.

FRIDAYS

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

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.

- MARCH 9 & 10**
Opunake Indoor Basketball Association 50th Anniversary Weekend: See ad and editorial for details.
- MARCH 15-17**
WOMAD: Bowl of Brooklands, New Plymouth
- MARCH 18**
Opunake Business Association monthly meeting: Opunake Business Centre, 5pm.
- MARCH 20**
Taranaki Diocesan School for Girls Open Day: At the school, Stratford. 10am-2pm.
- MARCH 20-21**
2024 Offshore Renewable Energy Forum: TSB Hub, Hawera.
- MARCH 21**
Coastal Machinery Auction: 341 Upper Puniho Rd, 10.30am.
- MARCH 22**
NPBHS Boarding Open Day: At the school, New Plymouth, 10.15 start.
- MARCH 24**
Manaia RSA AGM: At Manaia Bowling Club & RSA Rooms. 1.30pm.
- APRIL 2 TO 20**
NP Little Theatre's production of Social Climber: Little Theatre.
- APRIL 13-14**
Roadsafe Taranaki free Driver Training: Egmont A&P Showgrounds, Hawera. See ad for more details.

SHARON ROBINSON, MIDWIFE
is hosting
A DROP-IN DAY AND KID'S TALENT SHOW
on Sat. March 30th
11AM onwards
74 Domett St, Opunake
BRING A PLATE AND COME CELEBRATE EACH OTHER,
OUR TALENTS AND LIFE'S BLESSINGS.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

Management of Customary Fishing

Tāngata Kaitiaki/Tiaki Cancellation and Appointments — Ngāti Haumia, Orimupiko Marae

The Minister for Oceans and Fisheries has appointed Aroha Stewart as a tangata kaitiaki/tiaki for Orimupiko Marae.

The Minister for Oceans and Fisheries has also cancelled the appointment of Diane Ratahi as a tangata kaitiaki/tiaki for Orimupiko Marae and has appointed Jade Smith as a replacement tangata kaitiaki/tiaki.

Tāngata kaitiaki/tiaki appointed for Orimupiko Marae may authorise any individual to take fisheries resources that are managed under the Fisheries Act 1996 for customary food-gathering purposes. The Orimupiko Marae rohe moana is an area in Taranaki between the mouth of the Rahuitoetoe Stream and the northern extremity of Waiwiri Bay, extending 5 km offshore. Customary food-gathering may not take place in this area without an authorisation from a tangata kaitiaki/tiaki.

For further information about these appointments and cancellation, please contact: Fisheries New Zealand, Telephone: 0800 008 333.

The above cancellation and appointments are made under the Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1998.



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

MPI 5403

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Builders
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POULTRY FOR SALE

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HAWERA BUDGET Advisory Service. Wed 9am to 12pm. Coastal Care, Opunake by appointment. Starting Feb 8th 2023 and fortnightly thereafter. Contact us by phone: 0800 333 048 (free from mobile). Facebook page: Hawera Budget Advisory Service. Email: info@hawerabudget.co.nz

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

PUBLIC NOTICES



Auroa School

734 Auroa Road, RD 28, Auroa, 4678
office@auroa.school.nz

Applications for Out of Zone Pupils

Auroa School is a decile 8 full Primary School (includes year 7/8 students) located in South Taranaki. Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

The Board has determined that there will be 10 vacancies for year 1-8 for Term 2, 2024.

Applications can be made by applying in writing to the school by either post or email and by visiting the school office.

The deadline for applications is 3pm, Wednesday 20th March, 2024.

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot.

Claire Mullin, Board of Trustees

NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

Coastal Machinery Auction

Thursday 21st March 2024

341 Upper Puniho Road

D/N OCC 26173

10:30am Start

Ford 7810 with loader FWD 52705hrs, NH TM 155 with loader FWD 8300hrs, Yamaha 450 FWD automatic 2020, Honda 420 FWD 2010, petrol 500l/diesel 800l fuel tank, Sixtrex 4M hay tedder, S/S 4500lt Vat with Stirrer, S/S 2000lt Vat, 3 phase bench saw (cutting small logs), Hustler chainless 2000 bale feeder, tandem fertiliser spreader Cub 4000, tandem 10tonne tipper x cut off truck, 8 tonne rock tip trailer, Nevada farmer 5000 pond stirrer, hay bob tedders, 5tonne steel roller, rubber tyre roller, Duncan seed drill 701, 2 x MX buckets, MX fork, Pearson forks, 2 x 6m Tokoroa Palm Kernel trailers, 2 x 6m x 450mm culvert, 2 lots 1/4 round posts, 12 tonne Digger quick hitch, various calf feeders hay & teat, 4m x 4m chook pen & run, portable meal containers, 4 x dog kennel run motel on skids, 2 x Dog boxes and run, hip lifters, 584 with side mounted post rammer, pig troughs, 3 x old concrete troughs, Giltrap quick hitch, weights for front hitch of trailer, crate for car trailer, boom sprayer, 4 x4 truck crate, 4x4 truck tyres/rims, mat for deck of trailer, 2 x calf trailers, Vet platform for rotary cowshed, 10 x 200l Colostrum drums, 2 x test buckets, new fence battons, reels, standards and various farm sundries.

Outside entries will be accepted

Phone Sheldon Keech 027 222 7920 or Bryan Goodin 027 531 8511

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027 495 2897 E: markstevo@xtra.co.nz

Troy Stevenson 027 469 7636

E: troystevo@gmail.com

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on March 21. Phone us on 06 761 7016 to be in it.



GRAZING

GRAZING AVAILABLE May to May for Dairy Heifers. Phone Richard 027 510 9667.

MAY TO MAY Dairy Heifer grazing available. Inglewood area. Ph Shane (06) 756 7372.



Next Meeting is on Monday March 18, 2024 at 5.30pm

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

GRAZING

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2WD, Stability Control, VVT-i, 1798cc, Petrol,
102kms



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\$12,995

2015 Suzuki Sx4 S-Cross GLXH 1.6
5 SPD 4x4
4WD, Cruise Control, Stability Control, Alloy
Wheels, 1586cc, Petrol, Manual, 73kms



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2022 MG Zs T ESSENCE
LATE MODEL, LOW KMs
Cruise Control, Parking Sensors, 360 degree
cameras, Tow Bar, Panoramic Sunroof, 1298cc,
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2011 HYUNDAI Elantra 1.8 ELITE
GREAT VALUE
2WD, Auto Headlights & Wipers, Parking Sensors,
Stability Control, Keyless Ignition & Entry, Tow Bar,
1797cc, Petrol, Auto, 86kms



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2017 Nissan QASHQAI ST-L
NICELY APPOINTED SUV,
2WD, Auto headlights and wipers, Sun Roof, Cruise
Control, Stability Control, 1997cc, Petrol, CVT,
106kms



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THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:
2020 Suzuki SWIFT RS
BEING PREPARED FOR SALE, Adaptive Cruise Control,
Lane departure, NZ Navigation, Autonomous Emergen-
cy Braking, Turbo, 998cc, Petrol, 6 Spd Auto, 7kms



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2017 Mazda CX-5 GLX PTR
Collision Avoidance, Traction and Stability Control,
Autonomous Emergency Braking, i-STOP, Keyless
Start, 1998cc, Petrol, 6 Spd Auto, 47kms



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FAMILY SIZED WAGON
1.8 Petrol, Auto Full Option Alloys and Spoiler 97km



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2004 Toyota Spacio
TIDY 7 SEATER, 2WD, VVT-i, Spoiler, Auto
headlights and wipers, 1794cc, Petrol, Auto,
195kms



\$6,995

2016 Suzuki SWIFT GO
NZ NEW
2WD, Reversing Camera, Cruise Control, Steering
Wheel Controls, 1372cc, Petrol, Auto, 94kms



\$12,995

2007 Nissan Serena
GREAT VALUE 8 SEATER
ABS Braking, Climate Control Air Con, Reversing
Camera, 1990cc, Petrol, CVT, 227kms



\$7,995

2015 Mitsubishi LANCER GSR
SPORTY NZ NEW GSR
Factory Body Kit, Stability Control, Cruise
Control, MIVEC, Reversing Camera, Spoiler,
1998cc, Petrol, CVT, 86kms



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5 Door, 5 Spd, 1.6, M S:
Full optioned alloys, Spoiler, Manual, Petrol



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SPORT ONLY
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