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Changes ahead for local government

Central government have given councils an ultimatum—come up with your own amalgamation plans or we will do it for you.

Local Government minister Simon Watts and RMA Reform minister Chris Bishop have told councils that if they fail to make use of the new “head start” approach they will be forced into changes.

So what does this mean for Taranaki?

“Prior to the most recent announcement, the region’s four councils had already begun working on a heads of agreement to look at how they might work together to develop a local government solution that meets the needs of Taranaki..,” says Taranaki Mayoral Forum chairperson Craig Williamson.

“The mayors have agreed to take the draft heads of agreement to their councils for a decision.

“While timeframes are tight, we talked about the

the development and consideration of possible options that work for our region.”

It represents the biggest local government shakeup since the 1980s. Taranaki is currently covered by the Taranaki Regional Council and three district councils—New Plymouth, South Taranaki and Stratford.

They have been told the status quo is not an option. Possibilities mentioned have included one Council for all Taranaki, or two Councils, one for the north and one for the south.

So, what do the people of Taranaki think?

Te Kiri farmer Ian Armstrong who is also a former South Taranaki District deputy mayor urges caution.

“A fair bit of care needs to be taken. I’ve been involved in lots of amalgamations through the dairy industry, and often great promises are made that don’t deliver. Careful homework needs to be done first.”

Raewyn Cornford says centralisation is “a worry.”

“Who’s going to look after us? At least with the South Taranaki District Council you can ring them and talk to them. In the long run, how’s it going to help our Opunake community? Show us the paper work. How much is it going to save us? Are we going to get decreases in our rates or increases to pay for it? It takes away our rights and our dignity. In anything to do with health they expect you to ring Auckland and talk to people who have no idea where Opunake is.”

“No thanks to joining the Stratford Council,” says Rebecca Hopson from Eltham. “They appear to have poor future thinking, and their planning, as in the swimming pool was poorly planned and designed. A new mayor is needed. The South Taranaki District Council appear good and in control of their rates. The New Plymouth District Council appear good also, but rates are always the hot topic, due to constant increases.”



Ian Armstrong. “A fair bit of care needs to be taken.”

Mike Starsmore notes the low turnout in local body elections.

“Would it encourage people to vote for their Council more?” he asks. “There needs to be a good rural/urban mix so that the rural doesn’t subsidise the urban. The rural needs to be represented as to the relevance of the rates they are charged. They pay a lot, but they don’t benefit from it.”

Ian Box has concerns about some of the longer-term effects of amalgamation.

“In amalgamations you lose people with knowledge. They make it look pretty to get the amalgamations looking good, then afterwards they have a restructure to chop them away.”

Loretta from Hawera says she is against amalgamation.

“I feel we have more money than a lot of them and should keep it here. The mayor shouldn’t let himself be pushed around. He had said he wasn’t for amalgamation, and I would be disappointed if he changes his mind.”



Rebecca Hopson. “No thanks to joining the Stratford Council.”



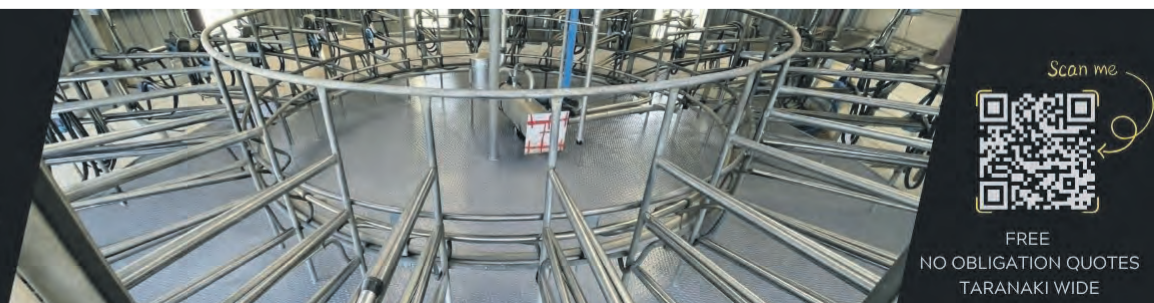
New visitor centre taking shape

The new Mt Taranaki visitor centre at the end of Egmont Road is certainly taking shape. Ian McAlpine took some photos which he sent into the Opunake & Coastal News. “They’re slowly getting on with it before the weather starts to bite up there with winter,” said Ian.

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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.

Gifted names at Base Hospital

I refer to the article about the opening of the new east wing building at the Base Hospital in New Plymouth which has been “gifted” a series of almost unpronounceable Te Reo names. I’d be curious to know just how much these “names” actually cost. And the significant Maori detailing, Koru circles etc which adorn the structure. I suspect we will never find these details out now, however. It reminds me of the old saying “lie back and think of England.” Because that is what has happened to New Zealand.

Ngai Tahu which was gifted reparations of \$180 million from their treaty settlements and is currently worth in the region of \$2 billion leads the field in the race to hold the “richest Iwi” title. But look at their record and it’s one of graft from the Kiwi taxpayers, not The Crown. Given the severe state of public debt in NZ, it’s actually a mortgage on the mokopuna. Ngai Tahu scored \$180 million from

us all over “damage to the Mauri” of the Waitaki and just last week their attempted shakedown of \$180 Million from Santana Mines in Central Otago was exposed.

New Zealand is broken. Not because we don’t value culture—but because we’ve allowed one culture, one worldview, and one race-based political ideology to hijack the system.

This isn’t about Māori vs non-Māori. It’s about every Kiwi having the same rights, the same treatment, and the same freedoms, without fear of being labelled, gaslit, or silenced.

You want equality? Then act like it. Scrap the double standards. End the racial favouritisms.

Make New Zealand secular. Or keep playing this two-tier tribal game until the entire country’s run like a mana-based Monopoly board.

David Hancock
Eltham

Thank you Ōpunakē!

Thank you to everyone for all the brilliant support you gave the Mason Brothers for

their recent show. Thanks to Lynelle and the team for creating a great venue at the Playhouse. Thanks to Opunake & Coastal News – so flexible and helpful and accommodating, and even affordable for advertising too. Thanks to Sinclair’s Electrical for selling tickets, and we sold out. Thanks to Coastal Printers for the copying when we had to change quickly to ticket sales, and apologies if people didn’t see the updated ticket info. Thanks to all the friendly people who chatted with me on your front doorstep while I gave you a flyer. Thanks to Banx IT Solutions for help with posters/flyers. Thanks to St Barnabas’ Anglican Church for supporting me as a minister/musician/mathematician. Ōpunakē, you were a star audience!

On behalf of one “Paul Mason” whom you quoted in your extensive ANZAC coverage, although he did mention GPS in the conversation with your reporter, he did not mean to give you the impression that he thought his father used GPS in World War 2. That

would have involved both overseas travel and time travel.

Paul Bowers-Mason
Eltham.

Gaza

Uro-Med Human Rights Monitors’ latest report, “Another genocide behind walls,” published 12th April 2026, documents the extent of bestial sexual violence against Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention centres between October 2023 and October 2025. The report details widespread patterns of sexual violence against detainees in the Gaza Strip, serving as a tool to break both individual and collective will while inflicting serious physical and psychological harms. The documented practices involved direct sexual assault, assaults with instruments, and torture focused on the genitals. Methods also included organised displays like filming and the collective presence of security personnel during the

Continued page 4

ADELPHOS

I learned a bit about sheep from two very good friends. A while back they had a sheep farm on the Upper Oeo Road in Awatuna on the rolling slopes of Mt. Taranaki. It was quite an education learning about wool fibre, docking, shearing and dealing with roaming dog predators. I recall with sadness seeing so many dead lambs that perished in the cold windy weather as they lined Eltham Road’s roadside for commercial contractors to pick up.

We have over 400,000 sheep in wider Taranaki while New Zealand has over 24 million. But since the 1980s there has been a steep and steady decline in sheep numbers with the removal of government subsidies, land conversion for forestry and competition from synthetic products with many farms transitioning to more profitable dairy farming. Nonetheless, New Zealand sheep farming remains a vital pillar in New Zealand’s economy.

So Many Voices

Two thousand years ago there were fewer sheep breeds than today’s more highly bred sheep. Then, most sheep had a higher alertness level in their survival skills; whereas thousands of years of selective breeding and domestication has reduced the brain size of the amygdala associated with the fear response involved in survival, making many sheep today more docile for humans to manage.

Despite popular

stereotypes, sheep are surprisingly intelligent animals. We’ve all heard that being a “sheeple” is an unintelligent sheeplike person who blindly follows the crowd. But research at the University of Cambridge (Royal Society Open Science, 17/10/2017) indicates that sheep can remember and consistently recognise up to 50 individual faces—including other sheep and humans for over two years, as well as refusing to follow unfamiliar voices (Kendrick et. al 1995, 2008 and 2019). Jesus called Himself “The Good Shepherd” and promised that: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never die; No one can snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:27-28, NIV).

In today’s globally chaotic times, we hear so many confusing, menacing and threatening voices. For our own mental health and well-being, it’s about choosing which voices to listen to. Jesus is still The Good Shepherd whose voice calls out to those sheep who closely follow Him. And, He calls to His sheep who tend to wander astray. But, He also calls new sheep who have never recognised His voice before—calling them to peace and hope (John 3:16).

Peace,
Adelphos



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Letters to the Editor



Continued from page 2

assaults, which strengthens the evidence of these crimes being institutional and systematic. These violations are compounded by detention policies that result in serious and long-lasting physical and psychological harms, including injuries that cause permanent disability and impacts on the reproductive health of certain victims. This cross-referenced, multi-sourced evidence, confirms

the crimes of torture and sexual violence committed by Israeli security forces against Palestinians are not isolated incidents or mere behavioural deviations by individual soldiers; rather they are a systematic and widely practised part of an organised state policy, which receives full protection from the highest political, military, and judicial authorities.’(para) Prisoner Rape as Organised, State, Policy.

<https://euromedmonitor.org/uploads/reports/En-Another-Genocide.pdf>

Roger Morris, Oeo

Coastal Community Patrol needed

As a former coastal person myself I am fully supporting Mr Paul Mundt QSM formerly from Rahotu who is hoping to a start up a coastal patrol unit covering

from Okato right down to Pihama and surrounding areas as it could be based at Opunake. As Mr Mundt stated it would help the police hoping to reduce crime in this particular region, while in Stratford and Hawera they could have a patrol sponsored by some near their respective towns as its based at other police stations.

Since leaving the coast and moving into New Plymouth

I am not seeing or reading about certain types of crimes happening yet it’s still believed there still contains certain types of people who do see anything as suspicious going on or taking place and think it is a big joke until something happens to them. As soon as New Plymouth gets their patrol units up and going there been no stupidity, misbehaviour or fights taking place and in car skids.

I have myself advocated having a coastal community patrol, but it seemed no one took it seriously, so I’m calling for every coastal person to support Mr Mundt’s brilliant idea and even get involved in some way and not only help our police, but also cut down the crime rate which is beginning to rise fairly quickly.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth



Call Girls supreme entertainment

We apologise for the fact that the above photo was incorrectly captioned with one of the actors names left off. The caption should have read from left Ivy (Christina King), Pauline (Jo Fuller), Sarah (Julie Trigger), Angela (Stephanie McKellar), and Rose (Gillian Gibbon) react to the unexpected. We also apologise for the fact that the Opunake & Coastal News was late last issue. This was due to a problem at the printers which meant the paper’s delivery was delayed by 24 hours. Editor

The award no brand wants to win

Consumer NZ has opened nominations for the worst businesses, services and products in Aotearoa New Zealand – the ones that have excelled at letting consumers down.

It’s time for the Yeah, Nah Awards 2026.

“If you’ve been at the pointy end of a bad experience that’s cost you time or money, given you a headache and left a bad taste in your mouth, we want to hear about it,”

says Consumer NZ head of research and advocacy Gemma Rasmussen.

“The Yeah, Nah Awards are an opportunity for consumers to make their voices heard and put bad operators on notice.”

Last year’s awards covered a wide range of issues, including sticky plasters that did not stick, misleading claims about consumer rights, online services that were difficult to unsubscribe from, and retailers’ promoting “specials” that were anything but.

“In a cost-of-living crisis, it’s important to keep businesses honest – and that’s what we’re all about at Consumer NZ,” says Rasmussen.

Who won last year? Last year, Pams plastic

plasters won the “You Had One Job” Award after a Consumer member tipped us off that the plasters “do not stick properly” and our in-house trial confirmed it.

Barkers took out the “On Bad Terms” Award for potentially misleading consumers about their rights. We reviewed return policies across 30 online stores and were unimpressed by Barkers’ high number of dubious claims.

The “Unsubscribe Impossible” Award went to HelloFresh. After months of research into deceptive online design practices, the food delivery service stood out for a particularly exasperating cancellation process (also known as a subscription trap).

Finally, the “No, Harvey

Norman, No” Award went to Harvey Norman, following our review of pricing at New Zealand big-box retailers. A bewildering number of specials were labelled “super deal”, “great price” or “huge deal” when they really were not.

How to nominate “We want to hear from the people on the receiving end of dodgy deals, broken promises and baffling business behaviour,” says Rasmussen. “Tell us what’s left you annoyed, out of pocket or shaking your head in disbelief – and help us expose this year’s Yeah, Nah winners.”

To make a nomination, head to the website and fill out the nominations form.

Nominations close 31 July 2026.

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Stratford woman wins top non-fiction award

Well-known historian Elizabeth Cox, has won a prestigious Ockham New Zealand Book Award for her scholarly account of early Wellington entitled *Mr Ward's Map; Victorian Wellington Street by Street*. Although now living in Wellington, Elizabeth spent her formative years in Stratford and attended Stratford High School.

"I was very surprised to win the award, it was kept a secret from me and my publishers until the actual announcement. There were three other great books in my category, including one by the person who had supervised my Masters thesis when I was at university, so it was really difficult to know which one the judges would choose,"



Award-winner author Elizabeth Cox.

said Elizabeth. broadcaster Miriama Kamo (Ngai Tahu, Ngati Mutunga) With award-winning

as MC, the event was held on Wednesday May 13 (7pm) at the Kiri Te Kanawa Theatre in the Aotea Centre, Tamaki Makaurā (Auckland) as part of the Auckland Writers Festival.

This was the award-winning author's third book (In 2022 Elizabeth won the President's Award from the NZ Institute of Architects for *Making Space: A History of NZ Women in Architecture*). Elizabeth's first book was *A Friend Indeed: The Saving of Old St Pauls* (2018).

On this occasion Elizabeth won the Book Hub Illustrated Non-Fiction section of the Awards and a significant monetary prize which accompanied it.

Published by Massey University Press, Elizabeth's book was described by Lauren Gutsell, the judge of

the Illustrative Non-fiction category, as "innovative, engaging, inherently human and a celebration of research and storytelling."

Underpinning Elizabeth's painstaking research is the mapping initiatives of the Victorian civil engineer and surveyor Thomas Ward (1849-1934). Born in Oxford, England he settled in New Zealand in 1873. He completed a detailed map of Wellington from 1889 to 1892. His historic map serves as a foundation record of Wellington's development for every building, street and service during a period of swift urban expansion.

In the past Elizabeth has been the Content Lead for

Te Ara Encyclopaedia for Manutu Taonga, as well as working for the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. Earlier, in the United Kingdom, she was employed by the National Trust. Currently, she runs a heritage consulting business exploring the history of New Zealand's historic buildings. She specialises in New Zealand social and architectural history. She graduated with a MA in New Zealand history from Victoria University.

An excerpt from Elizabeth Cox's prize-winning book follows:

Extract from *Mr Ward's Map: Victorian Wellington Street by Street*

The map sheets that show Manners Street and the lower part of Cuba Street show the dense, messy and unplanned nature of Wellington in all its glory.

These map sheets contain one of the main shopping areas of the city, a significant number of factories and workshops, restaurants and cafés, schools, churches and, dotting amongst it all, many homes.

The Wellington Biscuit and Confectionery Company on Farish Street, just off Manners Street - where biscuits were constantly run on trays dragged along by chains through its 45-foot-long brick oven.

This part of the factory was largely staffed by boys. The factory's three large

boilers made lollies, toffee and caramel, and, on the top storey, girls were employed making chocolate creams and other delicacies.

Like all factories at the time, it was a dangerous place - in 1897, a teenage boy working there died after falling into one of the vats. Two years later, a 16-year-old was injured when his arm was caught in an unfenced machine and crushed.

Since there was neither automatic care for victims of accidents, nor free hospital care, his guardians tried to sue the biscuit company for damages and compensation. The company denied negligence, and said he had no business putting his hand into the unfenced machine in the first place.

The jury spent just five minutes deliberating before they decided in favour of the factory; the boy was given no compensation for his injuries.

A more cheerful aspect to the factory was its practice of selling broken biscuits to local children on a Saturday morning. Boys and girls from the neighbourhood could be seen turning up to the factory with pillowcases.

Pat Lawlor, who had grown up nearby, remembered going to the factory in his childhood and watching the factory girl dealing with each applicant in turn, 'plunging a large scoop into the almighty bin, with all the waiting children gathered about to take their turn, watching anxiously to see

what the harvest would be on this particular Saturday'.

Sometimes they received wine biscuits, but on luckier days 'fancy biscuits', or even, best of all, a chocolate one.

He described 'dozens of children wending homewards' on their way up Cuba Street with their bulging pillowslips over their shoulders. 'Every few yards, he said, 'there would be a halt with a rummage around for another biscuit and then, onward, munching happily.'

Next issue will be published on Thursday June 4, so make sure you contact us by Monday June 1 so don't be late.

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Former Manutahi resident remembers beloved hall

It was a sad day for Manutahi when their 115-year-old hall was burnt down in the early hours of April 20. Less than 24 hours later, and 47 kilo-

metres away, the 124-year-old Pihama Hall suffered the same fate. Investigators have said there were no suspicious circumstances in either



The Manutahi Hall in happier times.

of these fires. For both these communities the loss of their hall represented not just the loss of a valued meeting place, but also historical memorabilia and a source of many memories.

“It was a lovely, lovely place,” says Wendy Barclay-Wilson. “There were so many events at the hall for

was centred in the main part of the hall.

“The school children came over and used the hall for plays,” she says. “Even after they had all grown up they’d still used it for wedding anniversaries and parties.”

The hall was popular with many local groups.

“Manutahi had a Wrestling Club which was held at the

hall included the Women’s Division of Federated Farmers (now Rural Women). Wendy recalls Mrs Wards, Mrs Geary, Mrs Joyce Dymond, and her own mother Mrs Dorothy Barclay being involved.

The hall was built in 1911 to mark the coronation of King George V. On March 22, 1922, Edwin Dixon the MP for Patea who had also been Hawera’s wartime mayor unveiled a brass and oak Roll of Honour commemorating the 44 local men who served in World War I. Twelve were killed in action. Among these was 57-year-old Thomas Harvie, proprietor of the Manutahi Hotel killed at Ypres. He had lied about his age to enlist after he had challenged two younger local men to “do something useful” and fight for King and Country. They said they would do so if he

The Roll of Honour remained in the hall for 104 years until it became a casualty of the fire of April 20. Another was the Supper Room, made with timber from a building which predated the hall by 40 years. The Manutahi blockhouse had been built in 1870 during the early days of European settlement, and stood behind the hall until it was demolished during the Second World War. Much of the timber was used to build the hall’s Supper room.

In 1949 the Manutahi School Memorial Baths were opened with two stone plaques on a small wall at the end of the pool, displaying the names of those who served in the two world wars. The school closed in 1996 and the baths fell into disrepair. On ANZAC Day 2009 the plaques were taken off the bath walls and taken to their new home at the Manutahi Cemetery where they were placed with a large flagpole in front.

Wendy remembers the celebration at the hall which followed, attended by South Taranaki District mayor Ross Dunlop, with mayoress Jan Dunlop cutting a cake decorated with red poppies. She recalls also the beauty of the wooden plaques in the hall bearing the Roll of Honour and the winners from past competitions.

“Such a great loss,” she says about the Manutahi Hall. “Maybe there will be another one.

“You can have the memories, and nobody can take them away.”



South Taranaki mayoress Jan Dunlop cuts the cake at the 2009 celebration at the Manutahi Hall after the War Memorial was transferred to the Manutahi Cemetery. Looking on is Mayor Ross Dunlop.

its size, and for it being out in the country.”

Wendy who now lives in Waitara grew up in Manutahi. She recalls growing up on the family’s dairy farm on the Manawapou Hill, biking to Manutahi School, and then later taking the bus to high school at Patea. She lived in Manutahi until 1973 when she left to get married. At the centre of the community was the Manutahi Hall. Wendy remembers the hall having several rooms, including changing rooms, kitchen, and a stage which

hall, and a number of children from around Manutahi would come and practice,” recalls Wendy. She lists Graham Campbell, John Wilson “and so many more” being involved with the club.

She also recalls bowls being popular, with club nights and tournaments where other clubs would play against them. Among the bowlers, she says were Gordon Hooper, Bernie Smeaton, Hugh Wilson, Hugh Barclay, Les Scott, “and so many more.” Badminton was also played here. Other groups using the

would do likewise. They did, and so did he.



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has been bringing farmers, contractors, families, and townies together. And haven't the organisers succeeded? What began as a simple showcase of Kiwi ingenuity has grown into the Southern Hemisphere's biggest ag event. Generations of farming families come



BARBARA KURIGER MP
TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

back year after year to see what's new, catch up with old mates, and bring the kids along for a look at their future.

This year, with fuel, freight, and finance all tightening the screws, Fieldays feels more important than ever. It's a chance to kick the tyres on gear that genuinely cuts fuel use, explore tools that save labour, and talk directly with people who understand the realities behind the farm gate.

Over four days, more than 1,200 exhibitors will be on site, showcasing the best innovations, products, and services to an audience of over 100,000.

From low-emissions tech to pasture management, there are plenty of opportunities to find ideas that make a real difference. Seminars and workshops will offer straight talk on markets, regulation, and banking, while the social side – a yarn over a coffee – often delivers the most valuable, and most unexpected, insights of all.

At its heart, Fieldays is a reminder that New Zealand farming still leads the world. Not because it's easy, but because our people are resilient, practical, and keen to teach and to learn. As we walk through the gates this year, we're not just visiting a show – we're backing our businesses, our communities, and the future



Parliamentarian Barbara Kuriger at an earlier Fieldays.

of our rural New Zealand.

This year's Fieldays will be held from 10–13 June at its traditional and spiritual home, Mystery Creek.

See you there.

Barbara Kuriger
MP for Taranaki/King Country

Some issues concerning voters

There are a range of issues concerning voters in the lead up to the General Election which will be held on Saturday November 7, 2026. Our reporter was surprised that there was a considerable reluctance to say anything (by a good number of people), especially as the survey was on a no name basis. However, of the people who were prepared to speak this is what emerged. The comments are anecdotal and no particular trends were apparent, apart from a slight degree of support for the existing coalition government. One voter was concerned

about the suggestion that the qualifying age for superannuation entitlement could be raised to 67; "A very bad idea!" she exclaimed. The same voter was not pleased that the final year at university will incur fees; the last government passed legislation to relieve students of fees for their final year.

Another voter was adamant that he would not be voting Labour. He said, "The Helen Clark government had screwed our airforce" by getting rid of Skyhawk aeroplanes. He was concerned about the price of power "going up like crazy." More generally the same

man said, "Luxon seems all right."

Another voter, a woman, was concerned about the increasing cost of living. She was also worried about small businesses. "There's not many breaks for them," she commented.

The same voter was concerned about the educational health of the nation. "Children leave school less informed than their parents were." She added, that there were studies that show this trend quite clearly as a "dumbing down" of student learning. There was concern about the environment as regards the slips that have affected

traffic north on SH3 of New Plymouth at the Awakino Gorge. She thought that some forestry practices meant there were no tree roots to keep things in place when there was excessive rain.

Someone stated, "It was not good that a lot of people walk around doing nothing and being paid to do so (presumably on a benefit). She added, "We need to toughen up" as the financial cost was just too much. One woman voter simply asked, "Is there such a thing as an honest politician?"

On this month in history NZ soldiers were sent to Vietnam

On May 27 1965 Prime Minister Keith Holyoake announced that combat troops (an artillery unit) would be sent to the Vietnam war. This was the result of pressure from the United States. Previously, only an engineer unit had been sent. At

its peak 532 soldiers were involved; 37 died and 187 were wounded.

There was considerable protest over our nation's military involvement. Volunteers were used, not conscripts as in Australia.

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New Zealand must spend more money on climate adaptation to save on disaster recovery

The latest national climate change risk assessment says the costs of repeated disasters will make it harder to pay for core needs like health and education.

The report points out 10 key areas on which our national adaptation plan should focus, like buildings that can cope with extreme weather and floods.

It advises higher spending on climate resilience now, so we aren't stuck constantly paying more for disaster recovery.

Professor of Environmental Health Alex Macmillan, University of Otago, comments:

"Because of inadequate action to curb our global climate pollution, we are already experiencing the human health effects of an increasingly unstable climate, adding further pressure to already stretched health systems.

"Effects on mental and emotional wellbeing through grief, stress,

anxiety and uncertainty about the future are normal responses to the trauma and upheaval caused by repeated and more severe storms.

"Storms, flooding and sea level rise are also effecting physical health and social wellbeing because they are damaging our homes, communities and the services we rely on. We're already seeing food prices rising, and effects on the availability of healthy fruit and vegetables because of climate change disruptions to growing, harvesting and transport of food.

"On the other hand, well-designed systemic approaches to climate change can protect and even improve health and fairness.

"Working with other countries to rapidly reduce our climate pollution remains our best adaptation strategy, and protects health from escalating climate change effects that

become more difficult and unaffordable to respond to.

"Three urgent, just and healthy adaptation priorities are:

"Invest in, support and build on existing iwi, hapū and community-led support structures, while upskilling and resourcing community responses to grief and trauma, to support mental and social wellbeing.

"Improving governance, planning and building requirements for climate-smart homes can improve flood resilience while also making homes healthier, and create stable communities current and future generations.

"A future-focused national food system strategy is critical to ensure families are able to put healthy meals on the table in the face of increasing shocks to national and international food supplies."

Dr Robyn Dynes, Principal Scientist and Farmer Engagement Specialist, Bioeconomy Science Institute (based in Lincoln), comments:

"The report provides a clear summary of the risks climate change poses not only to farming, but to the entire primary sector supply chain. It reinforces the importance of taking a long-term, system-wide view, recognising that resilience depends not just on what happens on-farm, but also on factors like transport and infrastructure that connect production through to markets.

"From our perspective, it highlights the need for sustained investment in science and technology to support farmers over time. Encouragingly, it also shows we still have a runway to develop the tools, generate the insights, and provide the advice needed to respond effectively to these challenges.

"We welcome the report because it gives confidence that, as scientists, we are focused on the right priorities for New Zealand. "That long-term view is critical. At the Bioeconomy Science Institute, we identified nearly two decades ago that methane would become a significant issue for New Zealand farmers. Since then, we've been applying genetics and breeding approaches to help mitigate emissions. But this kind of work takes 10 to 15 years to deliver real-world impact. It underlines why consistent investment is

essential if we are to keep building resilience into our farming systems.

"Looking ahead, we know a warming climate will amplify existing challenges, such as facial eczema in sheep. We are already applying genetic solutions to address this, alongside our work on emissions.

Together, these efforts show how science can help farmers adapt to a more complex and changing environment, while maintaining productivity and sustainability over the long term."

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Winston's thinking bankrupt according to Ruth Richardson

Responding to the speech this afternoon by Winston Peters where he announced a policy to buy back the Bank of New Zealand, Hon. Ruth Richardson, Chair of the Taxpayers' Union, said:

"The last time the Crown

was the majority owner of the Bank of New Zealand, it nearly sent us bankrupt.

Now Winston Peters wants to do it all over again 30 years later. It's not a serious idea, it's a bankruptcy of

thinking."

"Time and time again government-owned banks cost taxpayers dearly. Mr Peters' policy would be forgivable only in the 1960s."

"Borrowing to buy a bank

when credit ratings agencies are already putting New Zealand on watch for unsustainable debt is a counter-productive contribution to the challenges facing New Zealand's public finances."

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Party registrations due soon

Political parties that want to be registered in time for the 2026 General Election have less than a month to submit their paperwork by the recommended date of 11 June.

Unregistered parties can stand candidates in electorates. The party name appears underneath the candidate's name on the voting paper.

Only registered parties can contest the party vote and stand list candidates in the election. The party's logo will appear on the voting paper.

The last recommended date to lodge an application to register a party and logo is 11 June. That allows eight weeks processing time before 6 August, which is the legal deadline to register. To apply, parties need to submit a suitable name, along with evidence of 500 paying members who can

enrol to vote, rules about party membership, and an auditor.

There is an opportunity for the public to have a say on party names and logos before the Electoral Commission Board considers the application for registration.

Currently there are 13

registered parties: The ACT Party, Animal Justice Party, The Cannabis Party, Conservative Party NZ, NZ First, Labour Party, NZ Outdoors & Freedom Party, Opportunity Party, Te Pāti Māori, Green Party, National Party, Vision NZ, Women's Rights Party.

There are four parties that

have applied for the 2026 broadcasting allocation and said they intend to register: New Zealand Loyal, Change New Zealand, Free Palestine, People's Party New Zealand Incorporated.

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When young people feel alone in a world full of people (part 1 of 2)

There is something slightly strange about modern adolescence.

A teenager can now have hundreds of followers online, multiple group chats buzzing away day and night,

Snapchat streaks longer than some marriages, and yet still quietly feel completely alone.

Recent peer-reviewed research from Sweden has added weight to concerns



RICHARD HALL

many parents, teachers, and therapists have been noticing for years. The large study, published in the *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*, examined more than 40,000 young people aged 11 to 15 and found strong links between loneliness and what psychologists call “perceived support,” meaning whether young people actually feel emotionally supported by family, friends, and teachers.

That wording matters. Because loneliness is not always about being physically alone. Some of the loneliest people in society sit in crowded classrooms, busy homes, sports teams, or endlessly scrolling social media feeds.

As many South Taranaki parents already know, teenagers can somehow send

400 messages a day while still answering “fine” to every meaningful question asked in person.

The study found loneliness tended to increase with age, particularly among girls. Low support from family, peers, and teachers was strongly associated with greater loneliness. Friend support appeared especially important during adolescence, when belonging becomes deeply tied to identity and self-worth.

From an evolutionary perspective, this makes a great deal of sense. Human beings evolved in tribes and communities where isolation could genuinely threaten survival. While modern teenagers are unlikely to be abandoned on the edge of town armed only with a half-flat phone battery and an energy drink, the nervous system still reacts strongly to rejection and exclusion.

Psychologists increasingly understand that the brain often experiences social pain in ways surprisingly similar to a physical threat. This may help explain why chronic loneliness is linked to anxiety, depression, poor sleep, emotional dysregulation, low motivation, and even later physical health concerns.

One of the most interesting parts of the research is the emphasis on perception. Two teenagers may theoretically have similar homes, similar schools, and similar friendship groups, yet experience completely different levels of loneliness depending on whether they feel understood, safe, and emotionally valued.

Adults often measure support practically: food in the cupboard, a roof overhead, transport to school, Wi-Fi functioning at least some of the time.

But emotional connection is more subtle than logistics.

Young people also need warmth, responsiveness, trust, humour, encouragement, and the

feeling that somebody genuinely notices them.

This is perhaps why the study’s findings around teachers are important too. Adolescents who felt supported by teachers reported lower loneliness levels. Sometimes one emotionally safe adult can make a remarkable difference to a young person’s wellbeing, not through dramatic speeches or life-changing lectures, but through ordinary moments: remembering their name, checking in quietly, noticing mood changes, offering consistency, or simply treating them like they matter.

Most adults can still remember one teacher who left a lasting impact on them. Usually it was not because they explained algebra with dazzling charisma.

Modern loneliness is also becoming increasingly complicated because it hides well. Previous generations experienced more visible forms of isolation through geography or limited communication. Today’s young people can remain digitally connected almost constantly while still feeling emotionally disconnected.

Researchers are increasingly exploring whether some online interaction creates the appearance of connection without fully satisfying deeper human needs for belonging and emotional safety. Humans still appear to regulate emotionally through eye contact, tone of voice, humour, shared experiences, touch, trust, and physical presence.

A teenager may spend six hours online and still feel emotionally hungry afterwards. A bit like eating a family-sized bag of chips before dinner and then wandering back into the kitchen claiming there is “nothing to eat.”

Ironically, smaller

communities may still possess qualities modern psychology increasingly values: familiarity, local clubs, sports teams, volunteering, intergenerational relationships, and simply being known by others.

Knowing the dairy owner, the rugby coach, the neighbour down the road, and the person serving your hot chips may not sound particularly scientific, but repeated small moments of recognition appear deeply important to the human nervous system.

Belonging is rarely built through one grand event. More often it develops gradually through small interactions repeated over time: someone waving, someone remembering your name, someone asking where you were last week.

In small towns, admittedly, this can occasionally drift into what may feel like ‘advanced community surveillance,’ but psychologically speaking, familiarity still matters.

What emerges from the research is a fairly simple but important reminder: young people do not merely need communication.

They need connection. And beneath all the scrolling, headphones, filters, gaming, and online noise, the adolescent nervous system still appears to be asking a very old human question:

“Do I matter to other people?”

The answer may shape mental health far more than we realise, and these learnings reflect on those of us who are older too.

Next issue: if loneliness is becoming one of the quiet psychological challenges of modern adolescence, what actually helps young people feel connected again?

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New day looms for Stratford equestrians

Last week the ground was broken and work got started on Stratford getting its own all-weather equestrian arena. Once completed, equine aficionados from Stratford and beyond will be able to enjoy events throughout the year without the weather putting a dampener on things, or having to share facilities with the nearby Stratford Speedway.

On a sunny Tuesday morning a group of people gathered in the one-hectare paddock on which the arena will be built for the ground-breaking ceremony.

The ceremony marked the latest milestone in the development of Stratford Park.

The arena when completed will have a working surface measuring 90 metres by 80 metres. Throw in the parking area and it will take up a hectare and a half.

The project has been in the pipeline for the last 10 years.

“It’s damn good to see us get to this stage,” said Ian McCaul. He has been on the Stratford A & P committee for 23 years and was president of the Stratford A & P Association at the start of the project. “We deserve it. It’s going to be the start of something bigger.”

Neil McDonald headed the original steering committee and Ian credits him for getting things going.

“He had the original concept, and it wouldn’t have happened without him.”

An equestrian group was set up with Ian as the first chair. Today the Stratford Equestrian Complex Charitable Trust is co-chaired by Emily Perrin and Brendan Attrill who wasn’t able to be at the opening. Emily said their group had been running various events to build up their presence in the community.

She says that with the A & P Association, Speedway and the equestrians all using the same area they had struggled to hold events concurrently.

“We can’t all fit in at the same time.”

The weather was also a problem when it came to



From left. Glenda Schumacher, Michelle Radford, Paul Vanner, Ian McCaul, Emily Perrin, Julie Roberts, Dana Hazzard, Neil Volzke.

holding equestrian events. “For two years in a row we had to quit Ring One showjumping because it was wet and unsafe,” she said.

As well as hosting events, the arena would also be used for training.

Paul Vanner the current Stratford A & P president said they had been working in partnership with Taranaki Motor Sport Trust and the Equestrian group. There had been several changes in the plan over the years, and 80-90 volunteers had given up

their time for the project. Stratford District mayor Neil Volzke noted the fine weather and the view of Taranaki Maunga.

“Look at the national statistics. Stratford is the sunshine capital of New Zealand. What a backdrop it will be for the arena. It’s fantastic.”

He said Neil McDonald who had the original vision for the project approached the Stratford District Council back in 2016. The Council got involved by facilitating

a \$7.2 million loan to the Stratford A & P Association in 2020 which they are still servicing. This enabled them to purchase 64 hectares around the showgrounds.

The original idea to have the equestrian arena nearer to the current Woolworths supermarket site was later rejected in favour of the current Flint Road site,

although Mayor Volzke says there are still options for using the originally planned site.

“This programme has a real long legacy value. Once people start using it, it will be a benefit for everybody,” he said.

A letter was read out from Whanganui MP who was not able to be there, wishing everyone all the best for the future.

With Ian watching on, Emily dug the first sod.

After the ceremony it was back to Skinner Hall for refreshments with contractors AA Contracting due to start work later that day.

Stratford A & P executive member Michelle Radford who is also active in the Pony Club is looking forward to the finished product.

“Once we get the arena up, we can run some really great jumping days here,” she says. “Our generation can use it, and my great great grandkids can use it.”



Ian McCaul looks on as Emily Perrin digs the first sod.

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The Manaia town centre- then and now

Today the hub of Manaia is the band rotunda sitting at the centre of what is known as the roundabout. It is the landmark which travellers driving through town are familiar, whether going to Hawera, Opunake, or taking the road to Kapinga and the Maunga.

As shown in this pre-World War I photo it has not always been part of the town. The town's population at the time of the 1911 Census was 537. Back then, the

area which the rotunda now occupies was known as the Octagon, and its centrepiece was the Armed Constabulary Memorial which was ringed by a wire fence.

The two-storeyed Post Office building on the right of the photo would have been recently put up, with living quarters for the postmaster in the second storey. Although it's been a long time since it was last used as a post office, the building is still there. The same can not be said for



Manaia before World War I

some of the other buildings in the photo. Manaia used to be known as the town of three pubs and two of them, the Waimate Hotel and the Manaia Tavern can be seen. The two-storeyed Waimate Hotel building burned down in 2016. Nine years ago a one-storey building was opened on that site from which the Waimate Hotel still operates.

The site once occupied by the Manaia Tavern is now part of the Yarrows Bakery complex "Noel (Yarrow) said to



Manaia today.

me one day, will you sell me the pub?" the Tavern's last owner Wayne (Tommo) Thomson told the Opunake and Coastal News (May 26 2017). "I wanted Yarrows to carry on so I sold the tavern to Noel Yarrow and bought the Waimate Hotel."

Yarrows the Bakers, which now take up a large part of the Manaia CBD did not arrive in Manaia until Alfred Yarrow arrived in town from

Turakina in 1923, bringing his bakery with him.

The band rotunda was another post World War I addition, from a time when Manaia had a strong brass band. The Manaia Patriotic Society had suggested it in 1917 and the Manaia Town Board threw their support behind the idea. Little more appears to have been heard about this until 1920 when the board gave permission for the rotunda to be built in the Octagon. According to the Centennial History of

Manaia and Manaia School 1882-1982 by John. C. Hosie there was no official record of the rotunda opening, and the earliest report of its existence appears to be a report in the Hawera Star on February 22 1922, that the band had played in the new rotunda.

Today the band rotunda continues to be used as a venue for local events, including the annual ANZAC Day dawn parade.

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Hall and Sports Complex to go

Work is due to start in early June on demolishing the Manaia District War Memorial Hall and Manaia Sports Complex. The work is expected to be completed in late August.

In 2015 the hall was closed after failing to meet earthquake strengthening standards, and the sports complex was closed in 2017 for similar reasons. Since then, both buildings have sat empty and derelict while debate has carried on about their futures. Meanwhile Manaia has been without a community facility. Options canvassed have included developing either one or the other or demolishing both and starting from scratch. For a time the possibility of joining Te Korowai o Ngaruahine in having a combined facility was looked at.

The South Taranaki District Council has voted to demolish both buildings and replace them with a multi-purpose community hub. They are now seeking design and build options.

Submissions from interested contractors close in early June, with a report expected to be presented to Council in July to confirm the design option.

A preferred option will be



The Manaia District War Memorial Hall (above) and Sports Complex(below). Going, going...



presented to the Council in July.

The new Manaia Facility and other Manaia issues were discussed at the Taranaki Coastal Community Board meeting in Opunake on April 29.

John Meads of Manaia told the board that the drop-in session at the Manaia Library Plus run by the Community

Board where people could bring up matters of concern had gone well.

“It was great to see a good turnout, and not just from one section of the community.”

He said Manaia had lost all its infrastructure when it came to sport.

“The biggest problem is there’s not been enough information and not enough

feedback. People don’t like being left in the dark and not knowing what’s going on.”

Board deputy chair Monica Willson apologised that the time and venue of the Community Board meeting, which was originally to be at Manaia had been changed.

Speaking about the plan to join with Te Korowai, Mayor Phil Nixon denied that there had been any falling out with Iwi. He said they had looked at having a combined community complex and had had discussions with DOC about the ownership of the land. They found there were complications because it had been designated as a reserve, so the Council and Iwi had decided to stop the project. He looked forward to working with them in future.

“There’s definitely been no falling out with Ngaruahine,” he said.

Community Board chair Andy Whitehead said the Board’s next meeting on June 10 in Manaia would be a good opportunity for Manaia people to make their views known. He asked if it would be possible to hold another meeting in Manaia about the Manaia Facility.

Rob Haveswood said that he would prefer sticking to

the existing plan of action rather than having a special meeting. He said it was up

to the contractors to design within the budget set by Council.



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Reducing work hours could help decrease obesity rates

Working fewer hours may be linked to lower obesity rates, according to new Australian research looking at data from 33 OECD countries over more than 30 years. Researchers found a 1% drop in annual working hours was linked to

a 0.16% fall in obesity rates overall, with a bigger effect seen in men. Higher income levels and urbanisation were also linked to lower obesity prevalence. The authors suggest long working hours may lead to weight gain by leaving people with less

time for exercise, sleep and healthy meals, while increasing stress and reliance on takeaway food.

European Congress on Obesity (ECO 2026)

Could antivirals help prevent long COVID?

People who take antiviral medicines soon after getting COVID-19 may be less likely to develop long COVID symptoms, a large Japanese study suggests. Researchers followed nearly 7,700 people during

Omicron subvariant waves in 2024 and found those who received antiviral treatment early were less likely to still have symptoms like tiredness, coughing, breathing problems or loss of smell and taste three

months later. People who took antivirals were also more likely to have returned to their usual health after 84 days. The researchers say early antiviral treatment may help reduce the long-term impacts of COVID.

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Rooted like olive trees

Gaza City – Olive trees are a familiar part of life in Gaza. Known for their resilience and deep roots, they continue to grow through changing seasons and difficult conditions. For many families, they are closely tied to memories of home, land, and daily life.

Mohammad, 37, understands that resilience all too well. He was severely injured during the war and lost one of his legs. By March 2025, he and his family had been displaced from Beit Hanoun to Gaza City as Gaza faced what many UN actors described as an almost complete aid blockade, with food, medicine, and other essential supplies becoming

dangerously scarce.

In August 2025, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicated that famine conditions – IPC Phase 5 – had been confirmed in Gaza Governorate.

Mohammad still had a family to feed. But accessing aid had become nearly impossible. People often had to walk long distances and spend entire nights waiting in line for food parcels.

For extended periods, access to principled, UN-coordinated humanitarian assistance was severely disrupted. Aid that did enter Gaza was often distributed through newly introduced and heavily controlled



Despite repeated displacement and the loss of his leg, Mohammad continues to grow vegetables to feed his family and support neighbours around him. Photo: IOM 2026/ Mahmoud Abu Hamda

channels.

Desperation grew as thousands of people rushed to secure basic supplies, and media and humanitarian reports emerged of live fire being used to disperse crowds. For civilians, the situation was terrifying. For someone living with a disability, it was almost impossible.

“At that time, neither I nor my children could push through the crowds to get aid,” Mohammad recalls.

Yet like the olive tree,

Mohammad refused to give up.

One day, he squeezed a tomato into the soil beside the place where he was staying. Inside it were dozens of seeds. Mohammad trusted the land would not fail him. His experience working with plants, combined with his faith in God, convinced him that something could still grow from almost nothing.

And slowly, it did.

A small garden began to emerge. Tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, basil, and spices started growing in the limited space around him. Amid the rubble and uncertainty, patches of green appeared.

“When a neighbour knocks on my door asking for vegetables, it gives me a reason to keep going and take care of the garden,” he

says.

In a place where so much has been taken away, Mohammad’s garden continues to give something back.

But tending the garden is not the only way he supports his family.

“I also make awammeh,” he explains. Awammeh are small deep-fried dough balls soaked in sugar syrup – crispy on the outside and soft on the inside – a dessert loved across the Arab world. “My children take them to the market and sell them so we can earn a living.”

Then another displacement order came. The area where Mohammad and his family had been staying was once again under threat.

“My wife kept asking me to leave,” Mohammad says. “But I refused.”

This story is written by Rayya Al Muheisen, Senior Media and Communications Assistant with IOM OPT Gaza Response.

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Opunake Cemetery Visit

Members of the Hawera Genealogy and Local History Group and other interested people gathered at the Opunake Cemetery on Tuesday 3 March to talk about the lives of some of the people buried there. March is the NZ Society of Genealogists cemetery month and each year the Hawera group acknowledge this by researching and visiting a South Taranaki cemetery.

The following names were selected – Aubrey Stanely Cross, Mary Machray nee Paterson, Jessie Affleck nee Gifford, Alfred and Eliza Duffill nee Harris,



The Hawera Genealogy and Local History Group visit the Opunake Cemetery.

Jane Northcott nee Marsh, Charles and Eliza Jane Hickey, Dennis William Carroll, Beverley Layard, William Pepperell. These pioneers of the district have very interesting stories with a number having descendants still living in the area. If anyone has an interest in these people please contact

Hawera Genealogy for information.

Despite the cold southerly those present were not deterred from appreciating this glimpse into the lives of these local people. Afterwards the group headed to the Greencow for a very enjoyable burgers and fries dinner and chat.

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Wreath laid for scattered bones of Alfred Bishop

ANZAC day in 2026 has brought some resolution for Kate and Janice Liddle of Waitara.

Kate laid a wreath at the New Plymouth cenotaph during the civic ceremony on ANZAC Day morning in remembrance of her great uncle Alfred Eric Bishop who died and was buried in Palestine during World War I. In February of this year Kate learned that Alf Bishop's grave in the Gaza War Cemetery had been bulldozed, in breach of international law, by the Israeli occupying forces in March 2025, along with the graves of 100 other ANZACS from World War I and World War II.

"As a matter of course New Zealanders grow up with respect and remembrance for the war dead, so it was a real shock for my sister and I to hear that our great uncle's grave was demolished and his bones scattered by an Israeli bulldozer, she said.



Kate Liddle lays the wreath for her great uncle.

"To publicly acknowledge this indignity visited

upon our great uncle with a wreath laying at this morning's ceremony was very comforting."

Kate's great uncle served in the New Zealand Mounted Machine Gun battalion during the Palestine Campaign, as British forces attempted to push north from Sinai through Gaza. He died on 16 August 1918, at just 21 years of age and within a few short weeks of war's end, victim to an illness contracted during his service.

The wreath laying acknowledged another Taranaki soldier, Charles Hughes from Kapuni, whose grave in Gaza was also destroyed by the Israeli Occupation Force.

"It seems very strange to me that New Zealand and other Commonwealth countries pay for the ongoing maintenance and administration of this cemetery containing our war dead, but when our war cemetery was demolished we couldn't even raise a whimper in protest", added Kate.

"Ironically the same people who dismissively shrug

tended over the decades by generations of a Palestinian family. The Jaradah family has now been scattered by the Gaza War. Retired caretaker Essam Jaradah, thought to have been denied evacuation, has stayed on in Gaza with one other former employee.

In a 2009 interview Essam said. "This is my home ... I feel like the people buried here are my family. Because the families of these men cannot be here, so I am here to look after them."



GNR. ALF. E. BISHOP, of Bell Block.



05/02/2007 12:51 pm

Alf Bishop's headstone in the Gaza War Cemetery (2007) prior to demolition.



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Mangatoki WI enjoy a buggy ride

Away to New Plymouth for our April get together and we met at the Rogan Street entrance to Pukekura Park. Here we were collected by a buggy and its driver for a sightseeing tour around Pukekura Park.

If you have never done this, we all, would highly recommend it. We learnt about the park's history, things about the trees and plants and why some of

the trees were planted. We went from one end of the park right through to The Bowl of Brooklands. Our final stop of the tour was at The Teahouse where we all enjoyed a very yum lunch.

After lunch we headed away to the GJ Gardner Show Home on Coronation Avenue. Here we saw a 2 bedroom, two story town house. An interesting style of home which is close to town,

New Plymouth Boys High School and the Polytech.

April also had Mangatoki WILadies helping in Eltham to put together posies for the Returned Servicemens graves in the Eltham Cemetery. These are made the day before Anzac Day.

The Anzac Day Service in Kaponga is attended by a group of the Ladies and a

wreath put together by Bev Marx is laid in memory of those lost.

On the 6th May, 13 of us met at the Christmas Tree Farm called Waina View on Ngawhini Road, Hawera.

Here we learnt about growing Christmas Trees and got to see the different sizes and shapes that were growing.

Shannon talked to us about the history of the farm and what her and Blair were doing with it. We also got to see the lovely accommodation unit which can be booked for time out.

Shannon also talked to us about hosting weddings when the Christmas season has finished.

I wonder how many

ladies will be heading out to Ngawhini Road this December for a Christmas Tree. They are beautiful.

We have been very spoilt with the weather so hope our next outing will be as good as the last few.

Until next time

Denise (secretary)

Manaia WI

The May meeting of the Manaia WI was held in Anne Chisnall's home. President Phyllis Malcolm welcomed all to the meeting and the aspirations were read. The motto was "As long as you live, keep learning how to live."

The roll call was "how

many houses I have lived in," and produced some interesting answers.

Two members laid a wreath on behalf of Manaia institute at the Manaia Anzac service. Neda Howes gave an interesting demonstration on making sculptures from chicken netting.

Competition results. Shrub.

1. Shirley Barr. 2. Janice Walsh. 3. Patty Symes. Bloom. 1. Phyllis Malcolm. 2. Janice Walsh. 3. Bev Hawkes. Home craft Apricot Loaf. 1. Jean Harvie. 2. Janice Walsh. 3. Bev Hawkes. Handcraft Beanie. 1. Jean Harvie. 2. Shirley

Barr. 3. Janice Walsh.

Members shared lunch and fellowship together. Our June meeting to be held at the Milan Indian Restaurant celebrating our 72nd birthday.

Riverlea WI

Riverlea WI members celebrated their Birthday month with lunch at The Shakee Pear Cafe, Stratford followed by a visit to the Percy Thomson Art Gallery and shop. Our member, Julie Gargan had some of her paintings in the Exhibition at the Gallery.

We have some talented members and look forward to welcoming anyone who



Riverlea WI members at the Percy Thomson Gallery.

would like to join our friendly bunch of women.

We met on the first Wednesday of each month either at Riverlea Hall, a member's home or at a cafe - we love to have fun,

enjoy good food and to share friendliness. To get in touch you can phone President Lynette Gargan 027 343 2022

*Leonie West
Secretary Riverlea WI*

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*Flexible pricing arrangements subject to bespoke deferred management fee. Price and stock levels correct as at 13 April 2026, only VL068 & VL107 left at this price. Homes sold under licence to occupy, subject to availability. Summerset does not offer rental accommodation. Images are indicative only. Care is subject to availability and eligibility criteria.



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

Kings Birthday Holiday Kerbside Collection

Kerbside Collection will continue as normal over the public holiday, so please put your bins out on your usual day.
Visit www.southtaranaki.com/kingsbirthday for more information on Council facility open hours.

Demolition of Manaia Town Hall and Sports Complex to Begin in Preparation for New Facility



Demolition of the Manaia Town Hall and Manaia Sports Complex buildings is set to begin, marking the first step towards a new combined community and recreation facility for the town. Jurgens Demolition has been engaged to carry out the demolition, with work expected to start in early June and be completed towards the end of August.

The demolition paves the way for the construction of a new multi-use facility at the old Sports Complex site. The location was approved by Council, after confirming its decision to demolish both buildings and replace them with a modern, purpose-built community hub. Council is progressing the design of the new facility, with Requests for Proposals now open seeking design and build options. Submissions from interested contractors close in early June, with a report expected to be presented to Council in July to confirm the design option.

The Manaia Town Hall and Sports Complex buildings were closed

in 2015 and 2017 respectively, after failing to meet minimum earthquake standards. Subsequent assessments confirmed that repairing the buildings would cost significantly more than constructing a new, fit-for-purpose facility. Independent assessments of the Town Hall identified significant issues beyond earthquake strengthening requirements, including roof replacement, failing floor piling, deteriorating windows, and the presence of asbestos-containing materials.

Council's Group Manager Community Services Rob Haveswood says combining the two facilities into one will deliver long-term benefits for the community.

"Bringing activities together in one location creates a more vibrant, well-used space, avoids duplication of resources and represents a more cost-effective use of ratepayer funds," he says.

"This hub approach has also been endorsed by the Taranaki Facilities Consortium, a regional group created to review facility challenges and provide support to ensure that facility development aligns to best practice."

Council has already secured a \$600,000 grant from Toi Foundation towards the project.

South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon says the decision reflects the need to move forward after years of uncertainty.

"The Manaia community has waited a long time, and the time has come for decisive action," says Mayor Nixon.

"It may not please everyone, but bringing resources together is a proven approach. We've seen it work well in facilities like the TSB Hub, Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre, Waverley Recreation Centre and Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga. It simply makes sense."

Kaponga LibraryPlus Re-opens

Kaponga Library Plus officially reopened following renovations to waterproof and future-proof this much-loved community space. The refreshed library features new double glazed windows, fresh paint and carpet, and a brand new veranda at the rear, perfect for enjoying a good book in the sunshine.

One of the more unique highlights is the old bank safe, now opened up and incorporated into the space, adding a touch of history to the modern upgrades.



South Taranaki Council to improve Turuturu Road with widening works and new shared pathway

Council will begin safety improvement works on Turuturu Road from 25 May, with construction expected to continue until late July, delivered by contractor OPS.

The road will be restricted to one lane, with traffic management in place throughout the project. Turuturu Road will remain fully operational, however motorists should expect some delays and are encouraged to plan accordingly.

Key features include widening the road pavement, improving the surface, building a shared pathway, upgrading drainage, and installing new signage, to support safer walking, cycling, and travel in this rapidly evolving part of Hāwera.

The shared pathway will run on the southern side of Turuturu Road, but will cross near the Turuturu Mokai Reserve entrance—where the shoulder narrows and requires the pathway to switch

sides.

Roading manager, Vincent Lim, says the work will make everyday travel safer. "Cyclists, cars, and heavy vehicles, including logging trucks, share a tight corridor along this route. Widening the pavement and adding a shared pathway provides safer separation and a more predictable journey for everyone."

Turuturu Road is an essential route, for both freight and whanau commuting into town, carrying nearly 1,000 vehicles per day (11% heavy traffic). With ongoing development in the area, these upgrades will improve safety, support future growth, and strengthen the resilience of an important transport link.

Once complete, the upgraded corridor will support safer journeys, encourage active transport, and improve connectivity for the wider South Taranaki community.

Upcoming Meetings

Extraordinary Council

To consider the Heads of Agreement as part of the Government's Head Start Process

Tuesday 26 May, 4pm

Workshop

He Pou Tikanga

Wednesday 3 June, 1.30pm

Ordinary Council

Wednesday 3 June, 4.00pm

Te Hāwera Community Board

Ōhawe Town Hall, Ōhawe Terrace, Ōhawe

Wednesday 8 June, 4pm

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board

Auroa Memorial Hall, Auroa Road, Auroa

Monday 8 June, 10.30am

Taranaki Coastal Community Board

Manaia Golf Club, Bennett Drive, Manaia

Wednesday 10 June, 10.30am

Pātea Community Board

Waverley Golf Club, Ihupuku Road, Waverley

Wednesday 10 June, 4pm

Workshop

LTP Groups of Activities: financing and measures

Monday 15 June, 8:30am

Te Kāhui Matauraura

Wednesday 17 June, 10.00am

Workshop

He Pou Tikanga

Wednesday 17 June, 12.30pm

Environment and Hearings Committee

Wednesday 17 June, 2.30pm



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

Building, Albion Street, Hāwera.

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Tuia Taitonga Southlink

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



Open Writing and Poetry Workshops

The competition opens on Wednesday 10 June with the kickoff of the secondary school workshops. As always, the Open Writing and Poetry workshops taken by the judges are available to the public for free.

Both open workshops will be held on Saturday 20 June at Hāwera LibraryPlus | Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga in Hāwera. Morning tea is provided.

- **Open short story workshop with Tracey Slaughter at 9am - 12noon**
- **Open poetry workshop with Glenn Colquhoun at 12.45pm - 3.45pm**

DOG REGISTRATION FEES 26/27

Below are the new South Taranaki Dog Registration Fees for 2026/2027.

Dog Registrations will open on 1 June 2026.

Urban Entire:	\$211.00
Urban Spayed/Neutered:	\$182.00
Rural (1st 2 dogs) (per dog):	\$82.00
Rural (3 or more) (per dog):	\$69.00
Selected Owner Policy - Entire:	\$127.00
Selected Owner Policy Spayed/Neutered:	\$97.00
Disability Assist Dog (Schedule 5 of Dog Control Act):	Free
Dangerous Dog:	Base Fee plus 50%

Judges Announced for the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards

The wait is over! The Lysaght Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards 2026 Judges have been announced.

Glenn Colquhoun is returning once again as the Poetry judge for this year's competition. He is an award-winning poet and children's Writer with his debut collection, *The Art of Walking Upright*, winning the Jessie Mackay Award, while *Playing God* took out the Montana Book Awards poetry section and Reader's Choice Award. He received the Prize in Modern Letters in 2004 and a Fullbright Scholarship to Harvard in 2010, and has represented New Zealand internationally, including at the Frankfurt Book Fair and the Commonwealth Poets United project. His latest collection, *The Ballad of Joe Taihape*, was published in 2026.

Tracey Slaughter is also returning to South Taranaki this year to judge the Short Story section of the awards. Tracey is a poet,

fiction writer and essayist from Aotearoa. Her work has received numerous awards including the Manchester Poetry Prize 2023, the Fish Short Story Prize 2020, and the Bridport Prize 2014. She is the founding editor of *Mayhem Literary Journal* and current editor of *Poetry Aotearoa*, New Zealand's longest-running poetry journal, whilst currently teaching at University of Waikato. Her recent books are *Devil's Trumpets* (2021) and *Conventional Weapons* (2019), from Te Herenga Waka Press, and her latest collection *The girls in the red house are singing* (2024).

The judges will be joined by Taranaki Daily News Editor Matt Rilkoff, who will be judging the True Story section.

"We are very excited to welcome back three highly regarded Aotearoa judges to South Taranaki's premiere literary competition this year," says Council's community outreach cadet Charlotte Stark.

Tenders for Licence to Occupy for Grazing Purposes

Tenders are invited for the following area of Council land: 2.358 acres situated at Patu-Kukupu Street Manaia.

The term of the licence to occupy will be for 5 years from 1 June 2026. Tender documents are available from the Council Administration Building on Albion Street, Hāwera, or on the Council website at www.southtaranaki.com under Public Notices. Tenders must be received no later than 4.00 pm on 28 May 2026.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Contact for further information:

Property Officer - Legal. Phone on 0800 111 323

Tender open date: Friday 15 May 2026 at 12noon.

Tender closing date: Thursday 28 May 2026 at 4pm

Tenders to be received:

- Electronically - email: propertymanager@stdc.govt.nz
- Physically - drop at Hāwera administration building tender box at 109-111 Albion Street, Hāwera.

Courtesy Crossings in Hāwera: Using Them Safely Together



With recent fine weather, it's been great to see more people out and about in the town centre, supporting local shops, cafés, and eateries. This increased activity adds vibrancy to Hāwera, but it

also means our streets are busier and require extra care from everyone.

Courtesy crossings are marked with "Cross with Care" to signal that they are informal crossings. Pedestrians do not have legal right of way, and drivers are expected to slow down and stay alert, particularly in areas with high pedestrian movement. These crossings can be interpreted differently, especially by visitors or those unfamiliar with the area, so the best rule from a pedestrian's perspective is to wait patiently until there are no oncoming vehicles, and/or the vehicles have fully stopped to courteously let you cross.

Council continues to assess the courtesy crossings to see if there are other ways to improve safety and work alongside Police and road safety partners to promote safe driving behaviour, and are committed to being proactive about safety and ensuring everyone can feel confident getting around Hāwera. If you have some specific feedback, let Council know and it can be included in future reviews of pedestrian and traffic safety in the town centre.

Pātea Mana Bay Mural Complete!

The mural at Mana Bay, Pātea is now finished and looking great, adding colour and coastal stories to this popular beach area. He mihi nui to mural artist Dan Mills, the Pātea Historical Society, Karen and Bruce from Project Reef Life, students and teachers from Kākaramea, Whenuakura and Pātea Area schools, all the young artists who helped paint the mural, and everyone who stopped by to say kia ora or tautoko the mahi. A collaborative community effort and a bright new feature for the bay.



A legacy that lives on: The Hāwera Rotary Fund

More than 100 years after the Rotary Club of Hāwera was first established, its legacy of giving back to the local community continues through the Hāwera Rotary Fund, held with Taranaki Foundation.

Founded on 27 January 1925, the Rotary Club of Hāwera was the first Rotary club in Taranaki and one of the earliest in New Zealand. For decades, members raised money, volunteered their time and supported local causes across South Taranaki.

Former Rotary member Malcolm Greenhill first joined the Club in 1972, when membership sat around 70 people. He remained involved for 41 years.

"It was about meeting people who shared the same values and a desire to do good in the local community," he said.

"Rotary was a perfect way to give back, whether that was through fundraising initiatives or being ready to extend a helping hand."

In recent years, as membership numbers declined and the demands of managing the Trust increased, discussions began around how the Club's charitable assets and purpose could continue into



Levi Christie, Theresa Cayley, Josh Hickford, joined by RMP medical students Emily Dennis, Samantha Watson and Lucy McKay at kiwi release.

the future.

It was Preston Bulfin at Halliwells, himself a former Hāwera Rotary member, who suggested Taranaki Foundation as a way to safeguard the Trust's assets while continuing to honour its original purpose.

In May 2023, remaining trustees signed a memorandum of understanding with Taranaki Foundation, formally establishing the Hāwera Rotary Fund. The Fund retains its original intent and identity, while governance, compliance, investment and

distribution responsibilities are managed by Taranaki Foundation.

For Malcolm Greenhill, the transition brought reassurance.

"I hadn't heard of Taranaki Foundation before, but after meeting with Phil Hinton and Josh Hickford a few times, it was a real relief that the efforts of so many people over so many years would continue to support our local community."

In the Fund's first full year with Taranaki Foundation, 14 grants totalling \$74,000 were distributed to organisations including Hāwera Budget Advisory Service, Ōpunakē Community Baths, the Rural Medical Immersion Programme and Hāwera Foodbank.

These grants formed part of the nearly \$140,000 distributed across South Taranaki through Taranaki Foundation's 2025 Annual Funding Round.

Taranaki Foundation Chief Executive Josh Hickford said it was a privilege to help carry forward the Club's legacy.

"We are honoured to steward the Hāwera Rotary Fund and to help carry forward such a meaningful legacy," he said.

"The Hāwera Rotary Club has given so much to

this community over the years. Through the Fund, that generosity doesn't end, it compounds. We look forward to continuing to honour the spirit and purpose of what the Club has built, for South Taranaki for generations to come."

At Hāwera Budget Advisory Service, Erica Strand spoke about the increasing pressure many local families are facing and the growing demand for support across South Taranaki.

Funding from the Hāwera Rotary Fund is helping the service extend further into surrounding areas including Patea, Ōpunakē and Stratford.

"People often come to us feeling overwhelmed and under pressure," Strand said.

"Our role is to help clients understand their financial situation, set realistic goals, and build practical skills so they can move forward with more confidence."

In 1960, Rotarians helped establish a Hāwera branch of the Home Budget Advisory Service, with members volunteering to support families facing financial hardship.

Barbara Hurcomb from the Hāwera Foodbank says families line up around the block each Monday, while

Hazel Robinson reflects on the Foodbank's beginnings 45 years ago as a simple overnight food parcel service for families in crisis.

A \$5,000 grant from the Hāwera Rotary Fund, the Foodbank's first through the Fund, is helping the organisation continue operating during a period of increasing demand.

"More whānau are reaching out for support, and the cost of keeping services running continues to climb," Hurcomb said.

Barbara also shared the story of two young boys arriving at the Foodbank with a \$50 Pak 'n Save voucher to donate. One of the boys had worked after school to save the money himself after his family had previously relied on the Foodbank's support.

"He had not forgotten," she said. "He just wanted to pay it forward."

The Rural Medical Immersion Programme (RMP) also received a \$10,000 grant this year, continuing the Hāwera Rotary Club's long-standing support of local healthcare initiatives.

Theresa Cayley and Josh Hickford from Taranaki Foundation joined for a kiwi release on Taranaki Mounga alongside Conservation Manager Sian Potier and kiwi handler Levi Christie.

The Trust received a \$5,000 grant through the Hāwera Rotary Fund to support dog avoidance training and wider community conservation work.

"A huge thank you to Taranaki Kiwi Trust for inviting us to be part of a special kiwi release event at Taranaki Mounga," Cayley said.

"It was a truly memorable experience. We especially enjoyed the opportunity to see the kiwi up close and hear more about all the work being done."

For Malcolm Greenhill and Peter Shore, who remain involved in reviewing funding applications and visiting recipients, the Fund represents continuity.

"It is rewarding to be involved in the annual distribution process and to see first-hand the impact these grants are making across our community," Greenhill said.

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AI system could speed up medical discoveries

Researchers in the US have created an artificial intelligence system designed to help speed up scientific discovery by searching multiple research papers, suggesting experiments

and analysing lab test. The team used the AI system, named Robin, to investigate a common form of age-related blindness, where it identified an existing eye drug as a possible treatment

candidate. The findings still need further testing, but the researchers say AI tools like Robin could help scientists discover new medicines and treatments more quickly.

Not too late to host Pink Ribbon Breakfast

Pink Ribbon Breakfast month is here, and Breast Cancer Foundation NZ urgently needs more people in Taranaki to get involved to make sure women affected by breast cancer can get the support they need.

Throughout the month of May, and even into June, Pink Ribbon Breakfasts are held around the country to

raise funds for breast cancer education, research, and patient support services. These programmes play a crucial role in improving outcomes for Kiwis affected by breast cancer, from early detection initiatives to practical and emotional support for patients and their families.

In these challenging economic times, community-driven fundraising efforts

like Pink Ribbon Breakfast are more important than ever. Breast Cancer Foundation NZ doesn't receive any government funding and relies entirely on the generosity of kind-hearted individuals and communities to sustain its work.

Without continued support, essential programmes that thousands of New

Zealanders depend on each year could be at risk.

"Breast cancer doesn't stop during tough times and as a community, neither can we," says the Foundation's chief executive, Ah-Leen Rayner.

"Each year, around 100 women across Taranaki are diagnosed with breast cancer, and Pink Ribbon Breakfasts help fund vital support, research and

education. Without enough hosts, we risk losing millions of dollars to invest in programmes that save lives.

"There's still time to get involved, rally your community and be part of something that truly matters. Whether it's a morning tea at work, brunch with friends, or a large community event, every gathering helps ensure

we can continue supporting Kiwis affected by breast cancer," Ah-Leen adds.

For more information and to register to host a Pink Ribbon Breakfast, visit pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz. Once registered, people will be sent a free host kit with ideas and resources to get them started. Registrations close on 31 May.

Otautau bore water potential preterm birth risk but town supply safe- Greenpeace

Greenpeace says that its free drinking water testing event in Otautau, Southland, revealed that while town water supplies in the area are relatively safe, private bore water tests showed increased nitrate levels.

Results from testing showed that Otautau's town supply was testing at approximately 1.65 mg/L

of nitrate on average. Of the samples tested, 84% were above 1 mg/L - the level associated with an increased risk of bowel cancer, and 16% of samples were above 5 mg/L - the level associated with an increased risk of preterm birth.

Greenpeace freshwater campaigner Will Appelbe says, "We're encouraging

everyone who is on a private bore, or is concerned about the safety of their drinking water, to come down to Lumsden tomorrow and get their water tested for nitrate."

"Today we've spoken to parents, grandparents, and families who are on the frontlines of Southland's nitrate crisis. Environment

Southland's own reports have identified that this is a growing issue for the region. And the trends show that nitrate contamination will likely get worse across 71% of groundwater monitoring sites.

"The cause of this nitrate contamination is the intensive dairy industry, and its overuse of synthetic

nitrogen fertiliser. Rural New Zealand is being poisoned by dirty dairy pollution, which means the agricultural sector must be regulated and move towards ecological, regenerative farming practices. This needs to start now."

Greenpeace says that while the town supply in Otautau is low in nitrate contamination,

it's still higher than the nitrate level for most people in Aotearoa.

"80% of New Zealanders are drinking water at levels of nitrate under 1 mg/L. That's important because long-term exposure to levels of nitrate as low as 1 mg/L is associated with an increased risk of bowel cancer."

Could old petroleum wells heat energy future?

Ara Ake, New Zealand's energy innovation centre, is leading and funding a project exploring whether hundreds of suspended and shut-in petroleum wells in the Taranaki region could be repurposed as practical, cost-effective and low-emission heat sources for industry, buildings and communities, before they are permanently abandoned.

"Industrial heat users need reliable, affordable alternatives to oil, gas

and coal, and geoheat is uniquely placed to help deliver that. We don't yet know if developing geoheat using Taranaki's petroleum wells, rather than drilling new ones is commercially viable, but finding that out is exactly what Ara Ake exists to do, for Taranaki and for New Zealand," says Sophie Braggins, Ara Ake Chief Executive.

The geothermal resource being explored is called geoheat, and is less than

120°C. This type of heat is best suited for direct heating (or less commonly, cooling) uses such as industrial process heat, space heating for factories and buildings, district heating schemes, horticulture and swimming pools.

Project lead Evelien Wallace says six decades of petroleum development is beneficial to the project.

"Drilling a new geothermal well is typically the largest single cost in any geoheat

project, and the biggest technical risk is being unsure of the heat and water flow underground. Repurposing wells that are already in the ground, and drawing on data that has already been collected, significantly reduces both the cost and risk of development," says Evelien Wallace.

"The real innovation here is in how we think about legacy assets. Just as bioenergy has reframed waste as a resource, we need to reframe legacy

infrastructure the same way, and ask if it can contribute to a greener, more sustainable energy future."

Ara Ake commissioned a scoping study and baseline review of relevant literature and international projects, which were recently completed by Earth Science NZ and GeoExchange and technical expert GLS Consulting.

"We are working with key stakeholders and experts to decide which opportunities

we want to progress further. Developing bespoke work programmes for these opportunities will help us unpack the value they may provide, as well as what roadblocks there may be, and if these can and should be overcome," says Evelien. "No matter what we find with this project, we believe Taranaki will be better placed to develop geoheat regionally, based on the legacy of our petroleum past."



A Beluga whale.

Mirror, mirror on the whale

Some captive beluga whales appear to be able to recognise themselves in mirrors, possibly the first evidence of the ability in the species. Two of four whales tested at New York

Aquarium were able to pass a range of mirror tests, like identifying temporary marks drawn on areas of their body that could only be seen by using the mirror. Other creatures that can recognise

themselves in a mirror include bonobos, bottlenose dolphins, Asian elephants, magpies - and of course humans.

PLOS One

Superman and Lois Lane on Back Beach



Superman and Lois Lane on Back Beach. A recent work by Coastal Taranaki artist Graham Kirk.



Winter is just around the corner! It's time to **Heat up** your home! 2026

Tips on getting your home ready for the winter months

With winter settling in across Taranaki, now's a good time to make sure your home is set up to stay warm, dry and efficient over the colder months.

At Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration in Ōpunake, the team has been helping locals get sorted - and there's been a bit of a change in store too. The

retail side now operates under Appliance Plus, bringing greater buying power, sharper pricing and a wider range of appliances and heating options, all backed by the same local team people have come to rely on.

When it comes to heating, there's no one-size-fits-all. Heat pumps remain one

of the most efficient ways to heat a home, providing steady, controllable warmth at a relatively low running cost. For many homes, a well-placed high wall unit does the job well.

For those looking for whole-home comfort, ducted heat pump systems are becoming increasingly popular, allowing multiple

rooms to be heated evenly through one system.

"With power prices where they are, people are really starting to look at how they heat their homes and what it's costing them," says Ben Miller. "A well set up heat pump or ducted system can

make a big difference, both in comfort and keeping winter power bills under control."

Simple steps like using timers, closing off unused rooms, cleaning filters and reducing drafts can also make a noticeable

difference.

If you're unsure what would work best, pop in and see the team at Appliance Plus Ōpunake, backed by Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration, or give the team a call for advice before winter really sets in.

Some advice from FENZ

Fire and Emergency New Zealand recommends following a few simple steps to keep yourself and your whānau safe from an unwanted fire as the temperature drops outside.

Ensure your chimney has

been swept and cleaned before the first fire of the season.

Ashes can stay hot for up to five days, so be sure they are left to cool in a metal bucket/bin on a concrete or metal, not decking or flooring

before being disposed of.

Keep furniture or anything flammable that you may be drying at least a metre from the heater or fireplace.

In winter more people will be using clothes dryers, remember to clean the lint filter before each use as a full filter can cause a fire.

Electric blankets are also a fire risk. Old or damaged electric blankets can be a hazard, so you should have your electric blanket tested prior to using it.

It should only be switched on 15-20 minutes before bed and switched off before going off to sleep. They should be rolled up when being stored.

For further information head to our website - <https://www.fireandemergency.nz/winter-fire-safety/>



Always use a fireguard or spark guard when you use your open fire and ensure you dispose of ashes carefully.



Trish, Alysha and Debbie have the hot tips for a cold winter.

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Winter is just around the corner!

It's time to **Heat up** your home!

2026

Winter Wellness – keeping you and your whānau safe this winter

Cooler weather means more people are likely to get sick with colds, flu, COVID-19, and other respiratory illnesses, such as whooping cough.

With more sick people around, the chances of illnesses being brought into your home, workplace, or school increase.

There are several ways to protect yourself and others from infections. If you feel sick, stay home to rest up and prevent spreading germs to others. Make sure you tell other people you are at home. For online advice go to healthnz.govt.nz website.

To further reduce the spread of infectious illnesses:



Being immunised is the best way to protect against some preventable diseases.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then put the tissue in a bin and wash your hands.
 - If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
 - Wear a mask to lower the risk of spreading infectious illness through the air.
 - Clean frequently touched surfaces, such as light switches and door handles, with household cleaner, regularly.
 - Let fresh air inside by opening windows and doors several times a day. If you're in a building with a ventilation system, check it is filtering or cleaning the air efficiently.
- Being immunised is the best way to protect against some preventable diseases.
- To book a vaccination, go to the bookmyvaccine website or call the Vaccination Helpline 0800 28 29 26 (Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5.00pm) for information, advice, and support. Calls are free, callers can speak with a Māori clinician, and interpreters are available.

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Crywolf is a children's outerwear brand known for stylish, high-performance rainwear that combines practicality with adventure-ready designs. Their welded seam technology ensures they are rainproof and windproof which makes them especially popular due to their high quality, durability and eco-conscious approach. They're available at Licorice in a range of sizes and colours and are perfect for those rainy days on the sidelines, on the playground or when life requires a good stomp in the puddles. Pop in and let Sandra and Kim help you find the best combo for your little ones.

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Winter is just around the corner!

It's time to **Heat up** your home!
2026

Health NZ boosts access to care ahead of winter

The lower North Island can expect to see better access to health care this winter as Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) steps up planning to meet seasonal demand.

People are also encouraged to take steps to stay well this winter through vaccinations and keeping homes warm and dry.

Winter traditionally brings increased pressure on the health system, particularly from respiratory illnesses. In response, Health NZ's Central region — covering Hawke's Bay, Whanganui, Palmerston North, Wairarapa, Wellington, Hutt and Kāpiti — is expanding access to care in the community and improving patient flow through hospitals.

This includes extended hours at some urgent care clinics, an expanded range of

services available at selected pharmacies, and continued work to improve access to hospital services.

Executive Regional Director Central Region Chris Lowry says supporting people to receive care in the right place is a key focus as well as encouraging people to take early action and think about prevention.

"Where it's safe to do so, people often recover better and faster at home. This winter, we're strengthening coordinated care in the community to support earlier discharge and smoother recovery," she said.

Hospitals across the region are also working to improve patient flow once people present to emergency departments, and to reduce wait times.

"The fastest treatment is often the safest treatment. By moving patients through our hospitals as efficiently

as possible, we can achieve better outcomes for patients during our busiest months," Ms Lowry said.

As part of Winter Plan 2026, Health NZ has invested \$25 million nationally to support services under the greatest pressure, helping ensure people can access care when demand is highest.

Prevention remains a priority, with Health NZ encouraging people to stay well by keeping warm, getting vaccinated, managing long term conditions, and seeking advice early if they become unwell.

Getting a flu vaccination early, ideally before winter takes hold, is one of the best ways of protection. It's free for those most at risk, and available through local health providers, participating pharmacies and drop-in immunisation clinics.

Keeping homes warm and

dry is also key to preventing respiratory illness, especially for young children. Simple steps such as fixing leaks and ventilating the home often can make a real

difference, with practical support available through the Healthy Homes Initiative.

People can access care through local health

providers, pharmacies, urgent care clinics, online GP services, Healthline for free on 0800 611 116 or, in an emergency, your nearest Emergency Department.



Keeping homes warm and dry is key to preventing respiratory illness.

Make your home a warmer, healthier, drier place!

You could be eligible for 50-90% off the cost to purchase and install insulation in your home, thanks to the Warmer Kiwi Homes Insulation Grant.

You and your family deserve a warm, dry and healthy home throughout the year. A well-insulated home ensures year-round comfort, improved health, reduced energy use and lower power

bills!

To be eligible for the insulation subsidy:

- Be the homeowner (owner-occupier) of a house built before 2008
- You (the owner) have a Community Services Card, SuperGold Combo or
- Live in an area identified as NZDep 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 – we can confirm this for you!

Even if you have insulation, it might not meet the current standard. Warmer Kiwi Homes Grants can cover additional insulation for your home.

In some regions, the subsidy may be higher, due to funding by local community groups. Please note, funding is limited and some subsidies may not be available in all locations.

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Winter is just around the corner!
It's time to **Heat up** your home!
2026

A message from Gibson Plumbers Ltd

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After completing his apprenticeship, David and wife Ann bought the business, and today, with the able assistance of their son Ben are still servicing the coast.

As winter nears, most peoples' main concerns are methods of staying warm and dry. Roofs become the number one concern, as are



Ann and Ben Gibson.

ways to heat the house - be it by solid fuel or gas, all of which require checking and servicing (e.g. chimneys cleaned etc) to ensure maximum performance and safety.

Due to the many facets of the trade, (i.e. plumbing, gasfitting, drainlaying and roofing) the plumbers are always busy with various different tasks each day, along with after-hours callouts.

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Heating Type	Cost per kWh of Heat	Monthly
Gas heater	Lower than electricity	\$65+ fixed charge plus usage
Heat pump	3-7 cents	Wood burner
Electric heater	25 - 40	Competitive if wood is free
		Varies widely

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DWN Regional Leader of the Year 2026 announced



Leilani Lobb has been named the 2026 Dairy Women's Network (DWN) Regional Leader of the Year.

North Otago farmer Leilani Lobb has been named the 2026 Dairy Women's Network (DWN) Regional Leader of the Year.

DWN Chief Executive Jules Benton says Leilani embodies the values of the Network through her authentic and community-focused leadership.

"Leilani is a quiet achiever who consistently puts

herself forward to take on opportunities that push her outside her comfort zone while supporting others. From stepping into leadership roles while moving to a new region to creating inclusive spaces where connection truly matters, she is always learning and focused on becoming the kind of leader she would want around

herself." "She understands the importance of connection and growth beyond the farm gate, and actively creates inclusive spaces where people feel supported to engage. Whether she's bringing together a handful of people or a larger group, Leilani recognises the value in every connection made. Her approach is thoughtful

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herself." "She understands the importance of connection and growth beyond the farm gate, and actively creates inclusive spaces where people feel supported to engage. Whether she's bringing together a handful of people or a larger group, Leilani recognises the value in every connection made. Her approach is thoughtful

and genuine, she sees a need, builds relationships, and works steadily to strengthen her local community," says Benton.

Based near Kurow, Leilani works full-time as a contract milker alongside her partner, Ben, while dedicating significant time to her role as a DWN Regional Leader. Her leadership is grounded in a strong belief in continuous learning and giving back. Her efforts are already making a lasting difference, with a focus on strengthening connections across North Otago and rebuilding a vibrant local community.

Leilani has stepped

confidently into leadership roles, including serving as a temporary Hub Leader for DWN. She has also contributed to the wider sector as a member of the 2026 South Island Dairy Event organising committee and as co-founder of the Canterbury Dairy Young Leaders group.

She will receive a scholarship for a leadership development programme of her choice.

"We're incredibly grateful for DairyNZ's continued support of our volunteer Regional Leaders. Their partnership plays a vital role in enabling these grassroots leaders to bring people

together, create meaningful opportunities, and drive positive change across rural communities," Benton adds.

Benton also acknowledges fellow finalist Ashleigh Gordon for her contribution to the Network and her local community.

"Ashleigh is a committed and reliable leader who is already making a strong impact in her community. Her willingness to step up, bring ideas to life, and build trust within her community reflects exactly what DWN is about. Ashleigh has a bright future ahead as she continues to grow her leadership and influence."

Feds welcomes more help for farmer biodiversity protection efforts

Federated Farmers is applauding moves by the Government to encourage greater private investment in the work farmers and other landowners do to protect biodiversity and reduce climate change emissions.

"We're really pleased with the announcement of two pathways that enable greater assurance to investors and landowners that environment protection and restoration projects are genuine and make a difference," Federated Farmers vice president Colin Hurst says.

"The Government's announcements are right in line with the kinds of things Federated Farmers outlined in 2023 as key to creating a workable biodiversity credit system in New Zealand."

Andrew Hoggard, Associate Minister for both the Environment and Agriculture, says the Government will recognise

high quality schemes accredited by reputable international bodies.

It will also set up a new endorsement pathway for domestic schemes that will be assessed independently to make sure they meet benchmarked standards.

"Anything that creates more opportunities to support biodiversity protection and restoration work on private land is a positive step," Hurst says.

"Farmers and rural landowners are already doing a huge amount of wetland restoration, native planting, habitat protection and changes to reduce methane emissions.

"It can be very costly - both to get such work underway, and to maintain it long-term.

"Mechanisms that encourage outside investment by companies and benefactors could get more projects across the start line, and reward farmers taking these initiatives."

Many of the more than 5000 special areas of nature permanently protected under QEII National Trust covenants are on farmland.

Federated Farmers has campaigned for a serious uplift in the trust's base government funding so that it can keep up with farmer requests to initiate covenants.

QEII Trust chief executive Dan Coup says any programme that lifts the level of help for landowners willing to protect biodiversity is positive.

"We're all about the outcomes for nature.

"If assurance that the work being done is authentic makes it more likely these partnerships and transactions happen, that's a good thing.

"Quite how this will interact with the work of QEII is something we're still analysing the detail on.

"If it brings more money to the table and allows more landowners to voluntarily put special areas of bush and wetland under covenant with us - excellent," Coup says.

"But under our current restrained resources, we haven't got much scope to handle increased demand at our end."

Hurst says there's also a wider opportunity for New Zealand's food processors and exporters.

"International consumers increasingly want evidence behind sustainability claims, and strong biodiversity credentials add weight to the Kiwi story on the global stage," he says.

"This has the potential to be a win-win: supporting biodiversity protection while also strengthening the story New Zealand tells international consumers about how our food is produced."

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Smarter rules, stronger future APHANZ welcomes reform bills opportunity

Proposed reforms to the approval process for critical tools used by farmers and growers mark the most significant regulatory change in years, says Animal and Plant Health New Zealand (APHANZ), which represents the people behind these tools.

“The introduction of the ACVM Act and HSNO Act Bills by Ministers Andrew Hoggard and Nicola Grigg is a major step forward in the long-awaited reform of New Zealand’s regulatory system for agricultural and horticultural products,” says Gavin Kerr, Chair of APHANZ.

“We have advocated for this reform for many years, with strong support from the primary sector. We acknowledge the commitment of ministers, officials and regulators who have worked hard to bring the Bills forward alongside their day-to-day responsibilities.

“We share the same goal as regulators - legislation that



APHANZ Chief Executive Dr Liz Shackleton.

supports innovation, protects people and the environment, improves primary sector productivity and keeps New Zealand competitive.

“We now need to ensure the legislation is practical, fit-for-purpose and enables the industry to deliver a broad toolkit to support the primary sector to tackle pests and manage diseases,” says Kerr.

APHANZ Chief Executive Dr Liz Shackleton says the reforms will affect every

New Zealander in some way.

“These reforms are about food security, animal health, and the cost of living for everyday New Zealanders - not just technical housekeeping.

“These tools are essential to the primary sector’s ability to produce safe, affordable food and the medicines that care for our pets at home.

“Our members are committed to innovating in New Zealand, and these reforms offer a positive

opportunity to address regulatory uncertainty that has been holding them back.

“Improved access to these tools will provide farmers, growers and veterinarians greater certainty, affordability and choice - and ultimately, ease pressures that are felt by every household,” says Dr Shackleton.

She adds Cabinet has already set a very clear direction for reform.

“The Government has clearly signalled the need for a regulatory system that is proportionate, efficient, transparent and certain, through its response to the Ministry for Regulation’s 2025 review of agricultural and horticultural products.

“The task now is to ensure the draft Bills fully reflect that intent and make the most of the opportunity to deliver impact on the ground.

“On behalf of our members, we congratulate Ministers David Seymour, Andrew Hoggard and Nicola Grigg for progressing the Bills,” says Dr Shackleton.

“We also acknowledge the hard work of officials and regulators.

“As always, the detail will matter most. Drawing on deep industry experience - and lessons from major reforms such as the RMA and Medicines Act - our members will contribute their lived experience and practical insights over the coming weeks to help shape legislation that is workable and enduring,” says Dr Shackleton.

Over the coming weeks, APHANZ will put the draft Bills through their paces - to assess if they deliver

on Cabinet’s intent, reflect industry feedback, and establish clear timeframes that drive certainty and accountability.

“This is an opportunity to modernise New Zealand’s regulatory system to support innovation, investment and smart, risk-appropriate decision-making.

“Industry backs the Government’s roadmap for change. We remain forward-looking and solutions-focused, and we stand ready to support the process so the outcomes we all seek are realised.”

Cows recognise a familiar human face

Cows can distinguish between familiar and unfamiliar people and even match human faces with the correct voices, a new international study found.

Researchers showed 32 cows videos of men

speaking, and the cows spent longer gazing at faces they hadn’t seen before.

The cows were also able to associate the correct voices with matching faces, which suggests they form mental

images of individual people that are multisensory. The authors say the findings add growing evidence that domesticated animals have complex socio-cognitive abilities and could help inform farming practices

that support positive human-animal relationships and animal welfare



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Government running out of time on freshwater fix



The Government is rapidly running out of time to fix a broken freshwater system.

With today marking six months until the next election, Federated Farmers says the Government is rapidly running out of time to fix a broken freshwater system.

Freshwater spokesperson Colin Hurst says while progress has been made repealing or replacing some of the previous Government's unworkable freshwater rules, far too many of the rules still sit idle on the books.

"Former Environment Minister David Parker brought in a swag of poorly written freshwater rules in mid-2020," Hurst says.

"The current Government came into office promising to unwind them and put things right for farmers.

"Farmers are starting to get really worried that, with only six months to go until the election, a number of

those promises haven't been fulfilled.

"The clock is really ticking now and we're getting genuinely concerned they'll

run out of time."

When elected, the Coalition Government said it would replace Labour's freshwater targets with rules allowing more flexibility.

Nearly three years on, Parker's National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 remains law.

"It's good the Government has hit pause on regional councils coming up with new rules to try to achieve the unachievable freshwater targets," Hurst says.

"Early drafts of these plans showed huge areas of farmland would need to be

retired to even come close to the targets.

"But in the background, Parker's policy still sits on the books, which means resource consents must be tested against it and Environment Court decisions will also consider it.

"It's continuing to cause real headaches across the country.

"There's also the risk that any change in Government would mean it can be immediately turned back on and implemented."

Hurst says the current Government also promised changes to make vegetable growing and on-farm water storage permitted activities - but again, that's yet to happen.

New Freshwater Farm Plan regulations also haven't been completed, he adds.

Many of these changes hinge on the Government delivering an improved replacement to the Resource Management Act (RMA).

Mark Hooper, Federated Farmers RMA reform

spokesperson, says bringing in that new legislation was one of the Government's flagship policies.

"The RMA is by far the biggest handbrake on the growth of our agricultural sector and rural economies," he says.

"From expensive resource consents to unachievable freshwater targets, these difficulties for farmers all sit under the RMA legislation.

"We were really pleased when the Government introduced two bills to replace the RMA last year, but a deep dive into the wording revealed some significant flaws.

"The Natural Environment Bill, in particular, is so poorly drafted that it risks making things even worse for farmers than the current RMA."

Hooper says a major gap right now is the lack of detail around what will replace the current national policy framework.

"What we've got in front of us with the Natural Environment Bill is essentially the framework for the new system.

"But a lot of the real detail will sit in national policy direction and national standards, and that's the part we haven't seen yet," he says.

"That creates uncertainty. Farmers are being told change is coming, but we still don't know what the replacement for things like the National Policy Statement will actually look like."

He says, in the meantime, farmers remain stuck operating under the very rules the Government has promised to replace.

"Farmers were told there would be new national standards for things like vegetable growing,

water storage and gravel extraction, but none of that has happened yet.

"So, despite all the talk of major reform and quick wins, nothing has really changed in practice and the old system is effectively still live."

Hooper says that uncertainty is weighing on farmer confidence and investment decisions.

"People want clarity. They want to know what the rules of the game are before they make long-term investment decisions - and right now, that certainty just isn't there."

Hurst says credit must go to the Government for moving quickly to repeal Labour's replacement RMA in 2023, and make fixes to stock exclusion rules and winter grazing rules.

"Farmers also breathed a sigh of relief at last year's law change to roll over existing resource consents into a promised new resource management system.

"Those are all good things - but the job is far from done."

He says there's cautious optimism about new Environment Minister Nicola Grigg, who comes from a strong farming background.

"For Nicola Grigg, I think there's a real opportunity here to cut through the noise and deliver what farmers have been waiting for.

"She's shown she understands the issues, but I guess the challenge now is whether she can turn that into action."

With only months left in the Government's term, Hurst says time is running short.

"Farmers are watching closely, because what happens next will shape how this works on the ground for years to come.

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A second for Taranaki contestant at Dairy Industry Awards

Taranaki's Miriam Lauridsen finished second in this year's Dairy Manager of the Year at the National Dairy Industry Awards held in Rotorua on May 9.

Also representing Taranaki were Taranaki Sharefarmers of the Year Samantha and Tom Lumsden and Dairy Trainee of the Year Shicaela Kane.

Miriam is pasture, forage and herd manager for Liam O'Sullivan at New Plymouth, milking 370 cows on 137ha.

The judges were impressed with Miriam's personal planning and awareness of her progression in the dairy industry.

Her dedication to her team on farm also shone through, along with her ability to communicate.

"Miriam has a lot of passion and she has strived to make it the best working environment for her team – that was very evident."

Miriam won over \$8,000 in prizes along with taking home three merit awards, including the Health & Safety Award, Sustainable Pasture Award and the Personal Planning & Financial Management Award.

Lauren McConnachie from Canterbury/North Otago was named 2026 New Zealand Dairy Manager of the Year, with Annie Gill from Waikato third.

Last year's Taranaki representative Martin Keegan from Inglewood took out the New Zealand Dairy Manager of the year title.

Scott and Stacey Mackereth from Southland/Otago who contract milk for Fortuna Group at Edendale, milking 1400 cows on 464ha were named 2026 New Zealand Share Farmer of the Year.

The judges were impressed by Scott's journey to bounce back after COVID disrupted his business ventures in the United States and he



This year's NZ Dairy Industry Award winners. From left. Share Farmers of the Year Scott and Stacey Mackereth, Dairy Manager of the Year Lauren McConnachie, Dairy Trainee of the Year Mark Ready.

returned to rebuild from scratch in New Zealand by going farming.

"They've learnt from their prior experience and Scott is really passionate about sharing and learning from failure."

"They really prove that when you get knocked down you get up and go harder."

Glenn and Georgie van Heuven from Waikato were named runner-up in the New Zealand Share Farmer of the Year Glenn, 37, and Georgie, 36, are 50/50 sharemilking 405 cows on 103ha for Sid and Dellas Anderton at Matamata.

Karl and Jess Wood from Manawatu placed third.

Mark Ready from the West Coast/Top of the South won the title of 2026 New Zealand Dairy Trainee of the Year.

The 23-year-old is farm manager for Michael Shearer on the Inch Family's 130ha farm at Maruia milking 250 cows.

The judges were highly impressed with Mark's planning and progress.

"He has managed to save and buy his first line of cows which will enter the herd this year and has set himself a timeline to achieve herd ownership."

"We absolutely believe

he will achieve that. Mark set himself a plan and he's implementing it and we look forward to his progress going forward."

A very close runner-up in the Dairy Trainee of the Year was Sam O'Neill from Canterbury/North Otago, and Conor Attrill-Mundt from the Hawke's Bay/Wairarapa placed third.

Alvaro Luzardo and Ximena Puig from Hawke's Bay/Wairarapa won the 2026 Alumni of the Year award.

The couple are sharemilking 465 cows for Geoff Arends and Ester Romp in Eketāhuna.

Originally from Uruguay, the judges noted Alvaro and Ximena arrived in New Zealand in 2015 with a backpack and minimal English skills and are an exceptional example of what can be achieved in the dairy industry.

The Alumni of the Year Award is open to NZDIA Alumni who have been entrants in the past seven years and are no longer eligible to enter the Dairy Manager of the Year or Share Farmer of the Year categories.

Judges were blown away by the six finalists in this year's First Farm Award and

said they were an example to everyone of what can be achieved in the dairy industry.

"All of the finalists are first-generation farmers with no family farm backing, and they are all on the verge of being able to buy their own dairy farm."

The 2026 First Farm Award winners are John and Tania Burrows, and Jonathon and Stacey Hoets, both from Canterbury/North Otago, and Marc and Nia Jones from Waikato.

The winners were able to show how they had built their equity from zero, how close they were to a farm purchase and how winning the award would help them in their next step.

Tony Dodunski from Canterbury/North Otago won the Fonterra Responsible Dairying Award.

Beaumaris Dairies is located in the environmentally sensitive Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora catchment, and the judges cited Tony's outstanding leadership in delivering responsible dairying outcomes on farm, while also making a significant and sustained contribution to the wider New Zealand dairy industry.



Miriam Lauridsen.

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Rural Women New Zealand among coalition bringing complaint over pay equity rollback

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) is part of a coalition that has filed a formal complaint with the United Nations, asking it to investigate whether the government's changes to New Zealand's pay equity laws amount to systemic discrimination against women.

The complaint, brought by Pay Equity Coalition Aotearoa (PECA), which

includes New Zealand Council of Trade Unions, Te Kāhui Tika Tangata Human Rights Commission, and RWNZ, comes exactly one year after legislation cancelled existing pay equity claims and introduced stricter tests for bringing new claims.

Pay equity claims are raised to ensure that people receive equal pay for work of equal value. The

cancelled claims covered more than 180,000 workers across care and disability support, education, health, and community and social services, the vast majority of them women.

"The amendments were made without proper engagement, and they ignored the government's own guidance when it comes to protecting rural communities against policy



Sandra Kirby Rural Women New Zealand chief executive.

RWNZ has been advocating on this issue since the Equal Pay Amendment Act was passed without consultation in May 2025, including a submission to the People's Select Committee on Pay Equity in August last year.

"Workers across the country were hurt, but rural communities feel it in a particular way, because so much of what keeps them alive depends on work in health, education and care that has historically been undervalued and underpaid."

"For 100 years Rural Women New Zealand has believed rural women deserve fairness and dignity, and we'll keep advocating until they have it," says Kirby.

The United Nations will now assess whether the complaint is admissible. If accepted, it will be sent to the New Zealand Government for a response. The CEDAW Committee will then consider the case and provide its views and recommendations

changes that may negatively affect them."

"A year on, the women who lost their pay equity claims are still showing up, still caring for our elderly, still teaching our children, and still waiting to be paid fairly for it, in a system where the goalposts have been moved so far that many may never get there," says Sandra Kirby, CE of RWNZ.

The complaint asks the

United Nations to consider whether the legislative changes have created systemic discrimination against women, particularly in relation to equality in employment and equal pay for work of equal value. Both are protected under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), to which New Zealand is a signatory.

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Gold clam invasion could reshape NZ rivers



Gold clams.

An invasive freshwater clam spreading through New Zealand could change river ecosystems and place extra pressure on native fish, according to a new review. The study author says the gold clam can alter water quality, habitats and food sources by filtering huge amounts of water. Native species such as galaxiids, may struggle most, as the clam could swamp their habitat and compete for the same food. Meanwhile, pest fish such as koi carp could adapt more easily or even benefit of clam as a new food source. The review says New Zealand is still in the early stages of the invasion, giving scientists a chance to better understand the risks and potential ways to limit the clam's spread before impacts become more widespread.

New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research

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Coastal Bowls roundup

As the sun sets on another outdoor bowls season, there are plenty of positives on where the game is currently placed in Coastal Taranaki.

While the monstrous membership numbers of the 1970s and 1980s will never be seen again, generally speaking, clubs from Manaia to Oakura, are more than holding their own.

In the previous season, Oakura reintroduced women to its ranks and the outcome has seen its overall full playing membership increase to just under 50. Not too many years ago, this was sitting at around 25.

Oakura's climb follows Okato and Manaia, who both also in recent seasons welcomed women back into the ranks. There was also a pleasing introduction of a number of new players at the Opunake club during the season. The enthusiasm and talent exhibited to date suggests good things will come.

However, nothing in the past season can surpass the achievement of Rahotu's Camron Horo. Horo, with partner Briar Atkinson, attended the world junior indoor championships in Ireland. He was placed equal-third in the men's singles, and with Briar won the mixed pairs – a huge achievement.

The victory was the first by any Taranaki player in any world event.

Horo was subsequently given full international honours when he



Rahotu's Camron Horo was half of the winning pairs team at the World Junior Indoor Championships.

represented New Zealand in a Multi Nations event in Kaula Lumpur in February.

Aside from Horo, there have been many other positives.

Manaia's Paul Midgley, who actually farms at Otakeho, finally took the step up to outdoor bowls full time. Following a decorated indoor career, which has spanned over 30 years and yielded a New Zealand gold star for five Dominion titles,

Midgley has emerged as a particularly bright prospect in the outdoor code.

He has already commenced delivering on that promise by becoming the first player to win both the Taranaki First Year singles and the Taranaki champion-of-champions men's junior singles in the same season. He narrowly defeated Rahotu's Shae Fleming in the final of the latter event.

The season also saw further

progress in the development of Jason Peters. Peters was a semi-finalist in the Taranaki men's open singles, an effort repeated by Okato's Ellice Hona in the women's event. Both players are on the pathway of winning centre titles in the seasons ahead.

Taranaki achieved the double of winning both the men's and women's hexagonal representative events for players with eight years or fewer experience. Four of the 10 men were from the Coast – Nathan Goodin, Ross Sinclair, Steve Fevre and Joel Chard. And an injury just prior to the event denied Fleming – who, too, put in a number of impressive performances

on the local scene – from backing up his victory in the

2025 event.

The victorious women's side also had a distinctive Coast touch to it with Shelley Clark, Alesha Quay, Linda Kape, Tina Atkinson-Watt, Lois Debique, Ashleigh Megaw, and Angela Debique all affiliated to clubs between Manaia and Oakura.

In addition to Midgley's dual success at the recent Taranaki finals day, Jackie Moeahu, representing Oakura, claimed the Taranaki women's senior singles title, while Chard and Fleming emphatically defended their Hugh Moss junior pairs title.

A number of other coastal club champions competed well in the champion-of-champions series, with Kape's side of Sandra Boardman, Hona and Dianne Watts the next best. They narrowly lost the women's fours final.

And so we look forward to September when we can return to Manaia, Pihama, Opunake, Rahotu, Okato and Oakura. Why not come and join us?

Indoor bowls team named

The Taranaki Indoor Bowls Rep team has been named to take on Manawatu at Kapuni on May 23.

Congratulations to the following people. P Midgley, K Smith, R Morris, S Bourne, T Bourne, C Reed, A Berry, J Taylor, W Cameron, K Larsen, B Hardgrave, W Finlay, N Vince, E Smailes, K Mahupuku and B Vince

Sandfords Manaia Golf results

May 3. Junior Golf. Chipping over goal post. 1. Fran Schumacher, Romyn Tupuse. 2. Joseph Baylis. 3. Jackson Laing, Micah Gut and Elliott Baylis.

Putting. 1. Micah Gut. 2. Romyn Tupuse. 3. Jackson Laing, Elliott Baylis, Joseph Baylis

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COASTAL RUGBY 2026



Corkill System Colts

Saturday afternoon saw us travel to Inglewood to take on the Inglewood Colts. We got the benefit of playing on their Number 1 field. It was a beautiful sunny day and only a slight breeze across the ground, conditions were perfect for running rugby — and the boys certainly made the most of it.

From the opening whistle, Coastal showed great intent with strong carries, disciplined defence, and excellent communication across the park. The forwards laid a solid platform up front, giving the backs plenty of opportunity to attack with speed and confidence. The team controlled possession well throughout the game and kept the pressure on Inglewood for the full 80 minutes.

Defensively, the boys were outstanding, working hard for each other and shutting down any attacking opportunities that came their way. The commitment on defence was a huge highlight of the match, with the side holding Inglewood scoreless and



Koby Bird-Luke defending off Inglewood to secure one of his 2 tries.

finishing the afternoon with an impressive 50–0 victory.

Tries were scored by Sam Douglas, Tom Picard, Jack McLean, Jordan Bird-Luke, Thomas Fisher, and Brayden Shaw, while Koby Bird-Luke crossed for two tries. Peter Grayling was accurate with the boot once again, successfully converting five tries and helping keep the scoreboard ticking over.

It was a complete team performance, with every player contributing to the result through hard work, discipline, and effort right across the field. The boys continue to build momentum each week and are showing great improvement as the season goes on. A massive congratulations to the whole squad on a dominant win and another quality performance on the road.

Players of the day: 3 Points- Tom Picard, 2 Points- Jack McLean, 1 Point- Peter Grayling. We have a bye this week but will be fizzing to take on Tukapa at Sanders Park on King's Birthday weekend.

Photos by Spinna Photography

FBT / Osflo Div 1

On Saturday we travelled to Inglewood for the start of the second round. We were playing into the wind in the first half and really struggled to get into the flow of the game. Just as we started getting a roll-on, we would drop the ball, turn it over at the ruck or give a loose pass. Inglewood managed to score the first try and we finally responded with a try to Bailey Watson. Unfortunately a minute later this was overshadowed when we received a yellow card for too many penalties in our own half. We had to play the next ten minutes with only 14 players.

At the half time break we turned around and had the wind at our backs. This gave us a boost and we started to play better but mistakes at crucial times kept hampering us. Luckily enough we scored two tries to Beauden

Fleming and Mark Martin with a conversion to Scott Anderson.

We were awarded a penalty and chose to take the kick which Scott duly slotted. This gave Coastal a 20-19 lead with only a few minutes to go. Inglewood threw everything at us and was rewarded with a penalty and seconds on the clock. Fortunately for Coastal they had white line fever and rather than taking the penalty shot went for a tap and lost the ball over the try line. It was an edge of your seat game with Coastal managing to steal the win 20-19. Liam Kupe was the man of the match with his outstanding tackling and leading in the hit up department. Next week Opunake play against Clifton so get on down to Sinclairs Stadium and show the lads some support.



Liam Kupe carrying the ball hard vs Inglewood

Photos by Spinna Photography.





COASTAL RUGBY 2026



This Weeks Games:

Round 9 (May 23) vs Clifton @ Opunake Recreation Centre

2.45pm Premier Men

1.00pm Div 1

Colts: Bye

Round 10 (May 30) vs Tukapa @ Sanders Park, New Plymouth

2.45pm Premier Men

1.00pm Div 1

Colts: 1pm

Property Brokers Premier Men



Ropata Taylor celebrating 50 premier games for Coastal.

Photos by Spinna Photography.

For the first game of round two we travelled to Inglewood for our second match up of the season. It was outstanding conditions for a game of footy. Ropata Taylor (pictured) was playing his 50th game, a big congratulations to him.

Coastal started off strong scoring the first try of

the match to David Stark and converted by Jackson Sinclair. Inglewood then gained a penalty goal, and attempted another, but missed.

Coastal then scored three tries to Jackson Sinclair, Jacob Whittle and Olly Lawson which were all converted by Jackson

Sinclair. This gave Coastal a halftime lead of 28-3.

Ben Dufficy scored the first try of the second half followed by David Stark for his second try of the match – both were converted by Jackson Sinclair.

As we made changes to both the forwards and backline, momentum continued and

the tries kept coming. Toni Tuitupou scored the last try of the match around the 70th minute which was converted by Ben Dufficy. The final score was 49-3, to Coastal.

Overall, Coastal controlled the game well, and built pressure across both halves. Player of the day (3 points) went to Samuel Drought,

two points to Jackson Sinclair and one to Jackson Pari.

This weekend we are playing in Opunake against

Clifton. We'd love to see you there, flooding the sidelines with green, white and black.



Momo Toi exhibition showcases superb talent

The official opening of the Momo Toi Gallery's latest exhibition, Precarious Progress, curated by Justine Francis, was on Friday May 15 in their 67 Carthew Street premises in Okato (from 6pm). On offer was an enjoyable supper of wine, and tasty eats for the many patrons.

There was a rich and far-reaching array of talent on display from an impressive number of well-known artists, such as Dale Copeland, Roger Morris, Marianne Muggeridge, Paul Hutchinson and Alby Carter, as well as Waldo Hartley, Leonie Smith,

Steven Boothe, Portia Roper, Anita Mary, Lester Ransfield, Simon Parsons, Mauricio Benega and Robyn Morrison.

I must admit I am not familiar with all of these talented artists, but I thoroughly recommend you came along and see what they have created. The exhibition goes until Sunday June 14.

There are too many artists to be able to give them their due this time, but I will mention a few. I greatly admire Roger Morris (REMO), who uses his art as a political/humanitarian vehicle to discuss his opposition to the



Marrianne Muggeridge's Te Mouna Ki Te Moana (From Mountain to Sea). Her creative work graces any dwelling.

overseas military events that have caused much needless destruction and misery to so many people. He is especially concerned about the genocide in Gaza and the uncalled for invasion and bombing of Iran and Lebanon. One of such works is pictured here with Roger beside the work, which is entitled the Icing on the Cake. The word icing refers to the layers of deceit and militarism that underpin so many aggressive actions. Another outstanding artist

is Marianne Muggeridge who has twice won the Adam Portrait Award. Her eye-catchingly compelling Te Mouna ki te Moana (From Mountain to Sea), which is a screen print (one of a limited edition), based on a recent painting. I love the admixture of appealing, swirling colours.

Paul Hutchinson is another exceptional artist who has been a winner at the Taranaki

National Art Awards. He is pictured with, Komene Road, his characterful oil painting of a local setting.

The full name of 67 Carthew Street is Momo Toi Local Art Gallery Creative Learning Centre, which reflects that they have so much more on offer including crafts and even courses, such as the recent paper mache workshop for children. On sale are such items as honey, sauces,

clothes (new and pre-loved), greeting cards, gemstone jewellery, pottery, mini art and so much more.

Keep in touch with Momo Toi. Their email is momotoi789@gmail.com and talk to Curator Justine Francis. In the meantime mark down the last date of the exhibition (Saturday June 15) and make sure you don't miss out experiencing this excellent display.



Roger Morris with his Icing on the Cake an intricate expose of the unwarranted attacks on such overseas nations as Iran and Lebanon.

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Talented artist Paul Hutchinson with his thoughtful oil painting of a local setting entitled Komene Road.

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The Ministrels in Opunake

Fresh from a sell-out show at the Playhouse with big brother Wayne in Mason Brothers, Paul is bringing his guitar and voice back to town next week with his other duo.

The Ministrels are Paul and Wynne Bowers-Mason, who first sang together when they were at university.

They are an acoustic duo who perform easy listening music, mostly from when they were growing up in the 60s, 70s and 80s. And their venue will be the regular Friday music night at Greencow Burger Company for a one-off show on the 29th.

The couple have previously presented a secular concert of songs by 60s group The Seekers at their church base in Opunake, St Barnabas Anglican Church, and it's only recently that they have given themselves a name as



Wynne and Paul Bowers-Mason.

The Ministrels. Their name is a tricky combination of minstrels and ministers, and

they like to point out that the two words originally had the same meaning – servants. They transition easily between those different genres.

Next week, expect a few Seekers songs again, some

Carpenters and Simon and Garfunkel, a bit of Andrew Lloyd Webber, some Celtic folk music, or as they would say, "Anything that suits our voices." Come along for a relaxed evening of sweet songs.



A musical night

Pat Dudley entertaining with some well known favourites at Greencow Burger Co in Opunake on Friday night May 8.

Despite the atrocious weather outside, some patrons braving the wind and rain continued onto Opunake's Lakeside Playhouse to hear Wayne and Paul Mason the Mason Bros in their sell out concert.

In all a lovely way to wind down after a busy week.

Easy listening acoustic music from the 60s, 70s and 80s played by Paul (Mason Bros) and Wynne



The **Ministrels**

Paul and Wynne Bowers-Mason

Greencow Burger Company
Tasman St, Opunake
6pm, Friday 29th May

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NEW ZEALAND

Laughter and music at Opunake Players

Opunake Players are thrilled to announce that local music group "Tuesday Birds" will be performing at the Lakeside Playhouse along with the two one act plays currently in rehearsal, "Snip," directed by Alexandra MacBeth, and "Bonking James Bond," directed by Sammie Allison. Both plays are written by New Zealand playwright April Phillips.

"Tuesday Birds" consists of Bert Treffers, guitar and vocals, and Stephanie Mackenzie, vocals. This talented duo, both from Opunake, have been gaining quite a reputation around Taranaki with their Country Folk sound and pleasant harmonies.

"We are looking forward



Bert Treffers and Stephanie Mackenzie.

to performing at the Playhouse," says Bert. "It's where we began our journey, where we first performed. Our spiritual home if you will."

"Tuesday Birds," so named because they usually rehearse on Tuesdays, will perform a bracket of well-crafted original songs.

As a teaser for the one acts, I can do no better than quote the blurbs provided. "Snip". Franks's wife wants him to have a vasectomy. His life won't be worth living unless he gets the snip. What would a real man do?

"Bonking James Bond". A warm-hearted comedy about Betty who, having just discovered her husband is having an affair, will do anything to save her marriage, even if it means dipping into fantasy and enlisting the help of a secret

agent.

Performance details. Lakeside Playhouse, Layard Street Opunake. All dates, June, beginning at 7.30. Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th, tickets \$30. Thursday 18th, Saturday 20th, Sunday 21st, Wednesday 24th, Thursday 25th, Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th tickets \$35. Note there is no Friday 19th performance. Tickets now on sale at Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration.

"Tuesday Birds", Bert Treffers and Stephanie Mackenzie, will be performing some of their own songs at the Lakeside Playhouse in conjunction with the one act plays, "Snip" and "Bonking James Bond". See the article for booking details.

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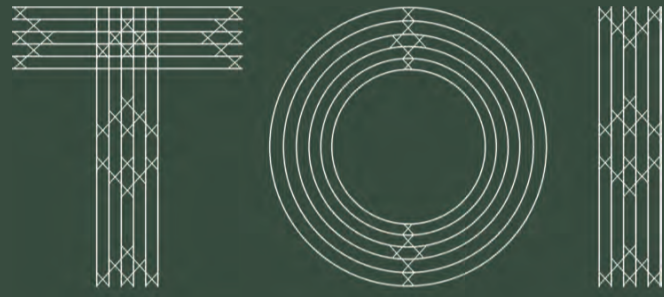
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Come and meet with us and find out how to register, apply or complete reports.

No appointment necessary

Where: Opunake Library, 43 Tasman Street



The exhibition before the exhibition

Art in the making

Visitors to NPDC's Puke Ariki will be able to watch, and talk with, artists at work through to 12 July, as the Temporary Gallery is converted into a working studio.

Guided by senior artist Wharehoka Smith alongside early-career artists Jodie Tipa and Dwayne Duthie, TUKU: Open Studio/ Emerging Maori Artists is a unique collaborative project, offering rare access for the public to see how new artworks take shape.

The open studio experience will prepare the museum's Temporary Gallery for the touring Kiingi Tuheitia Portraiture Award exhibition, opening at Puke Ariki on 25 July.

"TUKU is about inviting people into a collaborative, creative process, to see how shared knowledge and ideas evolve into finished works," says Puke Ariki Museum Director, Frith Williams. "It's designed to support the incoming portraiture exhibition, which celebrates ringtoi Māori and ongoing connections with tūpuna (ancestors). Wharehoka Smith, Jodi, and Dwayne will be responding to the connections they represent."

For the first six weeks, the artists will create, adorn, and enliven eight manaia (spiritual guardian figures). These figures will watch over the gallery and acknowledge the mana carried by the 40 tūpuna portraits featured in the Kiingi Tuheitia Portraiture Award exhibition.



Early-career artists Jodie Tipa (left) and Dwayne Duthie (right) will work under the mentorship of senior Taranaki artist Wharehoka Smith during TUKU: Open Studio | Emerging Māori Artists.

TUKU: Open Studio centres on the artists' process, mentoring, and experimentation in real time. Rather than presenting as a finished exhibition, the open studio invites visitors to return to see how the manaia artworks are developing. There may be times when the artists are not working onsite; however, the exhibition space will remain open for viewing.

Once completed, the eight manaia will remain in place and form part of the portraiture exhibition.

A programme of free public events supports the TUKU: Open Studio experience, including Tea with the TUKU artists, TUKU Waiata, Gelli Printing with Gabrielle Fawcner, Working with Textiles with Aleisha

Hall, zine-making, Studio Play with TUKU artists, and drop in Mess, Make, Play sessions. Further information about the events is on Puke Ariki's website: pukeariki.com.

Wharehoka Smith (Te Ātiawa, Taranaki, Ngāruahine, Pākehā) is a senior Taranaki artist whose large-scale works draw on customary forms and imagery to express perspectives grounded in te ao Māori. Wharehoka Smith has previously exhibited work at both Puke Ariki and Govett-Brewster Art Gallery.

Jodie Tipa (Kāi Tahu ki Moeraki) brings new focus to enduring patterns laden with ancestral significance in her large installation artworks. She explores

whakapapa (genealogy) and identity through abstract designs expressed in woven forms such as raranga and tukutuku panels. In TUKU: Open Studio, she envisages the newly created manaia guiding, protecting, and affirming active connections between past and present.

Dwayne Duthie (Taranaki, Te Ātiawa, Pākehā) is an interdisciplinary artist working in painting, sculpture, and video. Figures in his work gaze directly at the viewer, prompting reflection on the human condition, innocence, identity, power, and control. As part of TUKU: Open Studio, Duthie will explore Māori cultural concepts and their relationship to his practice and its future direction.

18 May - 12 Jul 2026

TUKU

OPEN STUDIO

EMERGING MĀORI ARTISTS

Watch three artists creating fresh works which embody the enduring principles of te ao Māori, in a collaborative open studio setting.

NPDC Puke Ariki

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- LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY
Every 2nd Wednesday
- ACTIVE + PHYSIOTHERAPY
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
- TARANAKI CHIROPRACTIC
Every Wednesday
- COUNSELLORS
Karen Anderson 021 213 8513
- MATTHEWS OPTOMETRISTS
1st Thursday of every month
- TARANAKI PODIATRY
2nd Wednesday of every month
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Monday, Tuesday & Wednesdays
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- FOOD BANK
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Facility Manager on 06 761 8488

Coastal Care offers for hire private, well-appointed room's for meetings, training opportunities & social gatherings.

What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish

Havelock Street, Opunake - St Pauls - every Sunday
9am: Coffee prior to service
9.30am: Service
Rahotu - Wesley - 11am first Sunday of the month

Okato Co-operating Parish

St. James, Oakura - Sunday Service every Sunday, 10.00am
St. Paul's, Okato - 1st and 2nd Sundays - Worship Service; 3rd Sunday - Communion Service and 4th Sunday at 7.00pm
4th Sunday at 2pm - Cake & Debate
Open church for silent reflection, Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4-5pm

Opunake Catholic Church

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

Other areas

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

141 Tasman St, Opunake
Sunday Services 9am
Communion 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday
Prayer & Praise 4th Sunday
Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church. Kaponga

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

Manaia Union Fellowship

Terou St. Manaia.

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

Friend & Fellowship Group

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

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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

Methodist Church Hawera

Regent Street 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

Manaia Community Church part of the Global Anglicans

Robert Gibson Hall, Manaia
1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays at 10 am
3rd Sunday Family Service at 4pm with shared meal to follow
Contact: Rev Phil Woodmass 027 424 8318

MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning: St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman

Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Adult classes, 7pm, Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake.

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.

Toi Foundation drop-in sessions: Opunake Library, 11am-3pm.

Okato Community Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5.30pm.

Sober and Drug Support Group: Coastal Care Meeting Room, 7pm

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.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Adult classes, 7pm, Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake
Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia: Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

FRIDAYS

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

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

Hawera Country & Variety Music Club: Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided. Ph 021 2622 166.

MAY 5 TO 30

Mother & Daughter - A Legacy: At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

MAY 13 TO 23

The Cottage: A production by Cue Theatre. At Cue Theatre, Inglewood.

MAY 15 TO JUNE 4

Precarious Progress: An Exhibition at Momotai Coastal Art Gallery, Okato.

MAY 23

Otukaia Reserve Trust AGM: Oaonui Hall, 11am.

MAY 24

Pungarehu Community Society Inc AGM: Pungarehu Hall, 11am.

MAY 29

The Minstrels: At Greencow Burger Co, 6pm.

JUNE 13

Community Garden Workshop: St Marys Community Garden, Hawera. 10am-2pm.

JUNE 16 TO 18

Bonking James Bond: A production by Opunake Players.

JUNE 24 TO JULY 4

Sister Act: A production by Hawera Rep. At the Hawera Memorial Centre.

from out of the blue art gallery news

Jane Theau is our Artist in Residence until 19th May. Jane is an environmental artist who has chosen textiles as her vehicles of expression partially because of their openness to touch. As Jane says

“Textiles are tactile and call to our skin and I encourage people to touch my work. The tactile aspect of my practice was formalised in doctoral research: Inciting the Site of the Soul: skin, touch and textiles in contemporary art. The investigation built on the suggestion by the philosopher Michel Serres that our soul is in our skin. One can live without sight, or hearing, or taste or smell, but without touch we simply are not. For this research I worked with horsehair, a product of the organ of touch. It is a fibre with beautiful and unique tactile

and visual attributes. This research led to an ongoing series of woven horsehair and wire sculptures that beckon the hand.”

Jane will share with us her experiences with the Australian Bushfires that ravaged her home community and some of the learnings that have influenced her art making.

Jane is talking to us 31st May from 2pm at 'from out of the blue studio gallery'. 18 Halse Place. Opunake. Please join us for her talk and refreshments. A free community event. All welcome.

At right: Jane Theau



PUBLIC NOTICES

Public notice of application for Club Licence

Section 101, Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

MANAIA GOLF CLUB INCORPORATED, Club House, Manaia, 4612, NZ has made application to the South Taranaki District Licensing Committee for the renewal of a CLUB licence in respect of the premises situated at 117, Bennett Drive, Manaia, Hawera, 4678, known as Manaia Golf Club.

The general nature of the business conducted (or to be conducted) under the licence is Club: sports.

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is (or is intended to be) sold under the licence are:
Monday-Sunday 9:00am to 2:00am

The application may be inspected during ordinary office hours at the office of the South Taranaki District Licensing Committee at 105/109 Albion Street, Hāwera, 4610.

Any person who is entitled to object and who wishes to object to the issue of the licence may, not later than 25 working days after the date of the first publication of this notice, file a notice in writing of the objection with the Secretary of the South Taranaki District Licensing Committee at:

The Secretary, South Taranaki District Licensing Committee, Private Bag 902, Hāwera, 4640.

No objection to the renewal of a licence may be made in relation to a matter other than a matter specified in section 131 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

This is the second publication of this notice.

This notice was first published on: 07/05/2026.

OKATO COMMUNITY MARKET

Every Wednesday

4 - 5.30pm

Hempton Hall

Veges, Baking, Op Shop, Chocolate, Crafts, Books, and more

Pungarehu Community Society Incorporated AGM

Sunday May 24
11am

Pungarehu Hall
6436 South Road

Agenda posted online and by request.
Contact N. Cliffe
pungarehucs@outlook.com



BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU, Adults, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm at Sinclair Events Centre.



The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on June 4. Contact us on 06 761 7016 to be part of it.

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THANKS NOTICE

The family of Pamela Harrison would like to thank all those who sent their condolences.

Your thoughts and kind words meant so much to us. It was heartening to hear how liked and respected Mum was.

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The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on June 4 2026.

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