

# OPUNAKE & COASTAL

Vol. 34 No 9, May 22, 2025 www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

> **Published every Thursday Fortnight**

Phone and Fax 761-7016 A/H 761-8206 for Advertising and Editorial ISSN 2324-2337, ISSN 2324-2345

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# No show for Opunake meeting

There was a disappointingly low turnout at the Opunake meeting held as part of the Local Water Done Well consultation.

"I'm absolutely staggered this room is not full," said Oeo farmer Rob Thwaites who was one of the three members of the public at the meeting held in the Stevenson Lounge at the Sinclair Event Centre on May 14. "I wanted to share coffee with every farmer on the coast. On 4 September I don't want to hear any grizzling."

The meeting was one of several being held to lay out the options the South Taranaki District Council had decided on for Local Water Done Well, the programme government put forward to replace the previous government's Three Waters scheme.

The Council has until September 3 to submit a water services delivery Public consultation plan. ends on May 30 and the Council decides on their plan on July 30. The Council had identified two options. Option A which the Council had voted as their preferred option would see South Taranaki forming a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) with the New Plymouth and Stratford district councils to manage freshwater and wastewater, while Option B



South Taranaki District Council chief executive Fiona Aitken speaking at the less well attended Opunake meeting.

would see South Taranaki continuing to manage these on their own. All councils would continue to manage their own stormwater systems.

In the Opunake and Coastal News Council Comment column (May 8 2025) Cr Bryan Roach said Local Water Done Well will be "the biggest decision to be made by your Council ever." It was therefore somewhat surprising that there was a low turnout at Opunake. There had been a strong turnout at Hawera the night before, and about 40 people turned out for a meeting at Kapuni the evening after. At the Opunake meeting Ian Box said he had been head water treatment operator in the Western Bay of Plenty where a Council-owned operation had been sold off. He was concerned that some of the same things which had happened there could happen here if services were amalgamated.

"Everything was taken over and there was a loss of local knowledge," he said. "We need to keep our own guvs here. Once you've lost

you've got to do you've lost it. If you lose your guys who have been with the Council for 5 years, 10 years, 15 years these guys have problems. Their legs are cut off, their sense of belonging is gone."

It was noted that the Council had voted 7-4 to have Option A as their preferred option. Mayor Nixon said he wanted to see a definite vote from the Council on July 30 on such an important matter as this and would be disappointed to see a hung Council. He had only twice before had to make a casting vote at a Council meeting he said.

There were questions asked about the quality of local water in Opunake. South Taranaki District Council group manager Infra structure services Herbert Denton acknowledged there that expertise about different had been longstanding times of year and what problems with the water

supply in Opunake and said the Council is working on addressing them.

At the Kapuni meeting Rob Thwaites said he would like to see a non-binding referendum with a third option added for the South Taranaki Council to join with Stratford, leaving New Plymouth out.

"For us to be a small fish in a big pond with the New Plymouth District Council we would get a hiding," he

Michael Joyce supported the idea noting the shared rural character of the South Taranaki and Stratford councils.

"If you amalgamate South Taranaki and Stratford you have a real alignment of communities of interest, while in New Plymouth you have a huge dominance of

Continued page 5



There was a good turnout at the Kapuni Hall for the **Local Water Done Well meeting.** 

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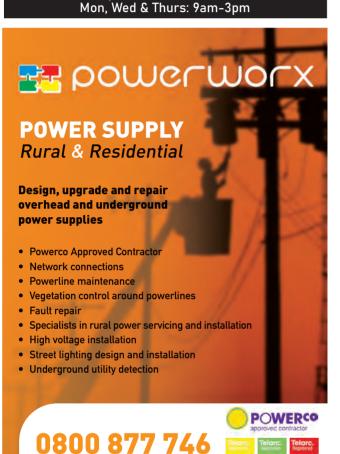


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www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Editor: Bernice McKellar

Journalists/Sales: Rolland McKellar, Bryan Kirk

Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith

Production/IT: Shane Butler

Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly

Registered as a newspaper.

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of New Zealand

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

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.

## Equal pay for equal work of equal value

While still reeling from the rolling decisions of the Coalition of Chaos (CoC), just when you thought they couldn't get any more devious or cold hearted, CoC had a dreadful Mothers' Day surprise for women working in the lowest paying jobs.

What kind of government denies women their legal right to fair pay to "save the budget?" We knew we could not afford billion-dollar tax breaks for the billionaires, but there you go. Tax breaks are more important than fair wages for Kiwis.

In a sneaky move, ignoring expert advice, without consultation, with no mandate, and rushed through with urgency, they overturned 33 pay equity claims which would have resolved gender-based pay discrimination for hundreds of thousands of women: primary, secondary, and early childhood teachers,

carers of the aged, Plunket nurses, librarians, and social workers.

Pay equity was meant to reverse decades of discrimination based on sex. Not the same as equal pay, same pay for same work, pay equity is about equal pay for work of equal value.

Equal value determined by comparing 14 characteristics of a job against another job in a male dominated domain with same or similar level of skill, knowledge, ability, responsibility, etc. required for the job.

It is estimated that pay equity would have improved women's pay cheques by \$150 per week. That money would have made life a little easier for families in an economy with falling wages, lack of jobs, high food prices, high rents, and high power costs.

CoC are lying when they say the recent changes to the Equal Pay Act are not about undoing progress but about making the process more robust. Once again, it's about selling Kiwis up the river in

favour of their donors. The only way these women, our mothers, aunties, sisters, and daughters will get fair treatment will be when we elect a new government.

> Mary Moore Manaia

## The Unborn

ANZAC Day has made me consider the value of life. Our society rests understanding appreciating this gift.

Men and women gave their lives to protect it in their homes, families and the vulnerable.

For us now to continue along this path to peace will sustain our hope to manage the ups and downs of each

Unborn children are like us (this side of the womb, just smaller), and holding on to that same hope.

pregnancies where abortion is considered, the option of adoption has more to offer; in safeguarding young lives, aiding those who are happy to adopt and acknowledging and supporting parents, for each life is valuable and unique.

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS** 

M.Hall Urenui.

## **New library** for Kaponga

A new problem has arisen as the South Taranaki District Council is wanting to shift Kaponga's library into Kaponga's new war memorial hall's supper room. To fix this library it is estimated to cost about \$160,000 and maybe more, yet this council has recently spent \$43 million on a huge multi-purpose library in High Street, which has left their town with many vacant shops.

To me, if this council can afford such a building like this, what on earth wrong of them building a brand new library for Kaponga?

Continued on page 4.

## **ADELPHOS**

Have you ever savoured the aroma of freshly baked bread? For thousands of years every culture has enjoyed some type of bread: baguette, Maori challah, ciabatta, bread, tortilla, pita, roti, sourdough, lavash.... The list goes on. Many breads have the simplest ingredients of flour, water, yeast and salt. Recipes can be creative and vary with different grains and other ingredients. Some cultures only use flour and water with no added yeast. As a home-baker and bread enthusiast I regularly bake a variety of breads. Even when my loaves have different results than expected, they are still very forgiving and enjoyable.

As New Zealanders we often enjoy sandwiches for lunch from the bread we buy at the supermarket. However ancient cultures didn't have it so good. Many different kinds of grains had to be strenuously hand grinded with a mortar and pestle or with hand mills or water mills. The Romans used animal-powered mills.

## **Bread**

Persians used windmills.

During the life of Jesus, barley bread was a regular part of almost every meal. Jesus referred to Himself as the very "bread of life" because He wanted to sustain and support His followers on a daily basis. Within 24 hours after miraculously feeding 5,000 hungry men with just two fish and five small barley loaves, Jesus made this promise to those who believe in Him: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever

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believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35, NIV).

Throughout the centuries, Christians have celebrated the Eucharist or Communion with bread and wine as a sign that they have new life in Jesus as the "bread" in their life. The cup of wine represents His saving blood for the eradication and forgiveness of our sins. His supernatural resurrection ensured the fulfilment of all of Jesus' thirty gospel promises for believers.

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:51, NIV). Today, God still invites a hungering world to have a living faith in Jesus who promises to be the daily "bread" in our lives.

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Continued from page 3

Absolutely nothing, while reminding this council people who live in Patea, Eltham, Kaponga and surrounding districts just as important as those who live in Hawera. Now wouldn't it be better for a temporary shift into the Kaponga's Halls supper room, then building them a new library? And how long would these various upgrades last and cost? Not very long at all.

I can remember when Dalvanius Prime from Patea was wanting to have

an outdoor entertainment centre in Patea and he also made plans for it. He took his ideas to this council for their permission, but he was turned down. If this venue had been built it would have become extremely popular, not only for readers, but for everybody else, so may I remind this council that this year we're having our local body elections so be somewhat careful. Remember, we the people can either vote councillors in

> Tom Stephens, New Plymouth





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## **Place names**



I see that Tahora, Tahora Saddle, Tahora Scenic and Mount Reserve Humphries place names have been changed by the Geographic NZBoard. Places where I spent a lot of fun days in the remote places in my youth, these places names, Tahora to Tahoraparoa, Tahora Saddle to Tahoraparoa Saddle, Tahora Scenic Reserve to Tahoraparoa Scenic Reserve and Mount Humphries to Whakaihuwaka Maunga.

Question, how vou pronounce Whakaihuwaka'? Question: who is to pay for name changes sign postings? Question, have you ever been to Tahoraparoa or climbed Whakaihuwaka Maunga/Mount Humphries? What is Whakaihuwaka Maunga/Mount Humpries history famous for? Is Whakaihuwaka Maunga like or unlike, our Taranaki Maunga believed to be sacred/spiritual making it a great place for all cultures to go for outdoor adventures?

> Ian McAlpine New Plymouth

## Leave our Maoridom alone

I am again supporting another great article by Mary Moore of Opunake as she's telling Mr David Hancock of Eltham his ideas won't be happening. Well, she's correct. Look Mr Hancock, our former PM John Key had three utterly stupid ideas:

1. Wanted the shift the Beehive to Auckland

Wanted to change our national flag one Union Jack and finally

Wanted country Aotearoa to become a republic.

Well, all his ideas failed miserably. He never tired again knowing we have two electorates, one for Maori and the other for everyone else, thanks to our British heritage as our treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840. You're beginning to remind me of David Seymour who's wanting to completely wipe out our Maori traditions, values, and language, which won't be ever happening at all as the treaty represents the treaty's principles, partnership and participation.

It seems you live in Eltham. I do know that many Maori and other cultures live in your town. Now why don't you talk to them face to face instead of hiding yourself within this newspaper.

Now remember, if you start criticizing Maoridom, you also are downing other cultures, as a part Maori myself, so if I was you I'd be extremely careful even talking about other cultures as it could easily backfire on

Tom Stephens, New Plymouth

## **Justice**

After watching on the Maori Channel on May 19 "Killing the Indian in the Child" and "We are still here" on April 20 and "The Stolen Children of Aotearoa" on March 31 it has prompted me to share my song after the Royal Commission, now disbanded rejected my claims against the Catholic entity and the government because they have both lost my records. There are thousands of us. I have been involved with the Commission for over 30

years, even getting a court call up in the next four and a half to five years time. That was in 2023 but when my doctor informed them of my physical prognosis I was then informed that they had lost my records. Case dismissed. No hope of redress.

The office of Carl Bastes MP tried very hard to negotiate on my behalf, especially Ella Borrows and Linda, only to be told personally by Carl Bates thdere is no more they can do. Lost, gone and forgotten.

The Archbishop Phillip Richardson, the only representative the on Commission was the only one who shared genuine empathy and compassion, but to no avail, so far.

By the end of the day the government is opting out of paying any redress to thousands of us by using the loss of records as an excuse to get out of any redress, thus making Luxon's apology empty.

He has apologised. That's an admission of guilt by both the government and faithbased institutions.

> Bruce Salisbury Manaja.

## The Life and Crimes suffered by **Bruce**

I was a little Maori pepi who's story must be told

I was taken by the Catholics when not even one day old.

My father tried to get me back, but the priests told him

You have been a naughty man. For that your boy must

For me the Naenae Boys Home was where I was kept My father went home empty, where he cuddled Mum and wept

Because I was kidnapped when not even one-day-old.

The Sisters of St John of God, Incorporated if you

Were the ones that stole me that brought my Dad down to his knee. He wanted his little boy

back, his pride the Catholics Taken by the Fathers in

frocks, when not even oneday-old. When stolen by the Catholics in 1955, through

the Grace of Adonia Today I'm still alive Running from his Throne

A couple with hearts full of love, to adopt and take me

home So for at last I'm not alone. On paper I have a new Mum and Dad, strangers to

me many I have had The priests and nuns up to the Pope stole my life, my family and all

My hope, knowing full well the pain they cause

With pagan Easters and Santa Clause my life has taken a

Different spin, mercy goodness and avoiding all sin.

The government of this country should hang their head in shame

Along with the Catholics they must share the blame Kidnapping is illegal,

that's what I've been told

Well that's what happened to me when not even oneday-old.

> Bruce Salisbury Manaia

## On this month in history: The German invasion of Crete

On 20 May, 1941 the invasion of Crete was under way. From 20 May until 28 May Alfred Clive Hulme took on the Germans, virtually alone. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his exploits. At one stage he donned a German uniform so he could get closer to the German soldiers.

He was born in Dunedin in 1911 and was a farm labourer before going overseas with he 23rd Battalion as a sergeant.

His son was Denny Hulme (born 1936) who, in 1967, became the first kiwi to win a World Formula 1 championship.

## **Apology**

We would like to correct an error in our coverage of the ANZAC day commemorations in Opunake in the last issue of the paper.

The Turkish flag was not raised at the Dawn Parade as stated in the article.

We apologise for this mistake.

Editor



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# No show for Opunake meeting

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the city over the rural areas.'

Council chief executive Fiona Aitken acknowledged that if two out of three councils wanted to go into the WSCCO there would have to be conversations on how this would have to be sorted out with the September 3 deadline

approaching. At Kapuni much of the meeting was taken up by concerns about the Waimate West and Kapuni water schemes, with farmers on the schemes having to pay more because of the goal of price harmonisation throughout the district.

Mayor Phil Nixon said these schemes also supply the towns of Manaia and Kaponga, so the water that

farmers used to hose down their cowsheds is also used for human consumption.

It was acknowledged that if the scheme became too expensive farmers would look to other sources including bores.

"We will move away from Waimate West if it gets too expensive," one farmer said. "It's not apples for apples, but at times you don't need apples. You can get them from the stream."

Neville Ardern said farmers are getting to the verge of what they could function at before they would have to look for alternatives.

Mayor Nixon said that as a dairy farmer himself he sympathized with them but said these schemes were worth continued support citing recent dry spells.



The same water source you use to hose down your cowshed may also be used for human consumption. DairyNZ.

"The Waimate West water scheme comes to my back boundary. We only have one well. I know it's going to cost more but I would love to be able to turn on the tap and have the water come through my gate."

Mayor Nixon said he was pleased with the number of submissions received so far and encouraged submitters

to say why they supported a particular option rather than just ticking the appropriate

## Housing market tips in favour of first home buyers

values interest and easing rates are creating a rare opportunity for first-home buyers to enter the New Zealand housing market, particularly in hard to access main centres like Auckland and Wellington, according to the latest QV House Price Index.

Home values rose 0.10%

in the three months to April to a new national average value of \$914,504, which is -1.33% lower than the same time last year.

Home values in New Plymouth have risen 1.24% over the past three months and are 1.27% higher than the same time last year. The average home value is now \$729,739. Meanwhile, the average home value in South Taranaki dipped 0.64% over the quarter to April to \$443,886 while Stratford values also dipped 1.35% over the past three months and the average home there is worth \$478,051.

QV property consultant, Danny Grace said "New Plymouth district is more stable with improved levels of activity and interest over the recent months, with more interest from buyers and agents feeling more confident. Stratford and South Taranaki are also stabilising, but not to the same level as New Plymouth. The quarterly gain in New Plymouth of 1.24% shows improved sentiment fueled mostly by the strength of first home buyer demand."

Across New Zealand's main urban areas: the Auckland region continues to soften, with home values down 2.89% year on year, and 0.08% over the past 3-months; the Wellington region dropped 4.11% year on year, and 0.50% over the quarter to April; Dunedin was down 0.04% year on year and -0.73% over the past three months; while Christchurch bucked the trend, rising 1.35% year on year and 0.88% in the April quarter; as did Hamilton up 0.36% year on year and 0.12% over the past 3-months.



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## **OPUNAKE FIRE SERVICE**

# Rescue helicopter arrives in Opunake

There was an Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade callout at midday on Tuesday 13 May.

After briefly stopping at an Opunake address, allowing fire officers to confer with a local man, the vehicle headed to Middleton's Bay where a man with an injured leg was uplifted by the ambulance which had shortly arrived on the scene. The loud noise of a Rescue Helicopter could be heard as it approached the



A stretcher can be seen in front of the rescue helicopter at the Sinclair **Electrical Event Centre in** Opunake.

township.

A couple of minutes after leaving Middleton's Bay the fire engine arrived at the Sinclair Electrical Event Centre carpark. On the grass nearby the Rescue Helicopter made a landing. The injured man was stretcher into the helicopter to be taken to the Taranaki Base Hospital for medical care.

# Great grandson inspired by exploits of Le Quesnoy veteran

The French town of Le Quesnoy has never forgotten the New Zealand troops who liberated them from the Germans a week before the Armistice was signed that ended World War I. They used ladders to scale the walls of the town which the Germans had held for four years. Among the first over the wall was Rifleman James Edward Craig of Manaia. The son of David and Bessie Craig of Sutherland Road, Manaia, James lied about his age when he enlisted on July 24 1916. He arrived at Plymouth in Devon on January 30 1917 and recounted his experiences at Le Quesnoy in an eight page letter to his mother Bessie which can be seen at



Rifleman James Craig.

Te Arawhata, the Liberation Museum at Le Ouesnoy.

After World War I James got married and dairy farmed at York Road Midhirst until 1941 when he shifted to Huiroa where he went sheep

and dairy farming until he and his wife Bertha retired to Stratford in 1967. Bertha died in 1979, and James died in 1986.

His exploits captured the imagination of his great great grandson William Kettlewell. His school had been doing some fund raising for the Opunake RSA which prompted him to look up his family history and the story of his great great grandfather.

So in the Easter school holidays, William, along with his sister Kourtney decided to collect and sell pinecones to donate to the Opunake RSA. They raised \$150 which William presented to Opunake RSA president Rodney Woods at the dawn service in Opunake on ANZAC day.



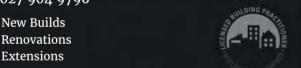
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William Kettlewell presents the money he raised to Opunake RSA president Rodney Woods.



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# ibrary fit for purpose argues local businessman

businessman Arnold Fitzgerald says the current Kaponga Library is fit for purpose and there is no reason why it can't continue to be based at its present location.

"The building is very sound and centrally located which is where we want to keep it," he says.

Recent leakage problems had prompted the South Taranaki District Council to suggest moving the library to the supper room of the Kaponga War Memorial Hall as one of two options for the future of library services in the town. The other one was to fix up the existing building on the corner of Victoria and Egmont Streets. At a public meeting in Kaponga there was strong local opposition to the suggestion of using the supper room citing the prospect of another empty building in town and the room not being able to be used for major events.

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (May 8 2025) South Taranaki District Council group manager community services Rob Haveswood said they had "heard loud and clear" that the community wanted more options and six of these would be presented when the South Taranaki District Council meets on May 26.

Arnold Fitzgerald says he can't see any reason why the library can't be fixed up. He has his own property company

properties from New Plymouth to Inner Wellington and carried out a survey of the building around May 6.

"It's really a storm in a teacup," says Arnold. "The building is 50 years old, and this has only happened over a very short duration. All the structural timber is still in very good order."

Rob Haveswood says the Council had budgeted \$100,000 for the library but the cost of fixing all the damage to the building including the roof, walls, windows and cladding was more likely to be around \$160,000. The costs of fixing up the library would involve more than just repairing the roof and would include such things as new windows, joinery, spouting and interior painting.

Arnold Fitzgerald says the main source of the leakage was on the north side where a "design feature" was removed when the library had been closed for earthquake strengthening.

"That was when the water problems occurred," says Arnold.

"Inspection of this section revealed it to be the point of entry for moisture that has subsequently damaged the interior," his survey reads. "Between the window lintel line to the floor, damage was evident."

"Closer scrutiny revealed critical design elements have been removed to facilitate the strengthening process," his survey reads. "It goes

beyond speculation suggest this alteration to the original design structure has had a direct bearing on the building's watertight status." He says the design feature on the northern side of the building was similar to the one on the building's southern (Victoria Street) side.

He noted "a warm, dry atmosphere" on entering the building from its southern (entrance) side.

"The eave structure or veranda if you will, clearly shows the protection afforded to the joinery and glass structure below, which can only be described as being in original condition," the survey reads.

On Monday he spoke to the Opunake and Coastal News from the Kaponga Library after it had been raining the previous day.

"Looking at the problem wall, it's actually dry," he

commented.

He says he comes from a background of considerable experience and mindfulness of The Building Research Association of guidelines Zealand's pertaining to these matters, and is getting builders to look over what he has come up with.

He sees the building as the right place for a library.

"We don't want to go into the supper room of the hall. The Plunket building has been suggested but I don't think any of them give the real visibility of the present site. It's a nice spot that's fit for purpose. I don't want it turned into a parking lot."

# Deferred until next funding round

Getting that passport photo before heading overseas is about to get more complicated so CoastalCare are looking at getting a passport photo machine.

On April 30 facility manager Aretha Macadam was at the Taranaki Coastal Community Board meeting at Oaonui speaking in support of the Coastal Taranaki Health Trust's application for \$5000 from the board's discretionary fund to get a Station Citizen machine.

"We have it on good authority that they're going to be tightening up passport photos," said Aretha. This is something she says that is happening around the world, hence the need for a new specialist machine.

"The standard of photo needs to be better," she says. Passport photos are currently taken at the Coastal Printers office, which is the only place in Opunake where passport photos can



Aretha Macadam with a brochure promoting the Station Citizen passport photo machine which CoastalCare have their eyes on.

be taken. Otherwise people wanting a photo would have to travel to New Plymouth, Hawera or Stratford to get it

"We do 150-200 passport photos a year and it's a big part of what the print office does," she says.

They also handle photos for other purposes including gun licences.

"It's a headache if people want overseas passports," said Aretha.

Board member Monica Willson declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion.

The board decided to defer a decision until the next funding round in July when more funding would be available. The board made a similar

decision with an application from the Pungarehu Community Society for \$7820 for painting the Pungarehu Community Swimming Pool.

"The pool is running fairly well and this will bring that beauty back to the pool a bit," Society president Nigel Cliffe told the board. It had been 50 years since they were last painted, and next year, with it being 75 years since the pool was first opened, they were hoping to hold an Open Day.

The pool had opened following concerns in the 1940s about the number of people drowning with a lack of swimming knowledge."

This year there had been a record 82 key sales.

"We love the aspect of this being a community pool," said Nigel.

The work was being planned for the end of November to the start of December







The Pungarehu Community Pool looking forward to another summer and marking 75 years next year.

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# Contract milkers deserve better protection

Sharemilkers Consultants' Contract Milkers Experience Survey makes for disturbing reading. The survey, which took place in December 2024, analysed the responses of 276 individuals working in the milking sector, 201 of whom are current contract milkers, equating to 12.8% of the New Zealand total.

What those contract milkers told the survey is deeply concerning; 43% of respondents report abusive behaviour from a farm owner, 72.7% reported having had a



BARBARA KURIGER MP TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

contract milking experience that caused a mental and/or financial setback, including

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Several contract milkers doing their best for the rural economy.

withheld payments, 82.5% of respondents reported this impacted their family situation or relationships, and 38.4% said they stayed in this situation because they were worried about where they would live if they left.

Why is this? Is this some hidden issue? Some deep malaise that the industry is

too frightened to talk about? Is it that respondents are often in remote situations and feel alone, isolated and vulnerable? If so, this survey has done the milking industry a great service in bringing this issue to light and should be applauded for that.

But I want to know more. I'll be working with the

lead author of the survey, Louise Gibson, to try to get to the core of the issue. Once there, I'll see what scope the Government, through Law, has to improve the legal protection of contract milkers. They deserve it just about every employee sector has substantial legal protection and welfare agencies looking after their interests—contract milkers should have the same.

In the interim, what can we do? Well, Farm Advisors—and most farms have access to them—may be one source of help. Another is an approach to the Rural Support Trust (0800 787 254), which is set up explicitly to look after those working in the retail sector. Sadly, the survey indicated that less than a quarter of respondents had used this service. It's there, please use it.

I encourage each of you to collaborate with the relevant authorities to pave the way for substantial reform. Together, let's ensure that no contract milker feels isolated or vulnerable again. The time for change is now.

If you are affected by this issue and would like to read the survey in full, feel free to contact my office, Kuriger. Inglewood@Parliament. govt.nz, and I'll send you a reply.

Barbara Kuriger, MP for Taranaki-King Country

# Luxon is taking money out of women's pockets just to make his Budget add up



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GLEN BENNETT LIST MP

Without any warning or consultation, the Government has forced through a law change that will stop thousands of women from getting the pay they deserve. It's a cynical move, rushed through Parliament because National can't make their numbers work. Their priorities couldn't be clearer: they're handing out tax breaks to tobacco companies and making women pay the price.

For generations, hundreds of thousands of New Zealand women have fought tirelessly for equal pay for work of equal value. That men are paid more for doing work of equal value is well documented. Right now, women earn around 92 cents for every dollar a man earns. The gap gets even wider in female-dominated professions, where work has been historically undervalued.

But we were making progress - real progress. For nurses who care for us, teachers who shape our children's futures, midwives who bring life into our communities and support workers who uphold dignity for those in need. These women form the backbone of our society.

Instead of building on the work of successive governments and closing the gender pay gap, National has turned its back on them. Our nurses, teachers, care and support workers deserve better.

I know many of you from Ōpunake to New Plymouth, right up to Mōkau, share my outrage at National's decision to take money out of women's pockets. Make no mistake: this Government is choosing to underpay and undermine women>s pay into the future. Equal work deserves equal pay. It's time Christopher Luxon and National MPs explained why they believe women should be paid less

than men.

Labour stands proudly for pay equity. We're standing up now, so our daughters and future generations, won't have to.

Glen Bennett MP Chief Whip

## Your Taranaki MPs are here to help you.

Barbara Kuriger MP for Taranaki-King Country

barbara.kurigermp@parliament.govt.nz barbarakuriger.national.org.nz/



## **David MacLeod** MP for New Plymouth

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## Full Gospel Business Men's breakfast

On Saturday, May 10, 2025 at Te Popo Gardens, Midhirst, 38 men attended a very social and memorable breakfast meeting to encourage us in our faith and simply have a good time together. The breakfast was arranged by our FGBMF coordinator Barry Kowalewski and Les and Amanda who were our hosts and owners of the 34-acre year round garden paradise and woodland retreat. Vaughan Morresey a "well-known" and colourful Stratford "boy" was our riveting guest speaker. He spoke his faith into our hearts and lives.

But, first, it was an exciting time to meet other men who have a living faith and other interests and hobbies. Most studies worldwide indicate that men tend to be more socially isolated, have fewer



The Full Gospel Business Men's Breakfast in full swing with good Christian cheer.

close friends and smaller and fewer social networks than women. Our farming com-

munity was well represented, and, farmers in rural New Zealand sadly have a higher rate of suicide than in urban areas. So, Vaughan gave us a very encouraging tractorplowing story I'm sure we'll all remember.

Vaughan courageously shared some painful memories of his well-known violent Stratford family background and wounding as a child. Long-term and violent male parenting and rejection led to a life of drug addiction, guns and crime until his mid-thirties, along with his brother. Only through the grace of God and a few other "weird and annoying Jesus people" did he come to freedom from the bondage of his past. His heart-breaking stories were meant to contrast to the final deliverance encounters the Lord had in his life.

His freedom in Jesus Christ didn't come through religion or a church pastor. Vaughan emphasized that His relationship with Jesus was a direct one-on-one personal encounter that finally freed him from an inescapable life of addiction, violence and most likely his own death. He didn't have any knowledge of the Bible at the time: only His encounter with Jesus. Now Vaughan's ministry is to share his miraculous testimony and God's saving love.

Vaughan is married to a wonderful and beautiful wife and has raised three children as a responsible father; he never imagined this would be possible in his former life. His brother also miraculously encountered Jesus shortly after Vaughan did. He ended saying, "Love God, love people, love his Word." He left us as happy chappies and encouraged us to "hang out" with Jesus as he does.

**Bob Francesco** 

# Expanded urgent care services for Opunake under Budget 2025

Access to urgent and after-hours healthcare being strengthened across rural and coastal including communities Ōpunake, as part of Budget 2025, New Plymouth MP David MacLeod says.

"For people in places like Ōpunake, accessing healthcare can be tough -

especially after hours or on weekends. That's why this investment is so important.

"Budget 2025 invests \$164 million over four years to improve urgent and after-hours services across the country. As part of this, Opunake has been identified as one of more than 70 rural and remote

communities set to benefit from improved access to care.

"These services include 24/7 on-call, in-person clinical support, better access to tests and checks, and more locally available urgent medicines - so people can get the right care closer to home.

"This is about reducing the pressure on stretched departments emergency and giving local health teams the tools they need to keep caring for their communities.

"The rollout will take place over the next two years, with new services introduced in partnership

with local providers and community tailored to needs.

National-led "This Government is investing more in health than ever before - with a record \$16.68 billion across three Budgets. For towns like Ōpunake, that means better services, shorter

times, and stronger local

"This is a major step toward a healthcare system that works for everyone, ensuring all New Zealanders - including those in the New Plymouth electorate - have access to timely, quality urgent care, no matter where they live."



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# "Something needs to happen" on Manaia facility

The lack of a community facility continues to be a source of frustration in Manaia.

**10** 

In 2016 the Manaia and District War Memorial Hall was closed after failing to meet earthquake strengthening standards. In 2018 a similar fate befell the Manaia Sports Complex. Since then questions have been raised about whether either or both should be strengthened or something entirely new put in their place.

A solution appeared to be at hand when Te Korowai o Ngaruahine said they wanted a base in Manaia. The suggestion was made as to whether they and the South Taranaki District Council could work together towards having a shared facility. There were discussions about the viability of a business case, but on April 14 the Council voted to cease work on the shared facility citing difficulties in



Mary Moore. "We've had no information at all when it's going to start, just nothing."

transferring land ownership.

Mayor Phil Nixon says
Council officers have been
instructed to come up with
plans for a standalone
facility as a priority. He
says he understands the
frustrations of the people of

Manaia and concedes the

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process has taken too long.

Meanwhile the delay continues to frustrate locals.

"The Council is just mucking us around," says Manaia Community Services Group president John Close. "It's been going on for years now. Come on. They keep blaming us for not making our minds up, but we know what we want. A lot of money has been wasted on research and they've done nothing. Something needs to happen, and it needs to happen soon."

He was asked whether the hall or sports complex should be given priority.

"I myself would prefer to see the sports complex up and running and brought up to an earthquake standard and then work on the town hall.

"The building is old but it's not as if it's falling down. They could have had that up and running by now. That should have happened long ago."

He said the complex needed to be open for the kids of the town, and that without the complex there were no facilities for showers after sport events.

This was particularly important with Manaia due to host Taranaki's defence of the Ranfurly Shield against Thames Valley on July 19.

The complex had also been a popular place to hold functions like 21st birthday parties.

"My father had a couple of parties there," he said.

Mary Moore had said that if the facility issue was sorted out she would bake a cake

"We've had no information at all on when it's going to start, just nothing. It's dispiriting.," she says.

"Phil Nixon says they want to get on to things straight away, but what does that mean? Are they going to tear the hall down? Are they going to reinforce to meet earthquake standards? I guess we are just going to have to be surprised.

"I think people are untrusting of council. And a little bitter. A wait of ten years and seven years and no result to date. We know they are working on the hall and the sportsplex alreadytheir words, but we can't have info as to time frames, budget, nor amenities. I don't understand why things are so secretive with council. Lovely people though they

"Because we don't have the facilities, we can't have yoga classes, coffee chat groups, or whatever. It would be so great to be able to host these types of events. The community needs occasions to come out into the community, to see their neighbours, make new friends. And the community needs occasions for people from outside of Manaia to come out into our community.

"I am hoping now that Council will catch up on caretaking the playground at Row Park, and giving Manaia some well deserved attention."

Te Oti Katene is also missing the use of a community facility.

"We want it open so that we can do the things with our kids like we used to do," together as well," he said.

On the streets of Manaia, Liam Epae says he wasn't surprised it had taken a long time to decide what to do. He said that Quinton Robinson had been "stepping up for youth in the community," but with the sports complex not being available it wasn't happening "to its full potential."

"As for the hall I've never been there."

David Vincent says the hall should be up and going for the community to be able to hold functions there, but he can see why there has



Te Oti Katene,"We want it open."

he says. He says the sports complex had been used for outdoor sports while the hall had been used for sports that are played inside.

"They kept the community

been a delay.

"If it's an earthquake building it takes a while to come to a decision as you've got to put in the steel and the concrete."

# On this month in history Jean Batten completes a record flight from England to Australia.

On 23 May 1934, on her third attempt, New Zealander Jean Batten completed a solo flight from, England to Australia in 14 days 22 hours and 13 minutes, landing in Darwin.

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# Spending on natural hazards heavily skewed to recovery over resiliance

by IAG New Zealand shows that the Government has spent at least \$19 billion on responding to natural hazards since 2010, and a further \$14 billion through its public insurance schemes.

When the \$31 billion spent by private insurers is included, the total cost of natural hazards since 2010 is \$64 billion. Adjusted for inflation this equates to an average of \$5.5 billion per year, of which the Government's share is about

IAG New Zealand CEO Amanda Whiting says: "This research highlights again the significant financial cost that natural hazards have on New Zealanders, and the urgent need to reduce their impacts.

"These costs represent a drag on our economy and work against the growth



Amanda Whiting CEO of IAG.

financial required to support the needs and aspirations of New Zealanders."

The research also shows that 97% of the

strength Government's expenditure on responding to recovering and from natural disasters, with the response to the Canterbury earthquakes, Kaikoura

Island weather events of 2023 dominating spending. Only 3% was spent on risk reduction and resilience.

The total amount spent will in fact, be much higher. This is because this research does not include significant spending by local government, such as the \$8.2 billion that the Christchurch City Council is projected to ultimately spend on recovery in response to the Canterbury and Kaikoura earthquakes. It also does not include the wider social and economic costs which Deloitte suggests could account for at least 50% more cost1

Amanda Whiting adds: "It is clear we need to do more to reduce natural hazard risk, especially when we know that there is a strong case for doing so. International research shows that a dollar invested in risk reduction can reduce spending on response and recovery by four dollars.

"Reducing natural hazard risk is as much about improving the decisions we make as the money we spend to improve the safety and resilience of our homes, businesses and infrastructure.

"It is also clear from this research that New Zealand has an incomplete understanding of the costs of its natural hazards. Fixing this will enable better decisions to be made on when, where and how to reduce risk. This is becoming even more important as natural hazard events increase in frequency and severity.

"We need to prioritise improving how the actual

costs of natural hazard events are recorded by central and local government, so that we know how much we are spending, on what and where. Alongside this, we must quickly move to understand the underlying trends, regularly model the expected financial impact of natural hazards, set relative benchmarks and closely monitor changes in risk over time.

"IAG continues to invest significantly in data and its application to improve decision making and is working with government and other partners to put this capability to use in improving how natural hazard risk is managed. This is a priority for us and must be a priority for New

## Prime Minister's new Chief Science Advisor and Council revealed

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has announced the new Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Dr John Roche.

Members of the newly established Prime Minister's Science and Technology Advisory Council have also been revealed, with a mandate to advise the government on science and innovation funding priorities, focusing economic benefits.

Dr Lucy Stewart, Co-President, New Zealand Association of Scientists,

"I congratulate Dr John Roche and the new members of the Prime Minister's Science and Technology Advisory Council. Dr Roche is an unexceptionable choice for the position of Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor with extensive experience in government and as part of the existing network of Chief Science Advisors. The rest of the Council are all accomplished individuals, and Sir Peter Gluckman is of course a former Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor.

"However, taken as a group they indicate the Government is committed to its focus on science and research solely as boosters

for the economy - and not only that, but the economy as it presently exists. The original Terms of Reference for the Council included the importance of expertise in Mātauranga Māori, which mentioned nowhere in the biographies of the appointees.

"There is a very significant focus on the dairy industry, with half the committee having backgrounds in this area. While important to the country's economy it is fair to say it does not, nor should it, make up half of our science and research capability and focus.

remain extremely concerned about Government's commitment to true public good and stewardship science, described in the first Science

System Advisory Group report – or even fundamental 'blue sky' research which we know ultimately supports all other areas of research.

"It is also very concerning

that it took nearly a year for Dr Roche to be appointed, when Professor Dame Juliet Gerrard's five-year term was set from the outset. The delay speaks to a lack of

interest by this Government in science and it remains to be seen how much advice they actually choose to take."

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# Grey Power support for status quo

Local Water Done Well (LWDW) is a programme of changes introduced by the Government in February 2024 that replaced what was previously known as Three Waters Reform. LWDW recognises the importance of local decision-making and flexibility to determine how water services will be delivered in the future. STDC have arrived at two options for management and control of water services in the South Taranaki region. Stormwater services are not included in the proposed model as they work closely with many other services and activities including roading and parks. They also directly impact land management and growth planning, therefore, for option 'A' it is proposed to keep stormwater separate from the other services -at this stage. The current proposal for a joint Taranaki water service delivery model is for Potable water (drinking) and Wastewater (sewage) services only.

The STDC are proposing two options for managing water going forward over the next 30 plus years.

Option 'A'. A joint councilcontrolled organisation that is owned by the South Taranaki, Stratford and New Plymouth district councils collectively that will control the management of wastewater and potable water within the Taranaki region.

Option 'B'. Retain the many concerns arising with

delivery of services of all 3x waters within STDC (also known as an in-house business unit, or status quo).

The proposed preferred option of STDC is option 'A', however not all councillors agree.

How option 'A' would work: Each council would be a shareholder in the new jointly owned organisation titled Joint Taranaki Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO). They would create a committee to oversee the organisation made up of representatives from each council plus Iwi. It is proposed the joint committee comprise representatives from Iwi: 3, STDC: 3, SDC: 2, and NPDC: 4. The committee would appoint an independent Board of Directors. The Board would be responsible for ensuring the organisation meets the expectations and levels of service set by the Councils. Consumers within the region will pay water charges to WSCCO at a rate set by WSCCO that will ensure all costs are covered across the region.

STDC have asked for community feedback on their proposal to form a joint venture (option 'A'). This proposal involves relinquishing all management and control of Wastewater and Potable Water but retaining control of Stormwater. There are

nis proposal.

In previous years STDC increased rates which was justified by upgrading the 3-waters in South Taranaki and also included the Inaha and Waimate West water schemes. This work was completed, and the council has maintained a good standard of the infrastructure since this time. Rate payers in the district paid for this upgrade along with the ongoing maintenance. Proposal 'A' takes cost control of water, and all consumer protection away from STDC.

2/ NPDC have not made it a priority to upgrade their 3-waters infrastructure over the years and have been known over recent time to have put raw sewage into the ocean whereby polluting the local beaches. They have also regularly flooded populated areas with leaking water pipes, and the storm water system reportedly cannot cope with the growth of the area.

3/ It is proposed this new entity that (WSCCO) will have its own management team operating premises which introduces additional salaries and overhead costs to the consumer (rate payer) to what currently exists. In addition, the Board would be responsible for ensuring a viable operating model (whatever the cost), but as each council still retains ownership of these assets it will therefore be accountable and exposed to any risk. Option 'A' is viewed as an exercise of adding cost, bureaucracy, and risk with no added value to South Taranaki consumer. So why impose another cost on local ratepayers by supporting the upgrade of assets of other councils within Taranaki?

4/ It has been suggested that a joint venture will give benefits-of-scale by allowing more purchasing power for capital expenditure items such as pipes etc. This may prove to be correct -but is not guaranteed.

5/ It is assumed that 3-waters make up approximately  $\square$  of assets of STDC. Based on this assumption, relinquishing 2-waters would equate to approximately ¼ of the current asset being removed from their control and management. To maintain an economy-of-scale related to Opex budget, STDC must also reduce current staff numbers by 25%. Retaining

current staffing levels for management and control of the single remaining entity (Stormwater) is simply not economic. The only reference STDC makes regarding current staffing levels for Option 'A' is "Potential impact on council staff and other council business units". Nowhere does STDC mention a reduction of staff.

The salaries of all STDC employees are structured on the size of the asset and the population within that rohe. Removing ¼ of the operational asset base, and a 25% reduction in staffing numbers, will significantly change the category by which their salaries are currently structured. This would be another setback for the growth of STDC.

In the bigger scheme of things, amalgamation of council assets into a joint venture with two other Taranaki Councils is not seen as beneficial for the South Taranaki District. It takes total control away of South Taranaki's Wastewater (sewage) and Potable Water (drinking) systems, but it does not minimise any risk as the council still retains ownership of these subjects. It also does not look after the welfare of staff within council and will create unemployment within our rohe. The primary focus of STDC should be on providing for the rate payers within the South Taranaki district and to not get involved with exposures or risk outside of this area which is outside of STDC control.

Therefore, Option 'A' proposal cannot be justified or allowed to proceed at this time, and it is strongly recommended that STDC stays with Option 'B' (status quo).

Noel Baylis: On behalf of Grey Power South Taranaki.

# Broken Pieces had something for everybody.



Young cast members showing off their dancing skills and colourful costumes. Well done to Opunake Players and all who participated on both sides of the stage. Your musical was memorable.







Our next issue will be published on Thursday 5 June. We look forward to your contributions.

Our deadine is Monday 2 June, but even earlier puts a smile on our faces.

# Getting on their bikes for a good cause

On ANZAC weekend about 40 riders got on their bikes to raise money for the Opunake ambulance.

Ulysses Club members from around the country took part in rides this year to raise money for Hato Hone St John. In Taranaki about 40 riders took part and raised \$870. Sarah Jarvis from Hato Hone St John said the money they raised will go to Opunake's ambulance operations.

Suzy Pentelow who is vicepresident of the Taranaki branch and is on the national committee of the Ulysses Club said this was the first



Taranaki Area Operations Manager for Hato Hone St John Blair Walton receives the donation from the Taranaki branch of the Ulysses Club of New Zealand.

time in 20 years the Taranaki ride. She hopes to make it an branch had done a charity

annual event.



The many cheerful members of the Ulysses Club.

The ride which was held on April 26 began in New Plymouth and went round the maunga finished in New Plymouth with a sausage

sizzle. Riders donated \$20 to take part, although Suzy says some gave more.

Future plans for Taranaki Ulysses riders include another national ride in September for Motorcycle Awareness Month and a ride in November for Women's Refuge.

# Greenpeace slams Wildlife Act amendment

the Wildlife Act which Director-General of Conservation to grant companies permission to kill kiwi and other native wildlife if they get in the way of projects like roads, mines or dams has been passed under urgency.

Greenpeace says it's the latest escalation in the Luxon Government's war on nature and is calling for the immediate repeal of the amendment and for the Government to strengthen, not weaken, protections for the country's endangered wildlife.

"This will go down in history as the moment the New Zealand Government decided that roads and coal mines needed protection from skinks and kiwi, instead of the other way around," says Greenpeace spokesperson Gen Toop.

"We're talking about our national icon - the kiwi being put on the chopping block so a company can build a road faster. That is not who we are as a country."

"We are a country revered internationally for bringing species like the kākāpō back from the brink of extinction. But we're about to go from revered to reviled for making a law explicitly allowing big business to kill endangered wildlife for profit," says

All three stages of the Bill were heard under urgency with Greenpeace likening the move to Trumpian style politics.

"Legalising killing kiwi is Trumpian style environmental vandalism. The Luxon Government clearly knows how deeply unpopular this is. It's why they have rushed it through parliament under urgency with no chance for public input or scrutiny," says Toop.

According to the latest Environment Aotearoa report, nearly 80% of the country's native birds are threatened with extinction or at risk of becoming threatened, along with 94% of indigenous reptiles. There's only one native frog left out of 14 that is not threatened with extinction.

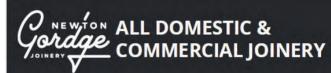
"Luxon's Government just signed a death warrant for native wildlife already on the brink of extinction. And once they're gone, they're gone for good," says Toop.

"This Government have been waging a war on nature since day one. They've steamrolled environmental protections with the fasttrack approvals act, they're trying to reverse the oil and gas ban, they plan to dismantle the RMA, and now they have literally legalised killing kiwi."

The law change comes after a landmark High Court decision in the case of the Environmental Law Initiative v The Director-General of the Department of Conservation (DOC)

and others. challenged DOC's decision to grant Waka Kotahi permission to kill wildlife during construction of the Mt Messenger Bypass in Taranaki.

The Judge ruled that the permit was unlawful, upending years of DOC's practice of granting permits which authorised the killing of wildlife under the Wildlife Act.





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It is easy being green if you shift your pollution overseas

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Democratic countries tend to be rated as 'greener' or more environmentally friendly, compared to other countries, but this may be because they're shifting the burden of their own pollution overseas, according to Swiss and UK scientists. The team analysed 161

and 2015, looking at links between democracy and 'offshoring' pollution. They found democratic countries tended to offshore environmentally-damaging products and processes more than other countries, which reduces local greenhouse

gas emissions. Emissions for more democratic nations were over one metric ton per capita lower when increasing offshoring, pollution compared to less democratic nations. The findings suggest democracies cannot consider themselves to occupy the moral high ground over

autocracies when it comes to being green, the authors say, and these countries should environmental develop polices that focus on their global, rather than local, environmental impact.

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# New cafe and restaurant opens in Oakura

Oakura is set to welcome a flavourful new addition to its dining scene with the opening of The Curry Caffe on May 23, located in the building that formerly housed Italian restaurant Toret. The new café and restaurant is run by father and son duo Elam and Ash Ramola, offering a unique fusion of traditional Indian cuisine alongside classic New Zealand and European

Elam brings over 35 years of culinary experience to the venture. Most recently, the pair ran the Eden Café and Restaurant in Bell Block, where Ash managed frontof-house operations. Before that, Elam spent eight years as the chef at Shamiana in New Plymouth's Centre City food court. Originally from India, Elam has lived and worked in New Zealand for the past 23 years, honing his skills in kitchens around the country.

Starting their own business is a new and exciting chapter for the Ramolas. "We're really looking forward to this challenge," says Ash. The Curry Caffe's extensive menu, displayed in the window prior to opening,



Elam (left) and Ash outside their new business in Oakura.

has already drawn interest from curious passersby.

Indian curries—including customer favorites and In addition to a variety of custom dishes on requestthe menu features Kiwi staples like fish and chips, steak, and pasta.

Among the highlights are traditional Indian sweets such as gulab jamun, and tempting desserts like their

Road—strawberry and chocolate ice cream with berry compote, chocolate fudge sauce, cream, nuts, and wafers.

The café also offers cabinet food, a full range of coffees (with dairy, soy, and almond milk options), teas, smoothies, milkshakes, and cold drinks. The Go Green Booster smoothie is billed as a revitalizing treat.

The Curry Caffe can seat about 40 guests, including a main dining area, a rear section with seating for 12, and a larger group table that accommodates ten. While the premises remain largely unchanged, the atmosphere is welcoming and friendly-something the sociable Ramolas are known for.

Ash, a keen football player with an interest in surfing, says community connection is key. "We want to welcome everyone so we can move forward together," he says. His father Elam, a dedicated and detail-focused chef, also enjoys gardening in his downtime.

The Curry Caffe will be open daily from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm and again from 4:30 pm to around 9:00 pm. They are currently hiring 2-3 staff members, including baristas and front-of-house roles.

Whether you're craving a butter chicken or a classic steak, The Curry Caffe aims to offer something for every palate-right in the heart of Oakura.

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It is easy being green if you shift your pollution abroad Democratic countries tend to be rated as 'greener'

or more environmentally compared other countries, but this may be because they're shifting the burden of their own pollution overseas, according to Swiss and UK scientists. The team analysed

161 countries between 1990 and 2015, looking at links between democracy

and 'offshoring' pollution. They found democratic countries tended to offshore environmentally-damaging products and processes more than other countries, which reduces local greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions for more democratic nations were over one metric ton per capita lower when increasing offshoring, pollution compared to less democratic

nations. The findings suggest democracies cannot consider themselves to occupy the moral high ground over autocracies when it comes to being green, the authors say, and these countries should environmental polices that focus on their global, rather than local, environmental impact.



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The Opunake Playcentre has just completed its first 60 years.

# Opunake Playcentre celebrates 60 years

The Ōpunake Playcentre proudly celebrated its 60th anniversary on Sunday May 17 with a heartfelt afternoon gathering that brought together old and new members of the community. The celebration was a wonderful blend of nostalgia,

connection, and joy, as attendees shared cherished memories and reflected on the rich history of this beloved institution.

Guests gathered at the Playcentre, where attendees reminisced about their experiences, from playtime

antics to lifelong friendships, creating a tapestry of memories that highlighted the importance of the Playcentre in their lives.

A significant moment of the celebration was the unveiling of a Life Members plaque, honouring their time and effort to building and nurturing the Playcentre. This gesture served as a reminder of the contributions that have shaped the Playcentre into the welcoming community hub it is today.

those who have dedicated

Hemisphere where the most wastewater treatment plants

The event witnessed a great turnout, with attendees of all ages coming together to celebrate. Past members noted the changes to the centre while delighting in the nostalgia of what has stayed the same. Life member Nora Hunn spoke and remembered some of the founding members "Anne and Leo Hickey, Margaret and Bob Ockhuysen, Edward Baylis and family, and Sally

Karena to name a few who

had the insight to start this

great asset in Opunake".

As the day came to a close, the overall sentiment was one of gratitude and pride. Ōpunake Playcentre stands as a beacon of community support and growth, continuing to inspire generations of families. Here's to another 60 years of laughter, learning, and cherished memories at our beloved Playcentre.

Opunake Playcentre

## Treating wastewater to store ocean carbon

Treating wastewater with alkaline minerals could soak up over 18 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, new research suggests. Oceans are absorbing increasing amounts of CO2 from

the atmosphere, which is making them more acidic. theory, increasing the alkalinity of treated wastewater that's discharged into the sea would expand the ocean's capacity to store

CO□. Chinese researchers used lab experiments to test how effective this could be. The proof-of-concept results show that, if scalable, the approach could help reduce ocean carbon oversaturation,

especially in the Northern are located.

Science Advances

## Chimpanzee drummers have rhythm and even region-based patterns

Chimpanzees on large tree roots to communicate with one another, and international researchers have discovered their drumming shares some characteristics with human researchers

studied recordings of 371 drumming bouts across 11 African chimpanzee communities, and they say the chimpanzees drummed with rhythm using nonrandom timings. They say the drumming styles also

varied between communities with western chimpanzees drumming faster with evenly spaced hits. The researchers say music is a fundamental part of what it is to be human, and to see similar musicality in chimpanzees could tell us

more about how and when we developed music.

Current Biology



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# Kaponga WI

Kaponga WI members enjoyed a visit and meeting to Ricky's Place in Kaponga. A fascinating collection of bottles of all shapes and sizes but we also watched the trout being fed down at the river, and viewed the mini golf, guinea pigs etc.

President Dene welcomed us to the meeting which was hosted by Gillian Frandsen and Sharyn Hurley. A moments silence was had in recognition of the passing of our member and dear friend Fiona Collins. Fiona is dearly missed by so many, and WI was very dear to her for over 60 years, and she had only just stood down as secretary. Members attended Fiona's farewell and formed a guard of honour outside the church. RIP Fiona. We will miss you every day.

The thought for the month was 'Age tiptoes in on little crows' feet'

Roll call was 'Where did you first start school.' With no two members going to the same school.

The raffle was won by Rayleen McDonald.

Remits were dealt with and our delegate to reference Jo Ellis will vote accordingly in

Recently members donated children's pyjamas and beanies and then members delivered them to the Wise Charitable Trust in Waitara. Twenty-three pairs of pyjamas and seven beanies were donated. The trust contribute to Taranaki family wellbeing in several different ways. In the last three winters they have delivered 6600 pairs of pyjamas, 600 blankets and hung curtains in many homes. Since inception in the early 2000s they have insulated 16000 homes all at no cost. They get referrals for families needing help from various agencies. They run a recycling facility where they receive and repair goods for donation. An eye-opening visit and insight into the ongoing need



WI members donate children's pyjamas and beanies to the Wise Charitable Trust in Waitara.

in our community and the number of people who care enough to make a difference.

Competition results. Old Brooch. 1. Dorothy Hughes. 2. Sharyn Hurley. 3. Rayleen McDonald. Old newspaper/ magazine. 1. Sharyn Hurley. 2. Joy Eliason. 3. Dorothy

Hughes. Three cheesecakes. 1. Dene Lines and Diane West.

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## Manaia WI

Manaia Women's Institute the national conference in was held in Shirley Barr's Hamilton. home on Tuesday 6 May.

welcomed 14 members to the we had a social time when meeting and a new member members caught up with Lucy French

wreath at the Manaia Anzac Our next meeting is on 3 parade. Two members had June when we celebrate our attended the Federation 71st birthday. Ballantynes fashion parade.

The May meeting of the Shirley Barr is going to

As our speaker was unable President Phyllis Malcolm to come to the meeting each other. We enjoyed a Ann Chisnall had laid a nice lunch of soup and rolls.

Competition results. Shrub.

Cecelia's on Tasman Garden centre specializes in seedlings and vegetables. We have a range of garden tools at amazing prices - Hoes, spades, shovels, crowbars, hedge trimmers, lawn mowers, weed eaters, etc. Pots, garden ornaments, water fountains, decorations for the garden. The Garden Centre is alongside Cecelia's Antique and Collectable shop at 89 Tasman Street Opunake. OPEN WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY: 10 AM – 3.30PM GREAT PARKING, NO PARKING METERS

1. Jennie McNaught. 2. Phyllis Chisnall. Home craft peanut Malcolm. 3. Ann Chisnall and brownies. 1. Jean Harvie. Shirley Barr.

Maxine Haybrittle. 3. Ann Jean Harvie.2. Ann Chisnall.

2. Ann Chisnall. 3. June Bloom. 1. Shirley Barr. 2. Wallace. Knitted beanie. 1.

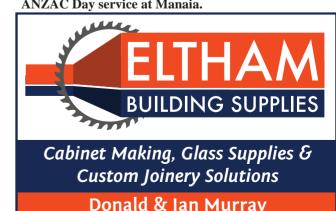
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# Venture Taranaki launches new platform to connect students and teachers

Taranaki, the regional development agency say they are proud to announce the launch of the STEM Outreach Experiences platform, part of the Taranaki Applied Innovation Centre.

Science, technology, engineering, (STEM) mathematics education in the region, and New Zealand, is facing challenges relating to quality, reach, and student interest in STEM subjects. Supported by the TOI Foundation, New Plymouth District Council, Taranaki Regional Council, the user-friendly website provides a central point for Taranaki educators to access engaging learning opportunities to enhance their lesson plans.

"A prosperous future for Taranaki starts in our schools, where tomorrow's innovators are beginning their journey into STEM careers. We know that the best learning happens when students can connect it to the world around them to see how it affects their lives now and in the future," said Thom Adams, Innovation Lead at Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki.

STEM Outreach Experiences supports a locally relevant curriculum that taps into the wealth of



Students from Rahotu Primary School explore nature with portable microscopes as part of the local Participatory Science Platform.

industries and experts that the region already has to

"The opportunity to engage with enthusiastic experts who want to share their knowledge is sometimes all it takes to encourage a student to consider a career path in STEM," adds Adams.

"We're confident that everyone in Taranaki has

something to contribute to the growth of our rangatahi, all they need to do is get involved".

Teachers can use the online platform to find organisations offering STEM outreach for their next lesson, or contact Taranaki Applied Innovation Centre curriculum support.

"For us, having an expert

#### working with our kids has been a game changer," said Kim Gillanders, CEO and Lead Educator at The Head Office, a charitable organisation advocating the diverse and complex learning needs of neurodiverse children.

"We get a chance to see a specialist in action, which helps our students get a new perspective on the world You hear a certain tone in a young person's voice, and see a sparkle in their eye, and you think, 'wow, there it is, they're fully engaged in learning'

Alongside this service comes support for Taranaki businesses wanting to get involved in school outreach to develop exciting lessons alongside our experienced educators.

"Whether it's growing flowers or launching rockets, these experiences can be what starts a student on a life-long passion," says Adams.

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## Government squeeze on funding will see another 68 roles go at DOC

Government's squeeze on funding public services will see a hollowing out of the Department of Conservation's Regional Operations teams around the country.

DOC is proposing to use natural attrition to cut 68 team leader level roles over the next few years, about five per cent of the Regional 1350-strong Operations workforce.

Of the 68 roles, 29 are already vacant and 39 staff in other roles will not be replaced when they leave.

worked with the PSA to manage the proposed change to ensure every current staff member could continue to have a

Public Service Association Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi National Secretary Fitzsimons the proposal will see a hollowing out of DOC's conservation capability over time.

"The proposals would see DOC lose valuable skills and knowledge across the

"The changes are being forced on DOC to do more within the Government's overly tight funding for conservation. We should be investing more, not less, in conservation in regional New Zealand. The

Government has chosen to fund tax breaks for landlords over properly funding vital conservation work.

"The Government talks a big game about growing the economy yet wants to shackle DOC, which plays such an important role in boosting tourism, our second biggest export earner.

"The PSA is concerned that the reduction in the number of roles over time may see the remaining staff carrying a higher workload," Fitzsimons said.

The proposal said the approach would save \$5 million from DOC's regional operations budget of \$170 million.





# Winter is just around the corner! It's time to Heat Up your home! 2029

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# A message from Gibson Plumbers Ltd

Gibson Plumbing has been operating in Opunake and outlying areas for 60 + years. David"'s Dad (Wyn) arrived here in the 1950s and operated his business until he lured his son David from his farming job in Matamata to assist him and learn the trade.

That was 45+ years ago. 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 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

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.



Thanks to our loyal customers, who enable us to continue the service we provide, we are able to continue to keep Opunake and surrounds in A1 condition

Ann and Ben Gibson



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# Keeping warm with Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration

Temperatures are about to drop and Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration have what you need to meet your winter requirements.

At this time of year people are looking to keep their energy costs down. As well as making use of the various cost saving appliances in store there are other ways people can keep their costs down says Debbie.

"The home is far easier to warm up if it is dry, so we recommend a dehumidifier which are amazing for pulling the moisture out of the air and making the house dryer therefore easier to heat," says Debbie Cooksley. "Dehumidifiers don't use a lot of power so are efficient to run."

She says as well as keeping the house warm, heat pumps can also have a dehumidifying role.

"They have filters which filter and purify the air, keeping the air healthier as well."

A common misconception is that you should leave a heat pump running all the time, It's actually more cost effective to only turn them on when you need them and turn them off if you are leaving the room.

Debbie says last month they ran a big promotion on heat pumps which had proved "really popular," and they are currently running their Winter Warmers promotion with up to 20% off Heaters, slow cookers, toastie machines, heated throws, heated pads and electric blankets.

Winter is also a time to satisfy the inner person and Debbie recommends slow cookers as being well suited to meet this role.

"You can turn them on in the morning and dinner is ready at night when you get home," she says. "They are more cost-effective to run



Trish Anderson, Ben Miller and Debbie Cooksley happy to help with winter warmer ideas at Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration.

rather than something that's bubbling away on the stove top."

Then there are the Panasonic Breadmakers.

"They're fantastic to go with the soup that's been in the slow cooker all day."

The toastie machines are also great for the quick meal. At the end of the day comes the night and what could be better for warding off the cooler temperatures than getting into a bed that's been heated with an electric

blanket, of which Sinclair

Electrical and Refrigeration have a good range.

"Who doesn't like hopping into a toasty warm bed?" says Debbie.

Last week they launched

their new website sinclairenergy.co.nz where you can find links for free quotes for heat pumps and solar systems.



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# Winter is just around the corner! It's time to Heat Up your home! 2029

# Some advice

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.

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

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



**Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade, like all fire brigades** train every week to learn new skills as they move from recruits (new members) to Firefighters and up through the ranks to practice and enforce the skills they know. Monday was fire extinguisher training, and everyone took turns using different fire extinguishers.

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

further information

head to our website - https:// www.fireandemergency.nz/ winter-fire-safety/

FENZ Community Risk



# Help weather the winter at Licorice

Crywolf is a children's outerwear brand known for stylish, high-performance rainwear that combines practicality with adventureready 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 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.



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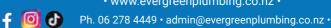
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# Winter is just around the corner! It's time to Heat Up your home! 2025

# Warm up your Bathroom

If you don't already have in mind you'll need to heating required as it only an overhead heating lamp installed in your bathroom, they are a game-changer! It's like a beaming ray of sun and it makes getting heating lamps come in a 3-in-1 format, consisting of a light, a heating function, and an extraction fan, meaning that they can be used all year round.

They're fairly inexpensive to purchase, starting from around \$50, and are one of the most energy-efficient solutions for heating your

factor in installation costs. They're easily retrofitted to existing bathrooms and come in different designs and finishes.

The most energy-efficient way to heat your cold bathroom would be to install an overhead heating lamp. Not only are they easily retrofitted into existing bathrooms, with limited costs involved, but they also come with varying wattage bulbs to ensure adequate heating for the size of the

needs to be on when you're using the bathroom, so that will help keep your power bill in check.

#### Use a heated towel rail

Not only are heated towel rails functional in terms of drying and heating your towels, but they also add warmth to your bathroom without breaking the bank to run. In fact, the cost of running a basic heated towel rail has been compared to the cost of running a standard



Invest in an overhead heating lamp

Simx Weiss and Manrose Heat, Fan and Light Combinations are available at Stratford ITM.

by heating up coils inside the tubing rail and radiating heat outwards to heat towels, and the warmth will be felt throughout as well. You can turn these on and off with a

Additionally, they can be as minimal or 'extra' as you

like. The initial purchase of a heated towel rail starts from about \$70 and ranges well into the thousands if you really want to get fancy. After this, is the cost of installation, which depends on size, finish, labour costs, etc. If looked after correctly,

heated towel rails can last years in your home and with all the different options available, they can add a level of sophistication as well as comfort to your cold bathroom.



Heated Towel rail options available at Stratford ITM.

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# Four Square New Opunake opens

supermarket which opened recently is drawing new customers to town.

With 8 aisles, the brand new supermarket, which opened in mid April in the main street in town, offers a huge range of stock showing Opunake can pit it with the city supermarkets.

Four Square New Opunake is part of the Foodstuffs North Island co-operative whose member families own and operate the North Island's New World, PAK'nSAVE and Four Square stores.

Store Manager Carl Morris has overseen the opening of the new supermarket while Foodstuffs appoints an Owner Operator. It's something he's not done before having never opened a business, but he has found it very rewarding.

"It's also such a beautiful place to work," he says.

They have been experimenting with different ranges and are very keen to get customer feedback.

"If the customer wants it, we'll look at getting it in."

Requests have varied and ranged from newspapers through to duck fat, kinas and mussels.

Of the 50 products that people have wanted thus far Carl estimates they've got in around 50 percent.

There are 16 staff working in the new shop. Around 50% are local, while the others are from elsewhere in South Taranaki, including Kaponga and Manaia.

"They've all come with varied experience from 30 years to none," says Carl. And varying ages – from 16 to much more mature.

The shop also has 4 selfservice checkouts in addition to the three checkouts where clients are served.

"By and large we run a pretty good ship," says Carl believing keeping both customers and staff happy is

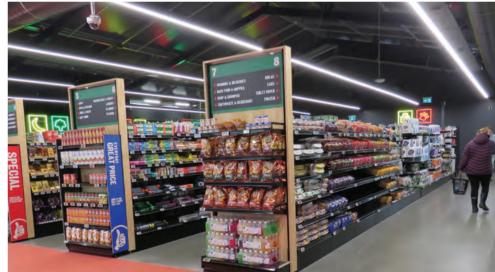
Continued next page



The new supermarket in Opunake which is drawing people from further afield to shop in the township. According to a long term local there's a lot of new faces in town.



www.excavat.co.nz



## **RIGHT**

The new supermarket is built on the former site of past supermarkets.

Beau and Denise Le Prou who owned the supermarket for some years have donated the above photo to the new Four Square.





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Store manager Carl Morris (second from left) and staff in the new supermarket.

important.

"We want to create a positive vibe in the community to keep the locals shopping locally."

Their prices are similar to elsewhere and they offer very good convenience. They also have a host of grocery lines. "You should be able to do a full shop here," says

The Four Square which has just acquired a liquor licence, also has a bakery section. People can also pick up a coffee there. And there's also ample off street parking.

Four Square employee Steve Kelliher says he "really enjoys" working at the new Four Square. "It's a good team", he says adding Carl is "a really good manager" and "community based".

The shop has been a while coming - a year later than anticipated.

But by all accounts it has been worth the wait. "It puts Opunake on the map," says Carl. "People are pretty impressed."

They've had a lot of



The bakery section.

feedback – both positive and negative – the latter of which has been useful.

Though there are stresses in running the business such as ordering stock and making sure it turns up and that the shelves are full, Carl is clearly relishing the challenge.

food outlets in Opunake Carl sees competition as healthy and hopes locals will support

all the businesses. "The more lights on down the main drag the better and the more opportunity for people to shop," he says.

He also commented that he's found people Though there are several to be "really friendly

welcoming approachable."

"Grab a coffee and see what we stock," invites Carl. Four Square New Opunake is open 7am to 8pm, seven days a week.





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Continued page 24

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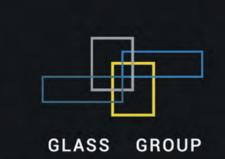
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# Four Square New Opunake opens



Continued from page 23

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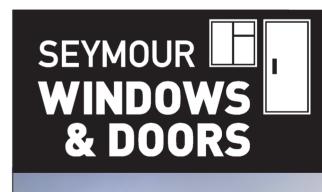
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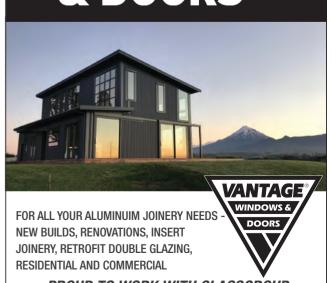
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# Inglewood manager takes national title

Inglewood farm manager in his first year dairying is this year's New Zealand Dairy Manager of the Year.

Having won the Taranaki title, Martin Keegan secured the national title at the New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards on May 10.

He had grown up on a dairy farm "below the Inglewood Golf Course," and can claim some Coastal Taranaki connections, his mother had grown up on as dairy farm at Oaonui. Martin had always been interested in machinery and this led him to work as a diesel mechanic. He spent 10 years working in New Zealand and Canada as a field service technician specialising in tractors and harvesting equipment.

Last year he took over as farm manager for Stephen and Linda Carter on their 94ha property milking 246 cows at Inglewood.

Janine Head judge

Swansson from DairyNZ noted Martin excelled across all aspects of the farm with high-level knowledge and excellent practical farming

The judges said Martin is very conscientious, with great attention-to-detail and a thirst for learning.

"We think he loves his cows as much as his tractors.'

The judges note that Martin has learnt a vast array of skills across all levels of farming in his first season dairy farming.

"We were impressed with his attention-to-detail across animal welfare and how highly he values them - he was so detailed on every aspect and learning about mastitis management, breeding and reproduction.

"His hunger to learn is outstanding," noted judge Ken Short. "It's pretty cool for the future of the industry."

first-time The entrant won the DairyNZ People & Leadership Award, the CowManager Livestock Management Award. the Personal Planning & Financial Management Award and over \$16,000 in prizes.

The judges were impressed with Martin's financial acumen and his commitment to "doing the right thing to do for the environment.'

"All the finalists are aware of environmental sustainability - they don't see it as an option, it's just part of their everyday farming business.'

Second place went to Thomas Lundman Plenty) and of third place to George Dodson (Canterbury-North Otago).

The Share Farmer of the Year Award went to Thomas and Fiona Langford (Waikato) and the Dairy Trainee of the Year Award went to Pieter Van Beek (Hawkes Bay-Waikato).



Taranaki and New Zealand Dairy Manager of the Year Martin Keegan.

declining.

April showers bring relief for drought hit Taranaki



drought-hit Taranaki last month with an average less than normal. On average averages. The maximum of 177.2mm - that's 20% more rainfall than usual for the region, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

Rainfall ranged from 29% less rain than usual at Waitotara at Rimunui Station, and 107% more than normal at Mangorei Upper at Forest Hill.

Year-to-date rainfall is lowest at Waitotara at Hawken Rd with 45% less rainfall than normal, Mangorei Upper at Forest year-to-date rainfall with 6% year-to-date rainfall has been 27% less rain than normal across all rain gauges.

Mean river flows for April were 17.4% lower than typical values, low flows were 6.8% lower, and high flows 17% greater than typical values while mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 14.8°C, an average of 0.8°C warmer than long-term April values.

average temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites)

warmer than long-term April air temperature recorded in April was 25.1°C at Inglewood at Oxidation Ponds on 1 April.

April average wind speeds were 12.4km/hr, with average gust strength of 38.1km/hr, these were 0.2km/hr stronger, 0.6km/hr weaker long-term average. The maximum wind gust recorded in April 101.5km/hr at Uruti at Kaka Rd on 17 April.

# Bee inspired

This year's World Bee Day (March 20) message is a call to action for sustainable practices that support bees, improve food security, and protect biodiversity in the face of mounting climate pressures.

New Zealand has a flourishing population of honey bees cared for by 8,190 registered beekeepers who manage 520,000 hives across the country. At this time of year, with the hard work of producing honey done, honey bees are focused on storing up food to keep their hives fed and healthy through the winter.

While some countries have been struggling with dramatic colony losses over winter, colony loss rates in New Zealand over the cold

## Liquid smoke fumes keep pesky sparrows out of sanctuaries

Half-a-million sparrows and starlings are roosting in the Rotopiko wetland complex in Waikato, and researchers have come across an unusual way to keep them out. The nonnative birds can harm the nutrients and plants of the wetland, so researchers used a type of liquid smoke to see if it reduced their numbers. They found bird poo in the treated areas reduced by 10-15%, suggesting it's an additional option to manage bird pests without having to cull them.

> New Zealand Journal of Ecology

winter months have been

Results from the New Colony Zealand Loss Survey 2024 show that loss rates caused by varroa mites, the number one threat to bees over winter for the previous three years, fell to 4.6% during winter 2024, compared to 6.4% during winter 2023. This continues general downward trajectory since the 2021-2022 surveys.

"The story of the 2024 NZ Colony Loss Survey is about varroa. And it's a good story because losses to varroa showed a national decline for the first time since we started systematically measuring them," says survey director Pike Stahlmann-Brown.

Stahlmann-Brown reports

that beekeepers are doing more monitoring varroa, and this is useful in determining when and how to treat the pest.

New Zealand beekeepers work hard to support their hard-working bees, and Kiwis can help local bee populations by planting some foraging favourites to help bees stock up on food for winter.

Good things to plant for bees this month include herbs such as lavender, salvia, rosemary oregano, and shrubs such as michelia yunnanensis and the native koromiko. Those with larger properties might like to consider yellow gum trees, lacebark or puriri.



FARMING Thursday, May 22, 2025 OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

## NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

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# Where bugs live in luxury and work free of charge

A woodchip bioreactor on Ross and Jan Dunlop's Ohawe farm has been likened to a "luxury hotel for bacteria."

Professor David Horne of Massey University was speaking at an open day held on the Dunlop farm where the bioreactor had been installed and was being trialled.

The bioreactor removes nitrogen from farm drainage before it reaches waterways, providing the right conditions to convert nitrates into harmless nitrogen gas. The carbon source, which is provided by the woodchips serves as a substrate for bacteria that break down the nitrate.

"These bugs do it free of charge, but we've got to provide the conditions for them," said Professor Horne. "It's a hotel, really, a luxury hotel for these bacteria. It's essentially a big hole in the ground filled with woodchips. It's very simple and extremely effective. These bacteria will really strip out all the nitrate."

The water source comes from a nearby dam on the Dunlop farm. After 12-15 years the woodchips are replaced.

Professor Horne was representing the Catchment Solutions Project (CSP) which has been running out of Massey University for the last three years to help farmers reduce the contaminant loss from their

Professor Horne said that while traditionally this had been done by looking at on-farm processes, the CSP was looking at Edge of Field processes focusing on drainage as it leaves the farm. The most familiar of these is funnelling drainage to a wetland.

The CSP had been working with Taranaki Catchment Communities and were looking for a farm to place



Technician Ross Gray explains the inner workings of the woodchip bioreactor.

a demonstration bioreactor. Four farms had been considered and the Dunlop farm had been identified as the most suitable. A bioreactor was placed in January and on March 13 there was an Open Day at the Dunlop farm, beginning at the Dunlop Woolshed to see how things were going.

Ross Dunlop said that the Waingongoro Catchment Community, set up in 2019 was the first in Taranaki, and there are now 14 of them under the umbrella of Taranaki Catchment Communities.

The Waingongoro Catchment Community have identified four sites along the river from the National Park boundary to the sea from which samples are taken.

"Samples are taken monthly at the same time of the month so we can build up our own information and not be beholden to anybody," said Ross.

He says the samples have shown encouraging downward trends in the two-and-a-half-year period from September 2022 to February 2025, and the river is looking healthier.

"There's a huge amount of life in the river. People think the river is inert, but there's a huge amount of life in the river and in the environment around it. Why do we do this? So we can continue to enjoy our beautiful river. It's one of the most fished, as far as whitebait goes, in the province."

There had even been seals sighted in the river, he said.

After Professor Horne spoke everybody headed out of the woolshed on the downhill walk to the bioreactor, passing the dam en route. Ross said he had built the dam and planted

around it 30-40 years ago. Since then it had attracted some "interesting wildlife," he said.

With everybody standing in a paddock over the underground bioreactor Professor Horne and technician Ross Gray explained the workings of the bioreactor.

Professor Horne said bioreactors need not necessarily be built on the same model as that on the Dunlop farm. In some places in the South Island they had even placed in drains.

Professor Horne concedes that the intervention of the worst drought in 50 years had meant so far it had been difficult to get much data from the Dunlop bioreactor. A similar site in coastal Manawatu, however, had shown a 65% nitrate reduction.

"Watch this space for some results," he said.





Ross Dunlop gives a rundown on the Waingongoro Catchment Community.

# South Taranaki to host top-tier basketball

up to host an exciting night of with the Jets management high-calibre basketball when team to explore options Phil Nixon says the district basketball fans to enjoy." the Sal's National Basketball and meet the necessary is ready to put on a show League (NBL) arrives in requirements, leading to the both on and off the court. Hāwera on Wednesday 28 TSB Hub being confirmed as May. The TSB Hub will the host venue. The choice venue, and we're thrilled has been enjoying a standout will be treated to a full close neighbours in Taranaki welcome the Property Brokers acknowledges the venue's to be hosting this high-Manawatū Jets as they take on quality facilities and reflects profile, nationally televised Manawatu Jets. the Southland Sharks in what the season showdown.

The opportunity to bring a prominent events. Sal's NBL fixture to Hāwera arose when the Jets' usual the playoff race, the matchup visitors from Manawatū and Webster. "We're excited to the night, including halftime on the road to Hāwera, and home venue in Palmerston is expected to be fiercely Southland. This is a great be playing in Hāwera. It's a entertainment North was unavailable for contested. The resurgent Jets opportunity to showcase fantastic opportunity to bring two local junior basketball Manawatū well. Hopefully from South Taranaki District ladder with an 8-4 record, offer and to give some of Taranaki, and I'm confident of the Hawera Basketball sit at 5-6 as they push for a hospitality businesses a the local area will turn out South Taranaki residents end of the season."

South Taranaki is gearing Association worked closely top-six finish.

positive reputation NBL fixture," said Mayor

boost. It's also going to be a in force. The atmosphere and Mayor Phil Nixon to head South Taranaki Mayor great event for a lot of local should be something special, along for the NBL game.

Tall Blacks centurion and performance". "The TSB Hub is a top current national team captain, season at guard for the evening of entertainment. to head along and watch the

promises to be a thrilling mid- South Taranaki is building Nixon. "South Taranaki is enjoyable so far— the followed by the main game back in Palmerston North for for its support of a range of well known for our warm team's in a good place and at 7pm. A range of game the rest of the games. The city hospitality, and we look the support from our fans day activations will keep wishes the team all the best With both teams firmly in forward to welcoming has been awesome," said the energy high throughout as they take this home game the scheduled date. Staff are currently fourth on the what our district has to high-level basketball to South teams. Council and representatives while the Southland Sharks our accommodation and fans from both Manawatū and Grant Smith is encouraging battling it out at the business

and we're looking forward

"We're proud of our Corey Webster, who is a to putting on a strong regional Manawatū Jets and the strong season they're Fans attending the event having. We'd encourage our Sky Broadband Rapid game. And if they become big "This season has been League action tips off at 6pm, fans too, we'd love to see them featuring we're sure they'll represent we'll see both Manawatū and Palmerston North Mayor our close friends in Taranaki

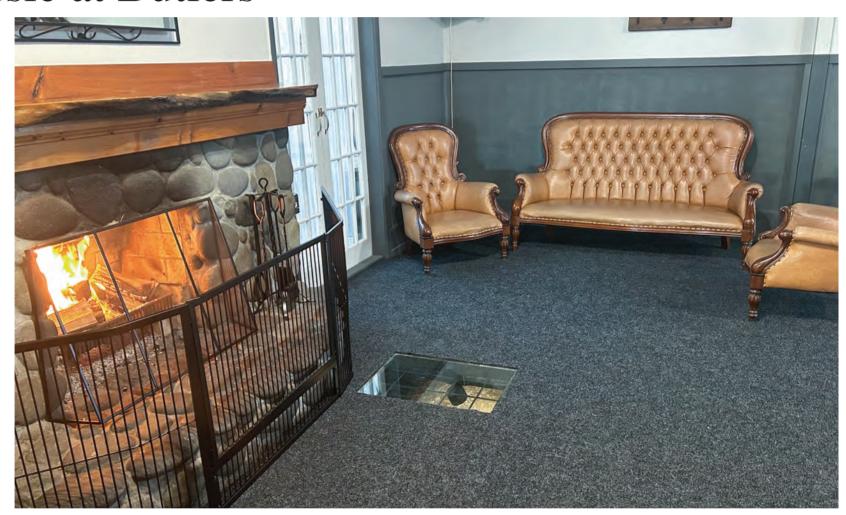
# Live music at Butlers

Butlers Reef at Oakura is having live music every Sunday afternoon from 3pm in the back Bar.

Said owner Will Rowland, they have a range of music many of whom are local artists. It sounds like a relaxing way to while away a Sunday afternoon as winter sets in.

There's also a huge open fire nearby which is a lovely way to warm up on these cold evenings. Being able to warm yourself beside an open fire is one of the bonuses of winter.

So go and soak up the atmosphere at Butlers.



The huge open fire at **Butlers Reef Hotel.** 

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# Broken Pieces expertly meshed by talented cast

Broken Pieces, stolen from their home. Broken Pieces, from a war that's not their own.

Opunake Players latest musical Broken Pieces is definitely an excellent production. There are shows on May 22, 23, 24 and finally 25, but these are fully booked, although a cancellation list is available. (Sinclair Electrical, Tasman Street, Opunake).

show was brilliantly written by Paul Andersen-Gardiner and the enjoyable music is by Vivienne Genet (Musical Director). Vivienne played keyboard during virtually the whole show, supplemented by lyrical music by Polish composer Chopin.

Expertly directed by Lynelle Kuriger the players, backstage people, publicity and front-of-house must be commended for this richly

entertaining show.

I don't want to give too much away, but the diverse themes are underpinned by the historical fact of the 733 Polish children being sent to New Zealand in 1944 from Persia (now Iran), during World War II. The story features a child Basia (fictional), who travels to our nation, eventually marries a Kiwi, Tom Jensen, and develops a burning need (in the early 1960s) to return to Poland, now under autocratic Soviet (communist) rule.

> the programme

warns there are a myriad of themes, many of them somewhat grim, however the production is uplifted by much humour, as well as sensitive thematic treatment. Although Lynelle, just prior to the show getting underway, invited people to step outside, for a breather, if the themes were overwhelming, no one did, as far as I could see.

The acting and singing was first class, with the many characters well-suited to their roles. Some of the cast played more than one role. It is hard, to single out

anyone for special mention, however, here goes. Musically, the captivating singing of Chloe Danz and Monica Willson (they alternated) was delightful. Terry Simpson was brilliant as the sly Communist official/informer; maybe the standout acting. Alternating with winsome finesse were Kenzie Field and Daisy Elsmore as Maria Jensen/ Young Basia. John McCarty, Stanislaw Zazuluk/ Headmaster stood out for his characterful acting, as

did Allistair Cook as Tom

Jensen with his heartfelt

pleading with Basia (his wife) to see things his way. Brian Gasson acted the role of Josef Zazuluk with meaningful dignity. Lee-Anne Shegedin as Wanda demonstrated Zazuluk acting of a high standard, her superb Polish accent the 'icing on the cake.'

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS** 

I loved the dancing, mostly by the younger cast members, which also showed off the imaginative costuming. The sets were both stark and realistic and the auditory effects

Continued pg 29.

## **CHURCH NOTICES**



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

## **Opunake Co-operating Parish**

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

## **Okato Co-operating Parish**

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

#### **Opunake Catholic Church**

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

### Other areas

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

## St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

## The Wave

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

## St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

## **Okato Community Church**

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome

## St John's Community Church. Kaponga

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

## Manaia Union Fellowship

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

## Friend & Fellowhip Group

Thursdays @ Manaia Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer and Bible study

Encouraging interactive discussion and Praise All are welcome

We would love it if you could come Rodney & Val 274 8550 or 0272384187

#### St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 90 Regan St., Stratford,

9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study

10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service

Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford.

Contact Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799

## TSB Festival of Lights Winter Pop-Up Warming up New Plymouth's CBD for Matariki and brings a dazzling dose collective Atelier Sisu and NPDC is warming up New

Plymouth's CBD with the return of the TSB Festival of Lights Winter Pop-Up from 19-22 June.

Now in its fourth season, the event has become a must do over Mataraki Weekend of colour, creativity, and community spirit to the heart of New Plymouth.

This year's features 12 captivating light installations, including Elysian Arcs by

Elysian Arcs by artist collective Atelier Sisu.

comes to us fresh from Vivid Sydney, one of the world's leading light festivals.

> This large-scale, inflatable installation is inspired by the Gods' Paradise of Ancient Greek mythology and invites people inside the glowing, tubular forms that stretch into iridescent tunnels.

> Visitors can look forward to a dynamic mix of installations-some making a return and others debuting for the first time-that will transform spaces across the CBD, from Huatoki Plaza and Puke Ariki Landing to Ariki Street and the Coastal Walkway.

"NPDC Events Lead Lisa Ekdahl says Elysian Arcs showcases New Plymouth's ability to deliver bold, immersive experiences that are truly world-class."

"When Puanga rises, New Plymouth lights up literally. The Winter TSB Festival of Lights isn't just a night out, it's a full-sensory adventure that turns our CBD into a playground of creativity, connection and celebration. It also gives local businesses a muchneeded mid-year boost."

She adds the event is also a chance to showcase local and emerging performers across a wide range of genres.

The lights might steal the spotlight, but it's the entertainment that keeps the vibe alive all night long," says Lisa.

"We hear just as many rave reviews about the performers as we do about the installations. Every night brings something different, with Friday night turning up the heat with mana enhancing performances from local talent Te Kura Tuarua o Ngāmotu kapa haka followed by Huia and Rei, previous Festival of Lights and WOMAD favourites.

Brylee Flutey, Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki GM Destination, says the festival is an important driver of both cultural connection and economic uplift.

"The TSB Festival of Lights Winter Pop-Up adds welcomed vibrancy to the city centre, encouraging connection and celebration at a time where visitation is traditionally low.

"The benefits of this event are diverse and wide-reaching beyond the economic, offering locals and manuhiri a meaningful opportunity to engage with the Māori New Year, deepening an understanding of Puanga and the Matariki star cluster and their cultural significance, while also showcasing our region Like No Other."

In 2024, the Festival attracted over 15,000 attendees, with 17% visiting from outside the region, resulting in \$1.2 million in local spending (BERL, 2024).

While the festival is held over Mataraki weekend, Taranaki and Whanganui iwi recognise the star Puanga when celebrating Māori New Year, which happens in June or July. Other iwi refer to this celebration as Matariki due to landing on the public holiday weekend in Aotearoa.



# Broken Pieces expertly meshed by talented cast



The train scene. From left, Vanessa Le Prou, Kelly Langton, Monica Willson (as Helena Zazuluk), Daisy Elsmore (as Basia Zazuluk) and Ashton Hendrix (as Josef Zazuluk).



Four Polish Communist Party members. From left, John McCarty, Daniel Harvey, Blair MacBeth and Terry Simpson.



Raffle Tickets and much more!

Continued from pg 28.

amazing, such as the haunting rhythm of the chugging trains carrying their reluctant 1940s passengers.

The soldier scene, with the stamping feet, was most amusing, as the men pondered as to how to call out Basia's assertiveness.

This musical had so much depth, in all aspects that it will certainly live positively in my memory. The show concluded with a wonderful evening supper – well done the players Committee.

Rolland McKellar



Daisy Elsmore (as Basia Zazuluk) and John McCarty (as Stanislaw Zazuluk), as seen in Basia's memories of Poland.



To Remember and Reflect





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

## Small Things Like These

1hr 38mins | M Thu 22 May 7PM | Sun 25 May 1PM

Looney Tunes: The Day The Earth Blew Up

1hr 30mins | PG Sat 24 May 1PM

The Tavern

1hr 41mins | R16 Sun 01 Jun 1PM | Sun 01 Jun 7PM

## Thunderbolts\*

2hr 7mins | M Fri 23 May 7PM | Thu 29 May 7PM | Sat 31 May 1PM

## Mission: Impossible – The Final

Reckoning
2hr 49mins | M Sat 24 May 7PM | Sun 25
May 7PM | Fri 30 May 7PM

Bob Trevino Likes It

1hr 41mins | M Thu 05 Jun 7PM





Thunderbolts\* Violence | 2hr 7mins | Rated: M Fri 23 May 7PM

## What's On Listings

#### **ONGOING**

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in

Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am -12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080

or Glenys 6558025 Beginners Social Dance Classes: Central

School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm.

## **TUESDAYS**

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

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

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

#### **WEDNESDAYS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **THURSDAYS**

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

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

## **FRIDAYS**

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

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

## MAY 8 TO JUNE 16

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

## **MAY 19 TO JULY 12**

Maumahara - To Remember and Reflect - A

living is loving



Community Collaboration: At Lysaght Watt Gallery, High Street, Hawera.

## **MAY 24**

Oaonui Community Hall Gumboot Ball: At Oaonui Community Hall, 8pm.

## **MAY 27**

Lizzie Bell Pihama Cemetery Board AGM: At 90 Puketapu Rd

Pihama, 7pm.

JUNE 7

Otukaia Reserve Trust Oaonui Hall, 11am.

**JUNE 16** 

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



# Advertise your event in the **Opunake & Coastal News**

Call our sales team on 06 761 7016

31



## Auroa School

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

## **Applications for Out of Zone Pupils**

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

The Board has determined that there will be 20 vacancies available for Term 3, 2025.

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

The deadline for applications is 3pm, Wednesday 18th June, 2024.

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

Claire Gargan, Board of Trustees

PILATES. Kaponga man asking if anyone can take him for Pilates one on one. Ph Noel, 06 764 6794.





**JANUARY** 

SMTWTFS

MAY

**SEPTEMBER** 

1 2 3 4 5 6

9 10 11 12 13

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 29 30

## **MOVING?**

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**AUGUST** 

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

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8 9 10 11 12 13

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publication.

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## **DEADLINES:**

28 29 30

**EDITORIAL** 5pm Thursday prior to publication. DISPLAY ADVERTS - 5pm Friday prior to publication. CLASSIFIEDS

- 3pm Monday prior to publication

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