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23 Napier St, Opunake
OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

A double for the coast

Tataraimaka couple win top dairy award

Hayden and Bridget Goble from Taranaki have been named the 2023 New Zealand Share Farmer of the Year.

The winners were announced at a Gala Dinner held in Auckland on Saturday night.

This is the first time a finalist from Taranaki has taken the title since Charlie and Jody McCaig in 2014.

Share Farmer category head judge, John Numan says Hayden and Bridget impressed the judges with the strength of their partnership.

"Their goals are aligned and they are genuinely passionate about the community in which they farm, and caring for the environment. There is power in their partnership."

Hayden graduated from Telford in 2005 with a Diploma in Agriculture and enjoys the combination of running a business while securing his family's future. Bridget is a doctor, with

a specialty in Emergency Medicine.

The couple are 20% VO equity partners together with Bridget Mooney, Kevin Goble and Diane Goble on their 200ha, 565-cow New Plymouth property.

The judges were impressed at Bridget's on-farm technical knowledge and application.

"She's a busy full-time doctor, but she is boots-in and we enjoyed seeing how she makes a positive contribution to their business," said judge Michele Cranefield.

"There is a power in their connection and balance of their partnership and they both have a genuine passion for the industry."

The judges noted that Hayden and Bridget's property is a family operation with challenging topography. "They've put their own brand on a family farm and have challenged

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Hayden and Bridget Goble after being awarded the Taranaki Share Farmer of the Year title.

Awatuna farmer Dairy Woman of the Year



Dairy Woman of the Year Donna Cram (right) at home on the farm with husband Philip. Photo Stuart Mackay.

An Awatuna farmer and Taranaki Regional councillor is the Fonterra 2023 Dairy Woman of the Year.

Donna Cram was named this year's recipient at the Dairy Women's Network (DWN) conference in Invercargill.

Judges commented on Donna's longstanding commitment to farming, the community and the environment.

"For farming to be sustainable for the long term it involves looking after our people and our land for future generations, but we need to make a profit so we can do these things," says Donna.

The other finalists were Dairy Companies of New Zealand (DCANZ) executive director Kimberley Crewther, Rebecca Miller of Ashburton and Sheena Penwarden of Northland. Previous recipients have included Barbara Kuriger who is now the MP for Taranaki-King Country and Katie Milne who went on to be national president of Federated Farmers.

Donna and her husband Philip leased their current Awatuna property for three years before buying it in 2002. They now have 107 effective hectares as well as a 42 hectare runoff which they lease and are looking to milk 290 cows this season.

In 2016 the Taranaki Regional Council awarded them their environmental leadership award.

A 0.45ha constructed wetland on their farm is being used by DairyNZ, the Taranaki Regional Council and NIWA to monitor the effects of constructed wetlands in improving water quality.

The Crams have a daughter Alisha, and a son James.

Last year Donna was elected to the Taranaki Regional Council as one of two councillors representing the South Taranaki Ward. She is also involved with the Dairy NZ Dairy Environment Leaders Network, is a DairyNZ climate change ambassador, is on the executive for Taranaki Federated Farmers, is a trustee for Dairy Trust Taranaki, and founder/chair of Taranaki Catchment Communities Inc (TCC).

Donna says TCC which was founded in 2021 came out of her role with the Dairy Environment Leaders Network. It began with discussions with Taranaki farmer leaders about how

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Letters to the Editor

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Phone: Office (06) 761-7016, A/h (06) 761-8206

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

ANZAC day again

Well, again ANZAC Day has been and gone, yet I do believe we are all reminded, not only of the last two world wars, but by the continuing battle going on between Ukraine and Russia, which should never have been started. Vladimir Putin reminds me of Adolph Hitler as he wants to make the whole of Europe his.

Eventually, he'll meet his Waterloo, which, no doubt, will please Ukraine, but also the whole world.

Every time we all hear of any conflicts, big or small, around the world, it reminds me of those living men and women who sacrificed themselves for the rest of us to live our lives as we all do today.

So let's hope and I do hope that we can have world peace, but the problems we

still have means there are still certain world leaders who are not all greedy, but like Adolf Hitler want to rule the whole world.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

Death on mountain

I send my condolences to the family of Christoph Huelsmann from Lower Hutt, who was killed by a boulder which tumbled down Snow Valley on the Northern Summit Track, on a climb of Mt Taranaki on 23rd April.

After speaking with a number of mountain people, who like me have walked this walk many times, we always know climbers on this walk are vulnerable and at times play Russian roulette when walking up and down this section of track which crosses this huge valley

system and many of us have seen rocks and boulders just missing climbers. These are able to be seen coming when clear, but in this case it was cloudy and came out of the mist, which ended in tragedy.

After allowing some breathing space, so to speak, there is a question we ask if it is believed that a karakia was held on the site of the accident on Monday (24th) by members of the local iwi and Department of Conservation staff to conduct cleaning of the site. As I remember it, as I was on the slopes on Monday, it was mostly cloudy.

This leads to the question on the accident site being above 1950 metres, with Drinking Rock and the Lizard being 2000m plus. As climbers of Mt Taranaki, we know there are only two ways of getting to a site up there – by helicopter or walk. If they used a helicopter for this karakia to take place, who paid for it, especially as a couple of days later the Department of Conservation is \$300 million short of

funds. Mmmm!
Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth

Thank you Councillor Roach

It seems that Councillor Bryan Roach is somewhat anxious over certain issues.

Firstly, our affordable water reform. Now, according to our local MP our country's households will be saving about \$4,420 or about 33%, which averages out to about 51% savings.

Secondly, it seems that when the South Taranaki districts are wanting something done about speeding vehicles within their school areas. Now, from what I understand, the current speed limit is 30kms, which includes all schools within our country.

But, like always we still have certain motorists that are not complying with the speed law.

Continued page 3

ADELPHOS

When we moved into a new town, a prominent local identity was showing me the ropes, She advised me, "You should join the "..... Club. I joined 30 years ago and anyone who is anybody is a member." Adelphos immediately decided to steer clear of such snobby superiority. In fact, the Bible verse that first attracted me to Christianity was the exact opposite of that elitist attitude. It was Galatians 3:28: "There is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free men, between men and women; you are all one

Anyone who is anybody

in union with Christ Jesus" (Good News Bible).

The New Testament clearly teaches that we are all equal in God's eyes. Christianity extends beyond culture, gender, politics, race, financial or social standing. Christian men and women may have a different gender but they are equal. The CEO and the cleaner have different roles but they are equal. People in political parties may have different views but they are equal before God. However, it seems that respect for differing opinions has flown out the window, and free speech

seems to be slipping away.

Today many get sucked into the maelstrom of the internet-media mob mentality, that seeks to globally bombard us with discord and divisiveness. Bitter conflicts over identity politics, climate change, the colour of a person's skin and those with a gender agenda are just a few examples.

However, Jesus saw the similarity and equality in everyone, not the differences. He healed men, women, out-cast lepers and prostitutes. Their skin colour, social standing, culture or gender didn't matter. Women had

different but equally important roles in His ministry. A group of female disciples led by Mary Magdalene, Susanna and Joanna financially supported the ministry of Jesus and His twelve apostles.

Jesus came to lead us to a Godly wholeness. As Christians, agnostics, atheists, Zen Buddhists etc... we are called to examine our own social and cultural perspectives towards others. Because He sees all of His creations as equal. It's the basis of the good ole Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12).

Pax et Caritas,
Adelphos



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Vandalism in rest rooms costing ratepayers

The King/Napier Street toilets in Opunake and the one in King Edwards Street, Eltham have been recently targeted by vandals. The stainless steel bin was prized off the wall in the Opunake toilets, while the toilet paper

holder was removed from the Eltham toilets and the paper segments spread throughout the buildings – an incredible mess. The toilet was rendered unusable.

The South Taranaki District Council must be commended

over how swiftly they repaired the damage.

Phil Waite, the STDC Public Property and Facilities manager has commented that vandalism in such facilities is a regular and ongoing occurrence.

The vandalism is varied ranging from blocking toilets to setting fire to facilities, smashing furniture or just graffiti.

“Sometimes our cleaners have to deal with some pretty unpleasant mess.”

There is even a cyclic pattern to the damage. “We can have areas where no damage occurs for a long period of time and then a spate of vandalism suddenly happen over a short period.”

The Council opts for the hardest material when repairing damage, such as stainless toilets and hand basins to

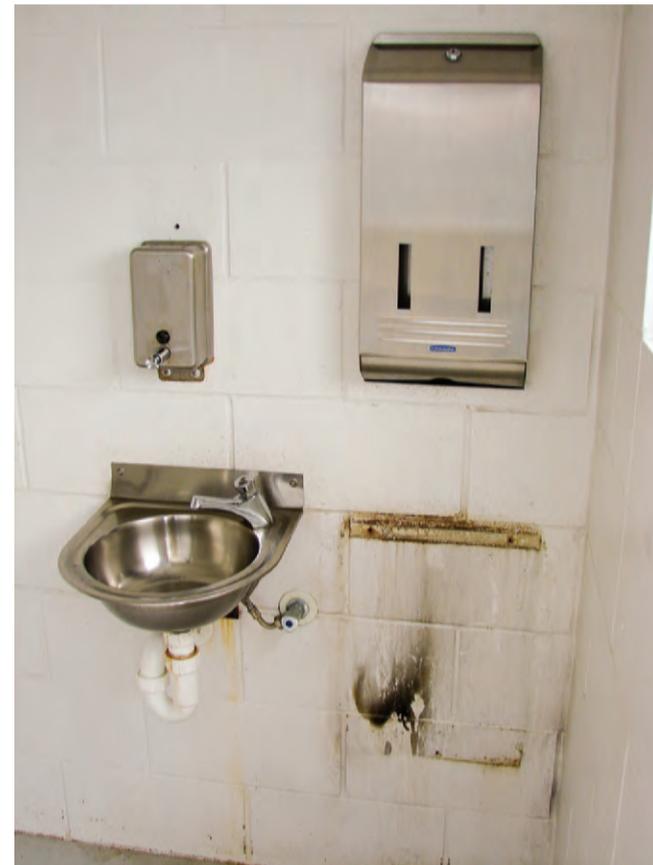
minimise the need for replacement when dealing with vandalism.

And how much does this mindless damage cost the

long-suffering ratepayer? “In the last ten months the Council has spent around \$25,000 on repairing damage in public toilets caused by vandalism.”



Toilet paper strewn around the floor of the men's toilets in Eltham.



Damage to the toilets in Opunake.

The Harvest

Come Come one and all,
And those with idle hands
Come till this land for
wealth it brings
Be it at the Pa, some spare
land
Let us till and plant and
reap
Veges and fruit for our
good health
For healthy bodies and
strength
But what of our souls and
hearts?
How can we nourish such
as these?
There is but one way,
through one man,
Who came from Heaven in
ages past,
Who came and went to the
cross,
To pay the price of our
wicked past
Then to his Heavenly
Throne He has gone.
He invites us each one by
faith
To kneel before the Cross
of Forgiveness
To know the peace that
comes from Him.
And Him alone.

Contributed by a reader



Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2

Thirdly, there seems to be a problem on State Highway 45 about their narrow bridges. At the present time Waka Kotahi is fully booked, yet when certain motorists are involved or have an accident the very first thing they do is blame our roads. Now maybe the South Taranaki District Council is renewing its Long Term 10 year Plan, but Councillor Roach must realise that our Labour Government, plus the rest of the world, was bogged down with Covid 19 virus.

I really do believe that the present government

would have easily cleared up the mess, which our National Governments, past and present, left behind them. Under the National Governments we, as a country, was rapidly going backwards instead of going forwards like we are now so maybe our Councillor should be more patient, as these issues will be addressed.

Councillor Roach again thank you for your good article as it will give all of us something to ponder over. I hope one day you'll stand for mayor for the South Taranaki District Council.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.

Apology

We would like to apologise for errors in the reporting of Opunake Anzac Day in the last issue May 4 2023.

The Dawn Parade was lead by the Stratford Pipe Band as Brian Vincent said, not the Auroa Pipe Band as was reported.

Also the letter from Dame Kiro the Governor-General of New Zealand was read out by Aaron Langton and not Andy Whitehead, Chair of the Coastal Taranaki Community Board.

We apologise for these errors.

Editor

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Taranaki Regional Council adopts Annual Plan

Taranaki Regional Council has adopted its Annual Plan for the year ahead, building on the ongoing work to care for the region's environment and working together

with communities to take Taranaki forward.

The 2023/2024 Annual Plan, which has no new work programmes to those set out in the 2021/2031 Long-Term Plan (LTP), is gearing the Council up to face the many challenges ahead including changing regulations around freshwater, Resource Management Act (RMA) reform, mitigating against climate change and dealing with high inflationary pressures.

To meet these challenges, the Plan includes additional investment and spending will rise to \$53.8m (compared to \$45m for 2023/2024 in the LTP). General rates will increase by \$1.77m (15%) for 2023/2024 – an extra \$30 per year for most residential ratepayers. The LTP had forecast a \$0.58m (5%) rise

for 2023/2024. The Dividend Equalisation Reserve, grown through the Council's long-standing ownership of Port Taranaki Ltd, contributed \$1m to offset the rise in general rates.

Council Chair Charlotte Littlewood acknowledged that while many members of the community were under pressure because of the high cost of living, the Council had to look to the long-term and ensure it had the resources in place to continue delivering the best outcomes for the Taranaki region.

"There is a huge amount of change happening now and coming up over the next couple of years and this means we have to be prepared," says Mrs Littlewood.

"As well as implementing

the Government's Essential Freshwater reforms, we're ensuring we're ready for the significant RMA changes, continuing to adapt to climate change and have the resources in place when we create the new Natural Resources Plan for Taranaki next year. Add to this the continuing effects of Covid-19 on the global and national economy and high inflation and we've had to adjust our spending.

"We will always strive to deliver value for money for our ratepayers and while there will be a rise that's more than we had forecast in the Long-Term Plan, it's worth remembering the general rates bill from the Council is still one of the lowest in the country for a regional council."

Specific additions in the

Plan include more staff in the science and land management areas and extra resources to develop the Natural Resources Plan. The Council will also invest further in public transport to meet the rising demand from the community. This will be funded by an increase in targeted rates as well as funding from Waka Kotahi/NZ Transport Agency and fare revenue.

"We know from our recent transport engagement that there is strong support for public transport and the Annual Plan addresses the increased demand for more bus services across Taranaki," says Mrs Littlewood.

The 2023/2024 Annual Plan takes effect from 1 July 2023.

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Extreme content becoming embedded in disinformation

Extreme content becoming embedded in NZ online disinformation groups

Professor Marc Wilson, School of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington, is reporting that he is highly concerned about the manipulation of information to the public, saying, "I've been researching conspiracy theories since before they were a fashionable academic pursuit, and when they were more of a punchline that didn't impact on our lives. He concludes that the Disinformation Project report is deeply, deeply scary, and uses objective data to hint at where in the slippery slope into disinformation hell we currently find ourselves.

"Since the events of 9/11 there has been a dramatic and international untick in the prevalence of mis/disinformation that has been

mobilised by the internet and now the wild west of social media. The report highlights the 'importation' of content across platforms, and from beyond our notional national borders – something we have seen grow in the Covid era – a small number of offshore social media accounts driving the majority of the rhetoric. In the Posie Parker case that rhetoric is repugnant – how many of us were aware of the background of threats to life directed at Marama Davidson and other counter-protestors? I wasn't, and that's because I don't use Telegram, or Twitter, or the various platforms that interlink in this case study.

"In the 1986 volume Changing Conceptions of Conspiracy, Michael Billig (author of Fascists: A social psychological view of the national front) noted the often Messianic framing of

conspiratorial writings. In this framing, the revealers of conspiracy are those smart enough to see through the veil of the conspirators, with a mandate to communicate the truth to the sheeple. The current transphobic narrative turn (from the report: "this more widely shared, and more explicitly violent content is almost entirely focused on the trans community and their allies.") draws on many of the same Manichean, Good vs Evil, themes Billig alludes to.

"How do we get from individuals making decisions about their gender (or what gender even means) to battles for the soul and future of humanity? The report suggests that events such as those surrounding the recent Posie Parker controversy are framed in terms of issues around gender, but also serve as an entry point into an otherwise hidden world

dominated by neo-Nazi ideology, and that doesn't stop at demonizing people on the basis of gender. Come for the gender wars, in the hope that you'll stick around for the racism and misogyny.

"This in turn hints at something political scientists and psychologists have known for decades: our attitudes to one social/economic issue don't exist in a vacuum, but are interconnected into a broader belief system. This is part of why shouting at people about climate change doesn't change whether they think it's happening – climate change (or in this case gender politics) are part of an interconnected web of attitudes, and a change to one may depend on changes in others."

On this month in history the first Hollywood awards were held

On May 16, 1929 the first 'Oscar' ceremony was held in Los Angeles. The

'Oscars' are a nicknames for the Hollywood Academy Awards. The inaugural recipients of Best Actor and Best Actress were Emil

Jennings and Janet Gaynor, respectively.

In modern times the number of awards on offer have increased. Meryl

Streep is probably the most successful actress of those still involved in film making. Jack Nicholson is probably the most successful actor

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A century of years celebrated in style

Graham David Owen McElroy celebrated his hundredth birthday on May 15 in New Plymouth and received a letter of congratulations from the Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro, as well as King Charles III, Prime Minister Chris Hipkins and some Members of Parliament. Although born in Fielding, Graham has spent most of his life in Taranaki.

He was a member of the Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club and is pictured in 1946 (Fitzroy Beach Surf Championships) in their recent publication (Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club, 1923-2023, ed. Wendy Vanner).

He is also a member of Lions – and joined the Kaponga branch in 1974. He has clocked up 50 years as a Lion and in June 2021 was presented with a Distinguished Service Award by Louise Knapman, the District Governor. Upon leaving Kaponga in 2009, with wife Doreen, to live in New Plymouth he became a member of Pakeke Lions.

A keen rugby player he played for the Opunake Seniors and is pictured in the 1946 team photograph. (See below).

Graham comes from a farming background and his parents Dave and Elsie were sharemilkers, before buying their own farm. They shifted several times and were based in Taumarunui for ten years at one stage, until leaving in 1936, with Graham aged 13. The new position was sharemilking for the Farquars in Awatuna.

School was rarely Graham's favourite place. "With Mr Bradley (teacher) was the only time I enjoyed it." However he had an aptitude for time tables, "I



Graham McElroy pictured just a few days before he reached his century.

was the only one who passed arithmetic." Farming chores were often the focus, rather than schooling in the 1930s. "Most of us had to milk the cows in the morning before school."

An early job for Graham was in 1949 at the Pihama Dairy factory as Second Assistant (at 6 pounds a week) and he was later promoted to First Assistant butter maker.

Marriage to Doreen (nee Maindonald) in 1945 at the Catholic church in Opunake led to a large family – five daughters in all, Pamela, Judith, Jennifer, Kathryn and Paula. (Unfortunately, Pamela died last November). Graham remembered that when he got married the couple had just ten pounds. Sadly, Doreen passed away in December 2015, aged 89. "We never had any rows,"

Graham remembers fondly. She was good cook, played indoor bowls and was a interest of Graham's and he belonged to the Hawera Savage Club and, at a



Graham and Doreen McElroy.

stalwart of the Women's Institute. She is greatly missed.

As a young man Graham was a keen runner, with the mile his favoured distance. His main competition came from Peter Ranford. "It was not very often I didn't beat him," recalls Graham. "He liked to win and (despite his taking the lead) I'd always catch him." Things were different in the 1,000 yards when Peter would have the edge.

Swimming was another sport Graham was good at. He was twice was runner up in an event featuring a swim around the Opunake Lake.

Music was another great

different time, the Opunake Savage Club; the Buffalo Lodge was where they would perform. Frank Sinatra was one of Graham's favourite singers, along with Bing Crosby and Jim Reeves. The saxophone is an instrument Graham relishes, "It's lovely to listen to."

Another singer/comedian he recalled was Harry Ormond, who used to sing with Pat Powell. "He had a lovely voice." Graham added, "If you sang beside

him, you sang better."

With a handicap of 16 Graham was a capable golfer.

There have been overseas trips for Graham, in recent years, with Ireland a special location as his grandfather came from the Emerald Isles.

A final question: who will win the general election in October? Graham smiles and comments, "It will be close."

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Opunake Seniors, 1946. Graham is in the front row, second from the left

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Thieves on the prowl

Unfortunately, I am starting this article with some disappointing news. Over recent months the Okato Village has been victim to several cars being either stolen or attempted to be stolen. Through the help of the community I have been able to identify that many, not all, cars have been stolen (or attempted) by youths from our area and youths from South Taranaki. These youths have been spoken to by Police, on a number of occasions, but have denied involvement. Although, they have not been held to account, knowing those who are responsible allows a more direct investigation.



Constable Matthew Stone.

On a positive note, Police have identified a New

Plymouth, 19 year old male offender, who stole one vehicle from the Okato Village which was abandoned in New Plymouth. This male will be arrested and held to account.

In other matters, some of our local convenience stores have been the target of shoplifters. Shoplifting is a crime which has increased in recent times. To support our stores I ask that if

you notice any suspicious activity, whether by a person or vehicle, inside or outside the store, be sure to notify either the Police or staff at the store.

Lastly, I have enjoyed attending local farm discussion groups. If you are a farmer hosting a discussion group and you would like me to talk to the group about a crime or security topic, then just touch base. Also, feel free to come and talk to me at these events should you need advice about something.

Until next time.
Nga Mihi.
Matt
*Matthew Stone
Sole Charge
Okato*

Taranaki Treasures Royalty at Ethel Anne Antiques

With the coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla just behind us, it was interesting to see what items of royalty were on display at Ethel Anne Antiques in Hawera. Owner Miscelle Cameron arranged an intriguing display of royalty - including books, such as the *Golden Souvenir of the Royal Tour of Canada*,

a medal and cup & saucer commemorating the 1953-1954 Royal Visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip to New Zealand, a plate commemorating the Silver Jubilee, 1977, and similarly embossed glassware.

In one book, *The Queen's Book of the Red Cross*, inside the front cover, there is

a handwritten message from Queen Elizabeth herself,

which Miscelle is proud of.

RIGHT:
Miscelle Cameron holds *The Queens Book of the Red Cross* with Queen Elizabeth's hand-written message.



The display of Royal memorabilia.

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Pedestrian hit by motorcycle in Oakura

Just before 6pm on Sunday 14 May an accident occurred in Oakura in the vicinity of Butlers Reef Hotel. A motorcyclist was turning in a northerly direction from the nearby service station when he collided with a male pedestrian who was crossing the road.

The middle-aged man was left in considerable pain and was repeatedly calling out "My leg," in a very loud voice, as he lay in the middle of the road. In the near dark a large crowd gathered and several people went to the aid of the pedestrian and he was covered with blankets and comforted. Within minutes the police, fire brigades (three of them) were on hand with the ambulance arriving several minutes later.



Scene of the accident.

The injured motorcyclist was similarly cared for in the car park of the Butlers Reef bottle store and, unlike the pedestrian, was quiet.

The motorcycle may have rebounded from the impact - into the rear section of a car, parked near the hotel,

which belongs to one of our reporters and it has sustained considerable damage. No other cars sustained damage.

Taranaki Base Hospital were not able to give any details of the two men who were injured in this accident

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Economic powerhouse to go on show

The importance of New Zealand's economic powerhouse is due to go on show once again.

The 55th National Agricultural Fieldays at Mystery Creek from June 14-17 is a timely reminder

to us all that we are a nation which makes its living by producing food and selling it to the world.

Rural and provincial New Zealand are our greatest earners with some 350,000+ people working in the

primary sector.

They feed us and 40 million+ people globally, earning around 80% of NZ's total export revenue or about \$9000 for every New Zealander.

Fieldays is the biggest

Barbara Kuriger

MP for Taranaki-King Country

Backing Rural and Provincial New Zealand

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Kuriger.Teawamutu@parliament.govt.nz

King Country Virtual Office

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Kuriger.Kingcountry@parliament.govt.nz



Authorised by Barbara Kuriger MP, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



BARBARA KURIGER MP
TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

agricultural event in the Southern Hemisphere for good reason.

It plays a key role in showcasing best practice, education, cutting-edge technology and innovation.

Over the years various themes have been developed, along with concentrated hubs like Education and Health to name but two.

This year, Fieldays organisers are launching a new Sustainability hub under the theme 'The Time To Act Is Now' — a fitting addition as we respond to environmental changes in today's world.

We need to understand our challenges, learn what others are doing, and discover ways where we can be effective.

It's also great to have Fieldays back in its winter time slot after three years of

uncertainty due to COVID, a seasonal change last year, and its cancellation altogether in 2020.

I've been attending Fieldays for more than 40 years.

Now as both the local MP for Mystery Creek and an honorary vice-president of the Fieldays Society, I'm looking forward to this one with just as much excitement as my first, possibly even more!

Fieldays is a key social and support event for our rural communities.

We love to reconnect and catch up on what's been happening in our lives and various parts of the country.

And once we get past talking about families and the weather, no doubt talk will move to the General Election and what's to come. Since 2017, the Government has introduced a slew of ideological rules and regulations, as they try to run the primary sector from Wellington.

It has resulted in our economy facing the greatest level of uncertainty in a generation.

Along with a high possibility of pushing our food production offshore.

In reply, National has launched its Getting Back to

Farming policy which will make sweeping changes to undo the red tape and get farming out of the capital.

I urge everyone to read the detail of it by visiting the priorities section of the National Party website. It will make for good conversation when catching up with me and my fellow MPs at Fieldays.

I have a favourite quote ... "If you ate today, thank a farmer".

It was true the day it was written and remains even more so today.

But there's also another by Canadian poet Brett Brian... "Farming is a profession of hope".

It's a quote used by many to describe the challenges and rewards of farming.

'Hope' may just be a hot topic at Fieldays 2023.

Hope that common sense is returned to government after October 14.

Because common sense isn't so common in decision-making right now.

Barbara Kuriger
MP Taranaki-King Country

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Debbie Ngarewa-Packer

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Tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime

Making sure that New Plymouth is a safe place to live, work and raise a family is a top priority for me. To support this, we're focused on putting in place practical solutions that work to keep people safe.

Last year New Zealand saw an unacceptable spike in ram raids and other retail crime, with the brazen daylight ram raid in central New Plymouth, the Urenui petrol station robbery, Fitzroy Dairy burglaries and much



GLENN BENNETT
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

more. This caused eight dairy owners and concerned business owners to meet with Police at Barclay Hall, Westown before Christmas. They talked security concerns, swapped contacts and brainstormed

ways in which they can use our preventative measures, including the funding offered to local councils.

While those numbers are trending down, we need to continue to support Police to prevent crime and keep communities safe.

We recently announced that we're more than doubling investment into the successful Retail Crime Prevention Fund. This will ensure that retailers, like dairies, can continue to get support for practical security and safety measures, such as CCTV systems and strengthened glass.

Continued on page 9

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Tough on crime tough on the causes of crime

Continued from page 8

When taken together, these initiatives make this the most significant crime prevention financial package in recent memory. We're making sure that Police have the tools and resources they need to do their job properly, and we've delivered New Zealand's largest ever

Police workforce. Here in the Central District which includes New Plymouth policing district, we've seen Police numbers increase by 13% since 2017. We recently announced changes that will improve victims' experiences and fix some real and immediate issues with the court system. These include giving sexual assault victims more control

in court processes around their name suppression and providing greater legal protections for victims, especially child victims, of sexual and serious violence. We've also doubled the amount of investment for Victim Support and tripled the amount of investment into the Victim Assistance Scheme since coming into Government in 2017.

Alongside measures like these, we're also working hard to steer young people away from crime in the first place and we recently stepped up a range of solutions that are proven to work. Our Better Pathways package has extended locally-led programmes that reduce reoffending and help young New Zealanders get back on the right track.

All of the programmes that we've scaled up, including He Poutama Rangatahi play slightly different roles – ranging from helping people into education, training, and employment, to more general wrap-around support. They're all working successfully to help at-risk young people turn their lives around. There's no single solution to

tackling crime or the causes of it, but we're absolutely focused on putting in place solutions that work to keep Taranaki safe. Please check out the frequently asked questions or search for the 'Victim Contact Form' on the Police website; police.govt.nz

Glen Bennett
MP New Plymouth

Talking farming in Taranaki with Damian O'Connor

In one of my recent columns I wrote about attending the Ballance Farm Environment Awards in New Plymouth and how we have incredible stories about farming life in Taranaki to share, so I invited Hon. Damien O'Connor, Minister for Agriculture, to visit our electorate, and hear and see exactly what I was talking about.

We started our day in a woolshed near Eltham where local farmers joined us for morning tea, alongside Glen Bennett, MP for New Plymouth, and Angela Roberts, List MP based in Taranaki.

In my role as Chair of Parliament's Primary Production Select Committee, I talk to Hon Damien a lot about the issues affecting our local primary sector here. It was great to have the opportunity for him to hear their thoughts first hand and to answer their questions. Farmers were particularly keen to talk about carbon sequestration, soil mapping and compaction, and wetlands.

The themes of climate change and primary sector emissions continued on our visit to Fonterra's Whareroa site and one of Dairy Trust Taranaki's farms which they run in partnership with Fonterra.

Fonterra is a huge employer within the Taranaki region supporting many families throughout our electorate. It was a privilege to be able to see how their Whareroa



Steph Lewis MP out on the farm.

plant operates and hear about the initiatives they are undertaking to become more sustainable and efficient, including their recently upgraded wastewater treatment plant. It was also an opportunity to talk to them again about the legislation the Government passed last year which enables Fonterra to move to a new capital structure which will help support the decarbonisation of their operation processes. The Dairy Trust farm we visited is working to become a low emission farm. They have already adopted electric farm bikes and smart collar technology worn by their stock to monitor health and guides movement around the farm. It was valuable to see new systems being tested and implemented which can help make our farms more efficient and sustainable. Damien reiterated to the farmers we met that we as a government are committed to working with

our primary producers, and his visit offered the chance to reinforce the values of He Waka Eke Noa – the Primary Sector Climate Action Partnership. Following the Ministers visit, I stayed in Taranaki to attend the Ballance Environment Awards farm open day in Pihama at the Le Prou's Java Farm. I never thought I would say that visiting an effluent pond was inspiring but here we are – it was wonderful to see what the Le Prou's have put into practice on their farm and why they were selected as the Regional Supreme Winners earlier this year. We're seeing excellent work locally to tackle climate change while operating profitable businesses. Our Government is supporting

our farmers to be the best in world while also being the best for the world too.

Steph Lewis
MP Whanganui

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The World War I letters of Corporal Arthur J. Gilmour of Manaia, Taranaki

Life before the war

By Natasha McKinney, Poutiaki-Curator, Puke Ariki Museum

Not long before the outbreak of war in 1914, Arthur Gilmour's New Zealand world appears as a vivid network of social connections that stretched from Taranaki to Otago. Arthur was studying dentistry at Otago University, and on returning

to Knox College during the 1914 academic year, he describes the journey by car, train and ferry and everyone he met while travelling south.

In this buoyant letter to his mother Jessie in Manaia, Dunedin shines as a place with "fine new buildings" such as the Savoy tearooms, perfectly suited to Arthur's socialising. He appears to love swimming, and burns some energy at the new baths. Everywhere he is stopping to have a yarn with someone, and he passes on regards to his family from those who had "asked after the Manaia people".

A Taranaki friend who also attended Nelson College, Gordon, is mentioned as "looking well, quite flash in his new suit." As these young friends grow into men, Gordon and Arthur are yet to realise that the mirrored paths they have taken through their education, are soon to take a very unexpected direction.

Knox College (letterhead)
5th April, 1914

My dear Mother,

I arrived in Dunedin by the four train on Tuesday after a rather wearisome journey. We had a splendid run into Hawera in Denny Ryan's car and before leaving had a yarn to Mr Graves on the station.

A Knox man, Watson, got on the train at Feilding so I had company from there to Dunedin. Several went across on the boat and we had a most delightful trip.

Willie was down to the Station to meet me on Tuesday so we decided to have afternoon tea in the "New Savoy" tea rooms, and on the way met Miss Strach and took her along also. There are now some fine new buildings in Dunedin and on



The seven-storey Dresden Piano Company building on Princes Street, Dunedin, circa 1920s, which was renamed the Bristol Piano Company due to World War I hostilities. MS-4209/001, Hocken Collections – Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago.



Arthur Gilmour.

Another student has had his nose broken by the same man who was supposed to be training them and not knocking them out. George Hunt and Frank Wilkinson were both asking kindly after the Manaia people; George came down from Timaru [?] in the same train as I came in and told me that he had received a letter from Mr Hawes recently.

Lectures started on Wednesday and we have a new Professor in Physics Professor Jack, who has a most peculiar voice something like Auntie [unclear name].

Charlie has not arrived here yet but I daresay he will soon be down, I have had no word from him.

The courts have been completed at Knox but I have not had a game on them.

Dr Pickerill left to-day for England and Mr Hunter – leading dentist in Dn – leaves also for America to gain experience there.

Last night three of us had a lovely swim in the new baths, they have a shoot away up in the air and it is a great sensation sailing down this into the water. I also performed gymnastic tricks on rings over the baths and as a result am a little sore to-day. Can have lovely hot showers after the bath.

Continued page 11.

Tuesday we went to the top of the new tearooms and then to the top of the new Dresden Piano Cos building which is seven stories high, and from there had a fine view of Dunedin. To-night on the way from visiting the Edgars and old Mrs Mason I saw the new Technical Building – a huge structure – which is the largest Technical school in New Zealand.

There is a new Picture theatre, new swimming baths in town – built on a fine scale with hot and cold water showers – and new building at the university and additions to Knox College, so you can see that there have been changes since I was last in Dunedin.

Yesterday afternoon I met Mr Byrne's son and had a yarn to him, he was inquiring about the Manaia people and wished to be remembered to Father.

I think the Governor is to be in Dunedin next week to open some of the new buildings.

Old Mrs Mason was telling me about her son's changing to the Presbyterian Church; he expects to be officially acknowledged soon now; however he still believes in Baptism. She thinks it too much of an undertaking for her and Aunt Maggie to go to Manaia but is very pleased to know that Grandma has invited her. She said that her son, John, was up our way a short time ago but could not spare the time to go to Manaia.

Willie is in great form just now – he has been training for boxing for the Inter-University tournament which is to be held in Chch at Easter. He had his nose broken a week or two ago and as a result had two black eyes when he met me.

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Work to begin on Walkway extension

Work on extending New Plymouth's iconic Coastal Walkway to Waitara with a path created by hapū and NPDC will start at Waitara's Otupaiia / Marine Park later this year following an \$18 million dollar funding boost from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport.

In a first, it's been fully designed with Manukorihi, Otaraua, Pukerangiora, Puketapu hapū and NPDC, and will extend the walkway to 23 kilometres long. As well as enhancing the wellbeing of residents by encouraging healthy and active lifestyles, a car free connection to help reduce emissions, it is also a chance to educate users on significant cultural and historical landscape.

The path will take in areas of significance to tangata whenua including pā and awa /rivers, a matairangi / lookout at New Plymouth Airport, boardwalks, rest areas and an estimated 96,000 native plants will be installed as part of NPDC's Planting our Place initiative.

"The walkway extension is a very important project for our hapū," says project Co-Chairperson and Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Pouwhakahaere, Dion Tuuta.

"The co-design approach with NPDC has enabled our hapū to share their unique stories of the whenua with the wider community. Pathways are about connection and growth and its fantastic that Waka Kotahi is supporting this important kaupapa for our region."

Mayor of New Plymouth



How the same area looks now. Currently 13 kilometres long the new addition will double the walkway to 25 km.

District Neil Holdom is keen to get the next phase of the iconic walkway started.

"One of the most exciting things about this project is the partnership with Te Atiawa and the four hapū. When people ride, skate and walk it, they will be taking in our rich history while keeping fit, mentally healthy and reducing emissions, to grow our Sustainable Lifestyle Capital," he said.

Waka Kotahi regional manager Sarah Downs says the funding is part of its commitment to improve safety and accessibility in

the region, support walking and cycling facilities that help make our towns and cities more accessible and liveable.

The estimated cost of project sits at approximately \$39m, up from around \$28m approved in NPDC's 10-year budget. The increase is driven by global financial pressures fuelled by

inflation, supply chain issues and increased material costs and labour shortages, the pandemic and war on Ukraine. Waka Kotahi NZTA have increased their funding from \$13.1m to \$18m to support the revised project cost estimate.

The project is due to be completed towards the end of 2027 subject to contractors,

logistics and weather.

The coastal walkway is currently 13.2km long, the project will extend this distance to almost 23km.

Artist impression of the area between Waitara Beach and the holiday park 'after' the new path is built as part of stage one.

Weighty high-rises contribute to New York's sinking feeling:

New York faces an accelerating flooding risk from sea level rise, increasing storm intensity, and even the city's buildings themselves. Researchers have estimated the weight of New York City's built environment to be 1.68 trillion pounds and the cumulative mass and downward pressure from this could contribute to subsidence – the sinking of the Earth's surface. As coastal cities are growing around the world, the authors want to raise awareness that every high-rise building could contribute to future flood risk, so mitigation strategies need to be included

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The World War I letters of Corporal Arthur J. Gilmour of Manaia Taranaki

Continued from page 10.

Mr Topdel's brother is now in College and is going in for teaching.

I had tea with the Edgars tonight and had a very pleasant time there. It is raining this evening, the first we have had since returning.

I have had a few words with Hazel Patterson and she seems to be quite happy.

Bani McDonald's sister is

in Dunedin and Bani is very pleased, she is an M.D. and specialises and is supposed to be world famous in the branch she has taken up. She might practice in Dunedin.

Gordon is looking well, quite flash in his new suit.

I bought boots, a tie and four collars the other day.

This is all the news just now so I must close.

Your affectionate son
Arthur.

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Opunake students' fertiliser business blossoms

Students at Opunake High School are proving persistence and determination pays off, with their seaweed fertiliser project going from strength to strength.

The project was originally thought up in late 2021 when some of the students noticed how much seaweed washed up on their local beach and decided to have a go at making it into fertiliser. They also planned to only use glass bottles and jars donated by the community to bottle their product.

Unfortunately, their plans were hampered by Covid supply chain issues,

followed by storm damage to the foundation of the shed they had bought with funding from the Glass Packaging Forum.

Opunake High School learning support Pauline Sandford says they remained undeterred and finally got the shed built and project, now called Sea 45, off the ground a little over a year ago.

"It's been really successful, and the boys sell their product in three local stores now and also attend a few markets. Our next stage of the business is to hopefully purchase a permanent stall or stand at the school gate

to sell the boys' products and the vegetable plants they grow," Pauline says.

She says they have kept to their original method of only using donated glass bottles and jars, which they fill in their shed.

Over the summer they sold around 150 bottles as well as many litres to members of the community who brought their own containers, Pauline says. "Proceeds from the sales go towards further equipment, tools etc, as we are trying to turn all the gardens at the school into fully edible. They also donate plants and seaweed fertiliser to our local rest home and to local families.

"This has been a wonderful opportunity for them and provides lifetime skills. The TV interview, on Seven

Sharp, last year about their small business has made them quite famous around town," Pauline says.

Glass Packaging Forum Scheme Manager Dominic Salmon says it's wonderful to see that the project has not only continued but grown.

"Hats off to these young men for their determination and hard work. They have tapped into an abundant resource to make something which is helping their school and community, while reusing glass containers too."

RIGHT: Opunake High School student Brody Neilson bottles up some of the seaweed fertiliser ready for sale.



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a good organic compost to your planting location beforehand. Feed with a slow-release fertiliser in late autumn and in spring.

If plants become overgrown divide and replant them in new locations in spring just after they have finished flowering and pick off brown or dried flower heads as needed.

In the last few years some amazing new colours have come on the market. In store here at Palmers are:

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Illumi Lime.



Early Red.



Camelot



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Rose of Tralee for 2023

The 2023 NZ Rose of Tralee winner is Kelsi Wallace.

Kelsi holds a Master of Science in Sport, Exercise and Health and is currently studying part-time towards a post-graduate Certificate in Human Factors and Ergonomics while working in musculoskeletal injury prevention.

Kelsi's grandfather was born in County Mayo and she has been lucky enough to travel to Ireland to compete in the 2012 World Irish Dancing Championships. Kelsi became the Southland Rose in April representing the Invercargill Irish Society.

After a four year break (due to Covid 19) the NZ Rose of Tralee event profiled seven amazing women from across the country.

The NZ final was held at the Hilton Hotel in Auckland over the weekend. It was a huge effort by all involved to manage and produce the event, hosted by the Auckland Irish Society.

Kelsi will now travel to Ireland for the International Rose of Tralee festival in Tralee Kerry to compete for the International title in



Kelsi Wallace, the 2023 Rose of Tralee.

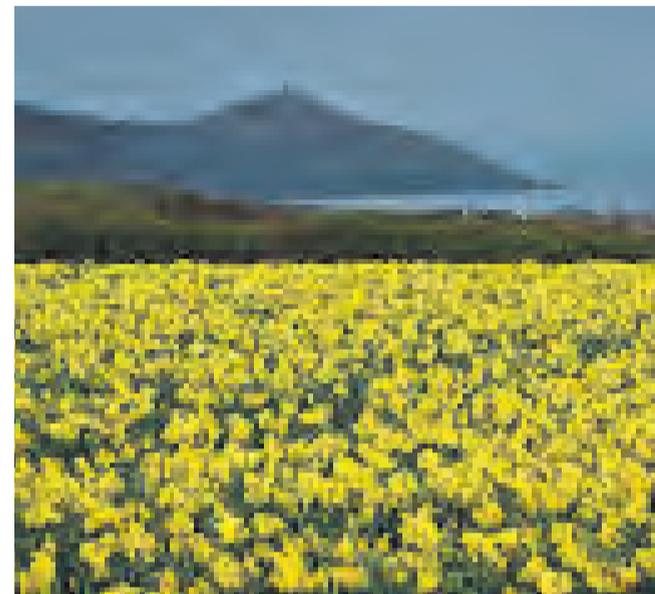
August. Invercargill Irish Society will host the 2024 NZ Rose selection final.

Do you have a field of daffodils?

The Cancer Society is looking for anyone with a field of daffodils this August to help paint the region yellow by letting them pick your daffodils. They have some suppliers of fresh flowers this year but are in need of a lot more with the national daffodil shortage. The team are keen to get in behind local growers and provide pickers in late July. These flowers will help raise crucial funds over Daffodil Day to help support those in our community with cancer.

Daffodils are an incredibly important symbol in the fight against cancer, bringing the whole community together to remember those we have lost, celebrate survivors and carers, and support those experiencing cancer.

If you or someone you know had a field of daffodils and would be interested in donating some or all of them the Cancer Society would love to hear from you! Just call Lisa on 027 215 2625 or email her at lisa.russell@cancercd.org.nz



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We welcome your contributions
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Safety tips for heaters in winter

As the temperatures drop, you are probably starting to think about ways to stay warm over winter. Now is a good time to check your gas heaters to make sure you can stay safe as well as warm.

LPG catches fire very easily and may explode if the tank or cylinder gets punctured, so store it carefully and check it before using it. Check the bottles and rubber parts for cracking, and check for leaks. Either apply soapy water to the connections, turn the cylinder on and look for bubbles, or sniff the cylinder for a smell of rotting

vegetables. Get professional help if you suspect a leak.

You cannot store more than a total of 100 kilograms of LPG unless you have special permission

Ventilate the room - breathing LPG can make you very sick, and LPG heaters can make a lot of condensation

Stand away from the flame when operating the controls.

Keep your heater at least a metre away from anything that may catch fire.

If your heater is in a high traffic area, or you have young children, install a safety guard.

Don't use patio heaters and barbecues inside. Keep LPG heaters for large rooms, and don't use them in bathrooms.

Turn off bottles at the valve when you are not using them



Check your gas heaters to make sure you can stay safe as well as warm.

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A message from Houghton's Plumbing, Heating & Gas Ltd

With winter on our doorstep, it's time to ensure your home is ready to face the elements. A warm and dry home is not just comfortable, it's healthy. There are options for everyone, whether you have two bedrooms or five, live in town or country, or your budget is small or big.

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If you have a fireplace, it's a good idea to get it checked and cleaned regularly. Call us to book a flue clean, or bring in your fire door if it needs repairing. We stock replacement bricks, baffles, glass, rope and handles for a variety of brands and models.

Tip: Make sure your wood is dry. Wet wood creates more smoke and residual build up, clogging chimneys and creating bigger problems. To clean your glass, use scrunched up newspaper dipped in water – and a little elbow grease.

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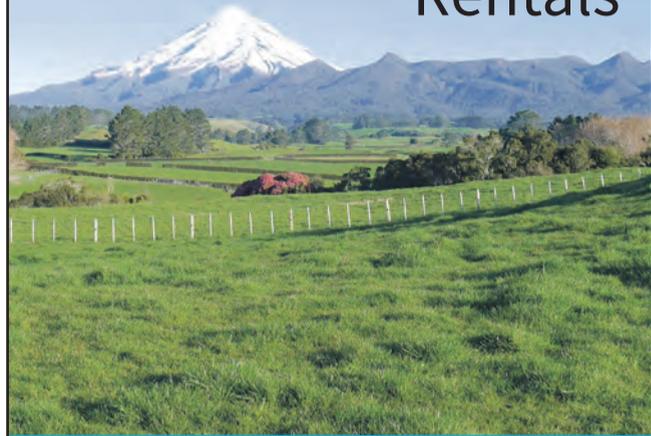
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Winter's here



Without looking at the Mountain it was clear from the drop in temperature that there's been a big snowfall a week ago heralding the start of winter.

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.



Ben Gibson from Gibson Plumbers with a lovely fire installation.

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 safety.

Due to the many facets of the trade, (i.e. plumbing, gasfitting, drainlaying and roofing) the plumbers are

always busy with various different tasks each day, along with after-hours callouts.

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Trish Anderson (left) modelling a shoulders and neck heating pad a new product just in, and Debbie Cooksley ensconced in a heated wrap. They are standing in front of a range of heaters at Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration in Opunake.

Keeping warm this winter

Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration in Opunake have a great range of heaters to keep people warm over the winter months.

They're selling fast after the cold snap last week said Debbie Cooksley.

They also have a range of dehumidifiers that take the moisture out of the air.

"Your heaters are more efficient with drier air, as it is easier to heat dry air," said Debbie. "And it's healthier too," she continued adding they often have filters in them to get rid of impurities in the air like mould spores. "Mould doesn't like dry air."

They also have a range of heat pumps, both the high wall, ducted units and the floor mounted ones. They come in a range of styles and colours. Some are programmable so you

can time them to come on whenever you want. With the ducted units all the workings are internal, all you see is a vent which is like a little grill inside explained Debbie.

"Heat pumps are the most efficient form of heating," said Debbie. She added that they also have filters in them to purify the air. "They are the most cost effective form of heating."

They're also of course great in summer as they can also emit cool air.

Debbie said she'd like to remind people who have heat pumps to clean their filters which should be done twice a year. This make them run more efficiently.

They offer free quotes to make sure you get the right one for your home.

Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration also supply curtains and blinds and have a great range of samples

instore. This includes the latest honeycomb range which Debbie explains is a little like putting Pink Batts in the windows. "They have thermal retention properties. The honeycomb-like construction traps the air and makes it warmer like thermal insulation." You can also get light filtering ones, she added. A lot of heat is lost through bare windows.

So no excuse for being cold this winter. Head down

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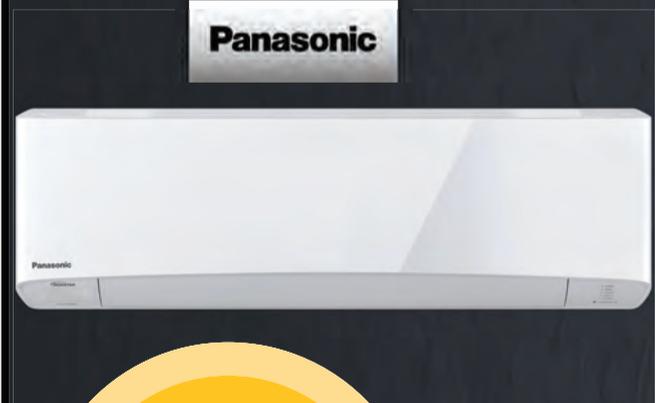
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"Over 40 years experience in the trade"

Mangatoki WI approaches a century

The April 5 meeting was our 92nd Birthday and we celebrated with a day out. Our first stop was at Spiky Bandit Art, in Egmont Village, where we saw beautiful artwork, crafts and more. A number of purchases were made, a worthwhile place to visit (by appointment). Our next stop was for lunch at the Quail's Nest Eatery, New Plymouth. Here we had a short business session while we waited for our orders to come, which was opened by President Robyn, who welcomed us all. We were reminded of the upcoming First Responder Course to be held in the Mangatoki Hall, the RSA posies and wreaths to be made on April 24 in All Saints Church Hall, Eltham and The ANZAC Day Service to be held in the Kaponga War Memorial Hall on April 25. Members then told of their "Traditions". There were many interesting ones, from a certain type of biscuit eaten on Christmas morning to a roast dinner every Sunday and many more. Members enjoyed the birthday lunch.

After having a very nice lunch, we had the usual photo session and then drove down to The Valley Shopping Centre and visited "Suite Comfort,"



the upholsterers. In our "minds" we had an enjoyable time choosing new drapes, cushions and coverings for our furniture and even choosing new lounge suites. Very enjoyable. Sixteen members, two visitors, Bernice's friend, Maria from Zimbabwe, and Olwyn's grandson enjoyed the day out. The raffle was won by Annalisa Evans.

On April 17 nine members took part in the First Responder Course in the Mangatoki Hall. On April 24, five members and one member's granddaughter helped to make the RSA posies and wreaths for ANZAC Day. Seven members and four grandchildren of members attended the ANZAC Day Service in the Kaponga War Memorial Hall on April 25. This was very well attended for a very cold day. Bev Marx made the wreath to be

laid on the War Memorial by President Robyn Roberts.

For the May meeting, members met at Indian Zaika Restaurant, Hawera for a very nice lunch and then went to Cinema 2 to enjoy watching a film for the afternoon. Maree Kemp won the raffle. Sick members had been contacted during April and some baking was done.

On May 10 members were to meet at the Mangatoki Church, Pioneer Village, with a coffee and cake morning tea to follow, but this had to be postponed due to the weather conditions. In the evening of the same day, 12 members and 12 husbands/partners met at Shads Restaurant, Hawera to enjoy an evening meal together. The May Mystery Bus Trip was cancelled due to lack of numbers.

Lucy Moger.



On this month in history Mt Everest climbed by a 70 year old.

On May 22, 2003 Mount Everest was climbed by Yuichiro Miura of Japan. He was aged 70 years and 222 days making him the oldest to reach the summit. At 8848 metres the mountain is the highest, not only in the Himalayas, but the world.

The risks are great, with avalanches claiming the most lives. Sir Edmund Hillary was the first to climb it, with Sherpa Tenzing (May 29, 1953). They had bottled oxygen. Italian Reinhold Messner was the first to climb Everest (with

Peter Habeler) without the advantage of oxygen on September 17, 1978.

Reinhold Messner was also the first climber to summit all 14 peaks above 8000 metres. He is arguably the greatest mountaineer of all time.

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Manaia WI donate toiletries to Hawera Hospital

The May meeting of the Manaia WI was held at the home of Shirley Barr.

Discussion was held where monetary donations and frozen meals are to be given to the communities of Puketapu, Rissington and Dartmore that have suffered from Cyclone Gabrielle.

An Anzac Wreath was made and later laid at the Anzac parade in Manaia.

Shirley Barr is to attend the WI National AGM Conference in Timaru at the end of May. Remits and matters were discussed.

The meeting was followed by a Soup and Bun lunch.

After lunch a workshop was held to sew 30 toilet bags with added toiletries. These were then donated to the Hawera hospital to be given to patients who had no time to prepare before coming into hospital.

Competition Results: Bloom:

1. Neda Howes, 2. Phyllis Malcolm. 3. Janice Walsh.

Shrub

1. Phyllis Malcolm, 2. Ann Chisnall, 3. Neda Howes.

Knitted Hat: 1. Ann Chisnall, 2. Neda Howes, 3. Raewyn Fredrickson.

Uncooked Slice: 1. Ann



Manaia WI secretary Nicola Ashley delivers toiletries to Nurse Tracey of the Hawera Hospital.

Chisnall, 2. Janice Walsh, 3. Neda Howes. Congratulations to you all.

New library art and information centre takes shape

Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, South Taranaki's new library, art and information centre has started to take shape with key elements of the structure having sprung up over the last few weeks.

South Taranaki District Council (STDC) project coordinator Phil Waite, says progress is noticeable with eighteen pre-cast tilt-slab concrete panels having been erected along the eastern boundary wall, and 10 of the structural steel frames

erected on the western side. "The focus over the next month will be the delivery and assembly of more structural steel elements, such as roof trusses, as well as installation of the remaining concrete tilt slab walls," says Waite.

Once the building is finished around 80,000 kg of steelwork and reinforcing steel will have gone into the project and approximately 380 cubic metres of concrete. South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says the long-

awaited project is a key part of the council's post-COVID economic growth and Hawera town centre revitalisation strategy.

"The new facility will transform the town centre. The modern, multi-functional, community facility will provide residents and visitors to the district with a wide range of services, information, cultural and educational resources. These include a library, art gallery, i-SITE visitor centre, café, and public toilets."

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Left to Right: Dr Shaun Butler, Dr Nick Loveridge-Easter & Dr Brent Anderson

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WHAKATIKA KIA PAI

SET OUT TO DO YOUR BEST

Term 2 2023.



Caleb is mapping out his new farm.



Room 7 are zooming in on places of interest to them using local maps.



Cohen wrote a detailed description of a pinecone. Arlo thinks his friend's writing is awesome!



Term 2 has started off with a hiss and a roar at Rahotu School! Our integrated inquiry topic is ZOOM IN, and our students are already hard at work engaging in, and leading their own mahi in all core curriculum areas



Chance, Chelsea and Miya are adding detail to their art



Hayley's learning about the position of planets in our solar system.

At the end of Term One we farewelled our Principal, Mrs. Brigitte Luke, and her whānau. Brigitte led our kura for nine years, and while we miss her we are excited to see her in her new role as Curriculum Lead for the Ministry of Education. Brigitte has left our kura in a great position as we begin the appointment process for our next tumuaki.

Left: Haere ra, Mrs. Luke!

Winter sports are also in full swing! Most lunchtimes see at least one of our netball, basketball, rugby or league teams out sharpening their skills. Many of our teams are coached and managed by parent volunteers. We are fortunate to have such a supportive community who are generous with their time and knowledge.



Far left: Bree and Kourtney practising netball.



Left: Angus tries to get a shot in, defended by Khorys and Clem.

We began the term with our traditional ANZAC service, kindly facilitated by Brian Vincent and his fellow Opunake RSA members. It was a solemn service that allowed akonga an opportunity to reflect and share what ANZAC Day means to their whānau, and our wider community.



Alex Schrader reading a poem.



Jamie and Harlin raising the flag.



represent Taranaki-Manawatu in the National Final in Timaru in July. Tū meke, koutou!

Above: Alex, Kyran and Jamie, delighted with their place on the leaderboard.

Right: Making sense of the instructions during the race for the final.

We were super excited last term to send several teams to take part in the Taranaki-Manawatu Agrikids competition. Agrikids is an in-school agriculture program that is offered in school every two weeks to senior students. It is run by volunteers Rochelle Purdie, Lou Thompson and Karen Helms. On the day, two teams made it into the finals and our senior team of Alex Schrader, Kyran Payne and Jamie Muggeridge took out third place overall, which means they now head down to



In terms of inter-school sports, we have teams entered in upcoming Rippa Rugby, Coastal Tri Challenge and the PCT challenge. Our student leaders are headed down to Palmerston North to attend the annual Young Leaders Conference, and several classes are off on day excursions to Hollard Gardens, Pukeiti and Lake Rotokare. Weekly Kapa Haka sessions for the whole school have begun for the year with our tutor, Matua Clive Tongaawhikau.



The junior school warming up their voices for waiata with Matua Clive.



Ava, Tahlia, Bree and Rhiana demonstrate the actions to "Ringa Rauapa", a waiata gifted to our kura by Matua Chris Luke.

As we near June 1 and our farmers endure "Gypsy Day", we wish all whānau – those moving on, those staying, and those moving into our community – all the very best.

Ngā mihi,
Beccy Muggeridge
Acting Principal.

Winter Festival is back

NPDC's Festival of Lights has announced its Winter Pop-Up is returning in July to coincide with the Matariki long weekend.

The free pop-up event will run on the evenings 13-16 July and features several spectacular light installations from Huatoki Plaza to the Coastal Walkway in central New Plymouth, accompanied by live performances, kai, and whānau-friendly entertainment.

The event debuted in 2022 attracting more than 15,000 locals and out-of-town visitors.

"In the depths of winter this is a shining light for residents and local businesses as people flood into the central city," says New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom.

"It's a great contributor to growing our Sustainable Lifestyle Capital and I can't wait to be dazzled by the lights and entertainment again this year," says Holdom.

The winter pop-up festival will illuminate the central city with eight light installations.

The lighting and entertainment line-up will feature both local and national artists.



RIGHT: Winter Pop-Up 2022 attracted thousands to central New Plymouth. Photo: Charlotte Curd.

Your soap could be making you a mozzie magnet

Are you the mosquito-magnet in your friend group? It could be your natural smell combined with your soap, according to international researchers who say to try coconut-scented soap to become more repellent. The team looked at how attractive participants were

to mosquitoes when they hadn't washed, compared to washing with four soap brands: Dial, Dove, Native, and Simple Truth. Despite all the soaps containing limonene, a known mosquito repellent, the team found that Dove and Simple Truth increased the attractiveness

of some (but not all) volunteers, while washing with Native soap tended to repel mosquitoes. The team also looked at a series of scents and classified whether they were attractive or repellent, and say they would use coconut soap if they wanted to repel mosquitoes.

Cool Arctic bacteria that eat plastic could help on recycling costs

Scientists from Switzerland have identified 19 new strains of bacteria and fungi from the Alps and the Arctic region that can digest plastics at low temperatures, which might save energy costs in recycling. While previous research has

found other plastic-eating microbes, the chemical processes that make this possible usually only work at temperatures above 30°C, which means costly heating for industrial applications. The researchers identified the plastic munching

microbes growing on plastic in Greenland, Svalbard, and Switzerland which could digest plastic at 15°C.

They say this ability, if harnessed on an industrial scale, will save money and energy during recycling.

Artist reflects on time in Opunake



It was considered 'cool' to have a poster of Einstein on the wall in my flat, despite the fact that I never understood a word he said.



Bogart was the quintessential Hollywood male; the hat, the trenchcoat, the mumbled words and the everpresent cigarette. "Here's lookin' at ya babe"



Marilyn Monroe from the movie 'Some Like It Hot'. Sigh...

Some of Dennis Lattimer's artwork. More next issue.

Dennis Lattimer who lived in Opunake some years ago and did some of the artwork and murals in the township has been in touch and sent us some of his latest artwork.

He writes: "I enjoy catching up with how the Opunake township appears to be thriving and is faithfully recorded by your Coastal News..."

congratulations on your ever expanding newspaper.

I was proudly part of your community some years ago now, but finally retired to live in the far north at Coopers Beach. I have completed some mural work up here, but just before the Covid pandemic broke out in 2019, I airbrushed a set of paintings onto venetian

blinds, (simply a different concept, and easy to store.)

Other than the Resene website and the Auckland Museum covid archive, these have not been shown publicly anywhere.

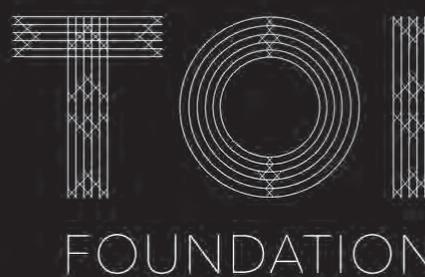
I would be delighted if you would consider sharing these with your readers bearing in mind my associated history with Opunake."

Applications Closing Soon

This is a reminder that completed applications for Annual, Programme & Event or Capital grants, for this funding round, need to be received by the Foundation no later than 4pm, Friday 2 June, 2023



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Effluent bladders - what happens if they leak?



LLOYD THOMAS

Effluent bladder tank leaks? Unlikely. With proper maintenance and a solid contingency plan, you can rest assured your farm is protected and council compliant.

When considering an effluent bladder for your storage needs you may be wondering about the potential of leaks, and what to do if you got one. It's reassuring to know that it is very unlikely that an effluent bladder tank (fit for purpose) will get a leak. The bladders are made from strong, tear-resistant materials that are designed to withstand the weight and pressure of the effluent they contain.

Bladder tanks can actually be stronger than steel effluent tanks

The unique difference between an effluent bladder tank and a steel effluent tank is the integral strength of the



The bladders are made from strong, tear-resistant materials that are designed to withstand the weight and pressure of the effluent they contain.

bladder's lining. A bladder is made from interwoven materials that give it the strength to withstand pressure and potential holes. If a hole were to form, it would not rupture, but rather remain as a small hole that can be repaired with a patch kit.

What can cause an effluent bladder to leak?

In the unlikely event of a leak, the cause is usually neglect such as:

- Overfilling the tank.
- A sand trap not functioning correctly.
- Not stirring the effluent; or
- Not fending off stock from the bladder.

These types of issues can usually be prevented through proper maintenance and training of staff.

The other unlikely cause would be vandalism, or an accident like someone shooting on farm and hitting the tank.

Council regulations

Most council regulations state that farmers must have measures in place in the event of system failure, such as regular maintenance to prevent leaks to waterways or land. Farmers should also have a maintenance plan in place and ensure all staff understand the importance

of effluent management, compliance, and non-compliance. Staff should also have adequate training and know what to do in case of an emergency.

This is where it is important to have a contingency plan in place, just in case.

Contingency planning

A contingency plan doesn't need to be a big deal. Your plan should include:

- Clear Maintenance Schedule: Ensure you have a clear maintenance schedule in place, including regular stirring and emptying of the bladder at least annually.
- Patch Repair Kits: Have patch repair kits on hand, just in case a small hole were to form.
- Level Indicator: Install a level indicator to ensure the bladder is never overfilled.
- Staff Training: Ensure all staff are trained on how to properly maintain the bladder and what to do in case of an emergency.

Other things to consider would be:

- Leak Detection System: Consider installing

a leak detection system to alert you in the event of a leak.

- Bunding: Consider using bunding, but make sure you have a way of draining out rainwater to make this practical.

In the event of a major leak, contact your local council to let them know.

Contingencies for major leaks will depend on your farming situation, but some options could be:

- Dig a temporary trench to capture the effluent, then pump or suck it out with a slurry tanker.
- Have a back-up effluent bladder to transfer the slurry into.

By taking these steps, you can ensure you have a contingency plan in place for your effluent bladder tank, reducing the risk of a leak and protecting the environment.

*Lloyd Thomas
| Nevada Effluent
Management Specialist*

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Tataraimaka couple win top dairy award

Continued from page 1.

the status quo with their practices.”

“They stood out with their pasture management,” said judge Steve Canton. “They anticipate growth rates and make adjustments where needed.”

“Hayden and Bridget are uber-aware of their farm’s position next to Taranaki maunga and are very passionate about their environment and what

their contribution is to the ecosystem.”

The judges commended the Gobles strong community involvement with local environmental projects and for showing leadership in this area with Hayden holding the role of chair of the Tataraimaka Hall committee.

“Hayden and Bridget are part of a family operation and base everything they do on their values and mission statement, which includes

the goals of being efficient, adaptable and profitable, and use it as a point-of-reference during family meetings and discussions,” says Michele.

The judges were impressed at Hayden’s strength in people and culture and his conscious decision to bring a positive attitude to work each day.

“He’s very aware of the impression he could make on his team which shows his ability to be outward-focused

which is key to getting the best out of people,” says Michele.

To win the national title and in excess of \$69,000 in prizes, the Gobles demonstrated strengths in all areas of farming and also won three merit awards: the Ecolab Farm Dairy Hygiene Award, the Ravensdown Pasture Performance Award and the Ecolab Interview Award.

The judges noted all national share farmer finalists were very strong in health and safety. “There was a willingness to be health and safety compliant and value staff safety and an

awareness of mental health,” say the judges.

“There was also a high level of knowledge in relation to environmental rules and the implementation of riparian planting.”

Canterbury/North Otago’s Jack Symes became the 2023 New Zealand Dairy Manager of the Year and Bill Hamilton from Northland was announced the 2023 New Zealand Dairy Trainee of the Year.

Tim Mackle, DairyNZ CEO, was awarded the Services to the Dairy Industry Award, in recognition of

his contribution to and advocacy for the New Zealand dairy industry over many years, while Cameron Henderson won the Fonterra Responsible Dairying Award.

Awatuna farmer Dairy Woman of the Year

Continued from page 1.

they could work with and support farmers following the introduction of new freshwater legislation. They looked at what Southland farmers were doing with Thriving Southland and how they could develop something suited to Taranaki conditions. There are now 15 catchment communities in Taranaki from Waitotara in the south to Mimi in the north. Its members comprise mainly dairy and sheep and beef farmers, although there are lifestyle-block owners, particularly in the Mimi catchment community.

Donna says among those people who helped her get things going was former government minister Chester Borrows who died earlier this year.

“He was my mentor until he became ill. He helped me through the issues. It might be a question about governance or it might be a question about leadership but we would have a cup of coffee and he would talk about examples from his own experience. He was a very kind man and a very smart man.”

Donna, who describes herself as a “fourth generation farmer” is also a chartered accountant. She graduated with a BBS from Massey and once worked as a corporate accountant for the Kiwi Co-Operative (the forerunner of Fonterra).

Donna now faces the



Donna Cram.

decision of how best to use the scholarship of up to \$20,000 which she has gained from being named Dairy Woman of the Year. She says one possibility could be a Women’s Leadership course somewhere overseas.

She is looking forward to the year ahead.

“Hopefully I am able to make a difference and tell our dairy story as we have a very special story. New Zealand farmers produce some really great food.”

As a Dairy Trust Taranaki trustee she says she been impressed with the research that has been carried out on the trust’s four farms.

She was also impressed with what she saw on a recent catchment group visit to the Fonterra Research and Development Centre in Palmerston North.

“One thing that hits you is how many different products they make from the one ingredient,” she says.

She says she has received “the loveliest messages” since being named Dairy Woman of the Year.

“It makes you stop and think about all the people who have helped along the way. You never lead by yourself. There are always people who support you.”

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Honey industry welcomes UK free trade deal

Apiculture New Zealand welcomes the government's announcement that the New Zealand and UK Free Trade Agreement will come into force by the end of May.

The free trade agreement will see the removal of tariffs on all New Zealand

honey into the United Kingdom from 31 May. The current tariff rate on New Zealand honey to the United Kingdom is 16 per cent.

"The free trade deal is a great outcome for our industry and will improve our competitiveness in one of our largest export

markets," says Karin Kos, Chief Executive of Apiculture New Zealand.

The United Kingdom consistently ranks as one of the top three export markets for New Zealand honey and was worth around \$40 million in export revenue in 2022.

"We have strong ties with UK customers, with a long history of exporting high-quality honey products there. However, the current in-quota tariff rate of 16 per cent has been a significant barrier to trade," says Ms Kos.

This deal will give New

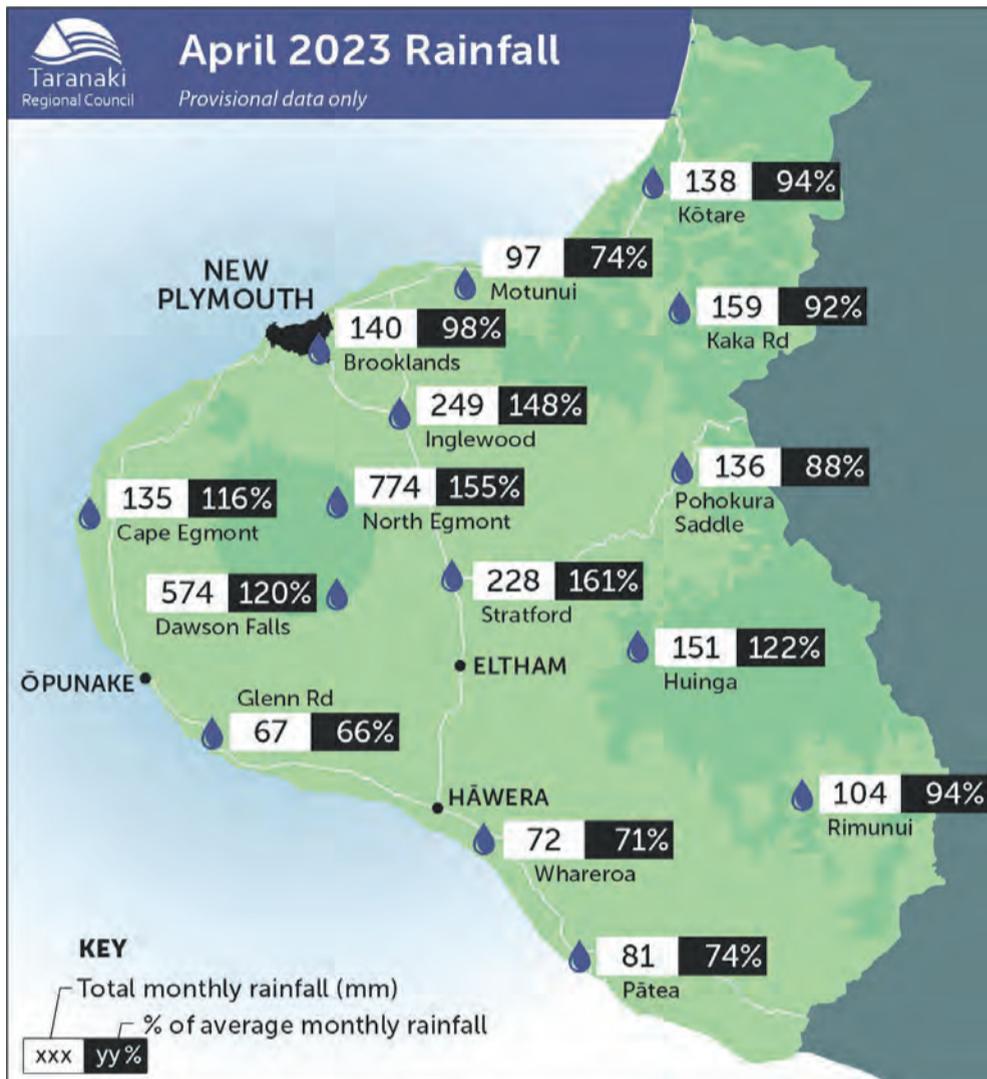
Zealand beekeepers and honey exporters a real boost at a time when it is much needed and provides a platform to grow the UK market to the benefit of all parties.

UK consumers can expect to see more of New Zealand's great quality honeys on their

supermarket shelves.

"Apiculture New Zealand has been seeking the removal of these tariffs for some time and we extend our thanks to the government for persevering and progressing this on our industry's behalf," Ms Kos says.

April brings few surprises



Rainfall for April was on average 101.2% of the long-term average, and ranged from 65% at Taungatara at Eltham Rd to 161% at Patea at Stratford, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

Year to date rainfall is sitting between 103% (Mangati at SH3) and 157% (Dawson Falls) with an average of 130.9% of normal. Compared to typical full year totals, on average sites have already received 34% of a typical year's rainfall, with the highest value 41% at Hawera AWS, whereas Mangorei Upper at Forest Hill, and Mangati at SH3 sit at 28% of the typical years total.

Mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 14.1 °C, an average of +0.2 °C relative to long-term April values. Night-time-low water temperatures were on average +0.7 °C warmer than historic lows, and day-time high temperatures were on average -0.7 °C relative to historic highs. The maximum river water temperature recorded in April was 19.4 °C at Kapoiaia at Lighthouse.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 14.7 °C, which is +0.5 °C relative to long-term April averages. Low air temperatures for April were on average +0.3 °C warmer than the April average for previous years. Day-time high temperatures were on average +0.1 °C relative to historic highs. The maximum air temperature recorded in April was 25.3 °C at Patea at Stratford.

Mean soil moistures for April were 4% higher than typical historical values. On average, low soil moistures were 12.2% wetter than

previous lows, and the average difference of the highs was -0.4% relative to previous highs for April. The average soil moisture was 31.7%.

April soil temperatures were generally +0.2 °C relative to the long-term average. Average night-time low soil temperatures were +0.6 °C relative to recorded lows, and upper day-time soil temperatures were on average -0.9 °C relative to long-term April highs. The maximum soil temperature recorded in April was 20 °C at Taungatara at Eltham Rd.

Do you want the good news or the bad news?

Positive news can provide an emotional buffer against negative news. Researchers studied almost 2000 participants, splitting them into groups who were given selections of "immoral", "kind", or "amusing" news. Those who only heard the bad news (for instance a terrorist attack) felt significantly more negative, and had a more negative

view of society. Those who then heard either the amusing or kind news felt more positive, with the kind news having the greatest effect. The authors hope that these results will encourage the media to include more positive stories, as well as more constructive or solution-oriented framing for important issues.



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DairyNZ and iwi collaborate to revitalise catchments

A Sustainable Catchments programme launched this month will see local farmers, DairyNZ and iwi working together to help improve the health of the Pokaiwhenua catchment in the South Waikato.

This initiative, part of a three-year Sustainable Catchments programme, will deliver work in the Pokaiwhenua (Waikato) and Waimea (Southland) catchments, and across South Canterbury.

It is the first project of its kind that has seen DairyNZ work closely with iwi, bringing western science and Mātauranga Māori together to better understand the ecological health of the catchment and how to improve it. The Pokaiwhenua Catchment Group will also be extensively involved in the project.

DairyNZ general manager for sustainable dairy Dr David Burger says it's exciting to get the project underway, with its official launch held on May 12.

"It means a lot for DairyNZ to be partnering with organisations that have similar goals and aspirations. We look forward to moving forward with iwi and farmers to make a difference to the environment, and we hope to identify further partnership opportunities as we continue to focus on environmental improvements at a catchment level."

The Sustainable Catchments project will



Raukawa Charitable Trust representatives, who are working closely with DairyNZ to improve the health of the Pokaiwhenua catchment.

include trialling practical tools and interventions on-farm, such as constructed wetlands, to increase awareness and understanding of ways to improve water quality.

The three catchments are identified as priority areas for restoration because monitoring shows they have higher nitrogen concentrations and lower ecosystem health scores than other catchment areas.

"There are opportunities

for improvement in each catchment," Dr Burger says. "Each catchment has committed landowners who are passionate about improving water quality, and this work will help accelerate the momentum of current restoration activities."

"We will work closely to support local landowners and catchment groups, which already have water quality improvement initiatives underway."

The first year of work will see catchment assessments completed, including designing monitoring programmes to track water quality and hauora (health) change over time. In the second year, on-farm and catchment activity will

demonstrate mitigations with proven science to improve the health of catchment waterways.

"Catchment work is widely recognised as the way forward in improving the environment, as it achieves better results than a national

one-size-fits-all approach," Dr Burger says.

DairyNZ is partnering with the Raukawa Charitable Trust in the Pokaiwhenua catchment, where the programme has launched. Raukawa Charitable Trust tumu whakarae (general

manager) Maria Te Kanawa says her organisation is excited to be involved with this programme.

"Raukawa are committed to our responsibilities as kaitiaki throughout our takiwā (region). As such, we have a key role to play in the revitalisation and restoration of the wider Pōkaiwhenua catchment. We believe, through the inclusion of Mātauranga Māori alongside western science, that we can bring about positive change."

"We are pleased to be partnering with DairyNZ and local farmers as we collectively work towards healthier waterways in this catchment area."

DairyNZ has received \$3.4 million in government funding for the programme. This funding comes from the Essential Freshwater Fund (EFF), administered by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) to help improve water quality and reverse past damage to waterways. DairyNZ is contributing a further \$1.2 million towards the programme.

The Sustainable Catchments programme is one of 11 funded by MfE.

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Duck shooting season is bad news for all birds

The duck shooting season, which began on Saturday 6 May this year, means countless birds, including natives like pūkeko, kakīānau (black swan), pūtangitangi (paradise shelduck), pārerā (grey duck) and kuruwēngi (Australasian shoveler duck), will be killed. Australia has already banned duck shooting in three states. SAFE Campaign Manager Anna

de Roo says Aotearoa needs to follow suit. "As a country we talk a big game about protecting our native species," says de Roo. "Yet we allow these animals to be the target of ruthless killing every duck shooting season." "The rest of the year, families will feed the swans and ducks at the local pond. These same birds will become targets for shooters." "Wounded birds aren't

always collected, and they can be susceptible to starvation, infection, and a slow painful death." Overseas studies indicate wounding rates from duck shooting could be up to 40 percent. "This is why SAFE is calling for a Commissioner for Animals. The needs of animals across the board are being neglected, and they need a voice at the highest level."



Paradise shelducks are native to New Zealand. Paradise shelducks breed only in New Zealand and are widely distributed in pasture, tussock grasslands and wetlands throughout the mainland and offshore islands.

Taranaki Air Rifles

On May 6 the Air Rifle competition was worked out on the spur of the moment and was to be two paper targets with a combination of silhouettes rams and turkeys giving a possible total out of 250. That's the thing about Air Rifle, the competition is so varied, and every day the challenge can be different. Daniel Chiriac got to terms with the Turkeys knocking over 10/10. John Brogden with a borrowed rifle shot well to only be five points down on 245. Nigel Kay continues to improve to be third 246 and Geoff Coubrough was second with one point better. The day belonged to Frank Eustace who managed to go clear for the day and was awarded the most improved trophy. Keith Zehnder with a borrowed rifle shot some great groups and had a clear round of turkeys. Scores were off the rifle: Geoff Coubrough 247, John Brogden 245, Nigel Kay 246, Frank Eustace 250, John Costain 224, Mark Evans 202, Daniel Chiriac 188, Umang Mandot 169..

Frank Eustace

Taranaki Indoor Bowls

Down in Levin playing the NWWTH Quad, Taranaki played very well bringing home second place, a huge achievement from all the bowlers that battled it out. Sue Bourne was impressed with her fours team. They all played outstandingly

with a lot of banter during games which kept the morale up during the weekend. Trevor Bourne was stoked with his fours team. They all played out of their skin. the highlight for Trevor's team was winning against Whanganui on an extra end. Martin Harding's and Rodney Morris' team played awesomely according to the result at the end of the competition. Top scorer bowler was Rose Ratahi. Following closely was Brittany Kivell and Andrea Berry.

another challenge on his hands trying to select the next team to play Manawatu at Fielding on May 28th. Trevor decided to let the young guns have a roll up. Teams selected as follows Trevor Bourne (Sk), Neil Vince, Leslie Landers, Brittany Kivell, Sue Bourne (Sk), Chris Reed, Andrea Berry, Stephen Vince, Martin Harding (Sk), Ella Smailes, Jamie Taylor, Ray Finlay, Rodney Morris (Sk), Wyn Finlay, Don Bublitz, Kim Mahupuku. Good luck to the following bowlers.

Trevor Bourne the Taranaki Selector had Brittany Kivell.

Sandfords Manaia Golf results

Junior Golf. May 7. Team golf rotation. 1. Cool Dudes. Tyler Parata, Murphy, Ashdyn Laing. 2. Kind Vibes. Cory Laing, Heidi Schumacher, Ruby Edwards. 3. Late Comers. Lennox Finnigan, Marlin Severn, Micah Gut.

May 14. Chipping. 1. Marlin Severn. 2. Micah Gut. 3. Ashdyn Laing. 4. Lennox Finnigan. Putting. 1. Nixon Laing. 2. Marlin Severn. 3. Micah Gut. 4. Lennox Finnigan. 5. Ashdyn Laing.

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Coastal Premiers v Inglewood



Josh Lord looks to unload with Kobe Sinclair in Support v Spotswood. for Coastal Farm Source Premiers
 Photos Spinna Photography

We travelled to Inglewood to play our last game of the round.

It was an unusual situation for us as we were picked as favourites to win for the first time this season. We had a strong squad with the inclusion of Kevin Brown a new utility player from Manchester England arriving Thursday morning and straight to training and into the starting line up at centre which wasn't ideal for his preparation, off set with the loss of Thomas Kalin who answered an SOS to help out when we had a bad run of injuries and added plenty on his arrival showing he's in a good space of his life playing outstanding rugby on attack and defence to give the boys a huge lift after a few narrow losses. Thanks TK we are sure it

won't be your last game of the season but understand your commitment to the FDMC 1st XV as head coach and we wish him all the best in that endeavour.

After a real good outing against Clifton confidence was high and we knew Inglewood would provide a stern opposition especially if we didn't hit our straps.

The early exchanges started well and we got out to a 3-0 lead to a 38 metre penalty to Jackson Sinclair.

From the kick off Inglewood hit their mojo and stretched us on a number occasions to lead by 14-3.

Slowly but surely we worked our way back into the game and after a beautiful worked try to Kobe Sinclair that was disallowed for the reason we aren't sure of, we scored two that

were awarded, one to Kevin Brown and the other to Kusi Druana to give us a one point lead at halftime.

Inglewood were finding too many holes in our defence which was discussed at halftime, and our error rate was a lot higher due to poorly directed passes and things not sticking like seven days prior.

Jeremy Newell did some huge defence in the first half and one memorable run when fielding the ball in the first half and charging back 20 metres at full pace and hitting the defence line with no care to his own safety gave the team a huge lift.

The second half was a lot more of the same with Inglewood hitting the front with an early penalty to lead 17-15 before we scored two tries to Luka Cassidy after a

great break by Kobe Sinclair showing great vision with an excellent cross field kick to Luka who crashed over to score a very well worked try, and lastly another one to Kusi after some good forwards and backs continuity, using his evasive tactics and pace to dot down for his second try.

Inglewood scored late to make it a final score of 29-24 a third consecutive win to the coast but far less convincing than the week before and leaving us one point out of the top four as the second round starts next week.

For the coast nobody played badly. Everyone had their moments, but errors were too high and missed opportunities were the order of the day.

Mathew Picard had some strong runs along with Newell and Beni Kalin.

Defence was led by Kalin, Newell and captain Chris Gawler and Kobe Sinclair and Logan Crowley making some timely defence at crucial times.

Our player of the day was Kobe Sinclair who made some huge carries and linked with Kusi and Kevin. Jeremy scored two points and one to captain Chris. The bench gave good impact and kept the energy levels up in the dying stages until the final whistle.

Lastly Gerard Kalin our manager had a tough week. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope it hasn't dampened your sense of humour. The boys will miss your top service good chat and your good looks for a few weeks.

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Coastal Premiers v Clifton

We travelled to Tikorangi to play last year's beaten finalist coming off our first win.

Many people were picking us to battle so the boys were up for a good start and a high tempo game.

We warmed up well and hit the pitch which was in excellent condition considering the weather of the previous week.

From the kick-off we dominated the early exchanges, with Rangi Schuler getting an early turnover and after a few good phases Rick McKenna put a dangerous cross field kick in and Kusi Druana won the race to dot down, and with a wideout conversion from Jackson Sinclair giving us an early lead of 7-0.

We were playing well and backs and forwards in sink playing some very entertaining rugby and after 25 minutes we were up 13-0 after two penalty goals by the inform kicker Jacko.

Clifton were making uncharacteristic mistakes. From our most pleasing aspect everyone was communicating well and with second five Thomas Kalin leading the line speed and heat making life tough for Clifton and forcing mistakes.

After the second try in the 25th minute Clifton restarted and Luka Cassidy fielded it and made another strong bust up-field linking with Kobe Sinclair who showed great pace before returning the ball to Luka who linked with Kusi before feeding it straight back to Luka who crashed over to give a commanding lead after converting of 20-0. That try

will take some beating for the try of the year.

At the halftime huddle everyone was hissing because of the enjoyment level of the first 40.

At the restart things carried on more of the same stretching Clifton from side to side and after a 43 minute penalty we were held up in the in goal once by Kusi and the other by blindside flanker Jeremy Newell who swears he dotted down. We were finally rewarded with a final try to Rick McKenna who capped a strong game before leaving the field way more injured than he already was before he started.

In the last 15 minutes we sort of ran out of puff and Clifton to their credit scored two late tries to narrow the gap to 28-14. It was a great win by us and left the boys

stoked after some up and down results this season.

Coastal lock Luka Cassidy was our player of the day. He was everywhere on defence and especially attack gaining three points, hard working Harry Foreman with two with his work rate second to none and lastly with one point Kusi Druana who once again showed he's an excitement machine and a guy going places.

Jeremy Newell showed what the day was about tackling his heart out, cleaning rucks and chased down a sure Clifton try by chasing down the opposition winger showing what a pig-headed grumpy man he is.

It seemed cruel to single any players out but of the 20 players that took the field they all had moments of class and showed huge commitment to the team with

their effort and execution.

Special mention must go to Jayden Higgens playing and starting his first premier game. He had a strong game on the right wing making some great runs when we were pinned on our goal line.

Also the three referees led by Mitch Young should be praised with a lot of sensible decisions that led to an entertaining game of rugby, with some long passages of positive play.

Two in a row. May it keep going as we're approaching the all important second round where the points are halved and we make our bid for a top four spot.

Thanks to our supporters who made the trip out. All the Coastal teams appreciate it and certainly hear you support from the sideline



Jake Corrigan, Samuel Drought and Mitchell Fleming FBT Coastal Development.

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Coastal Women

Coastal's encounter with Southern on May 6 was a tough battle. The first half was a see-saw game. It was scoreless until halfway through the first half when Southern scored the opening try. Coastal then hit back quickly with Victoria McCullough powering over from close range to score. Southern scored again and Leah Barnard (women's competition top try scorer) replied for Coastal. A missed conversion saw Coastal go into the second half down 12 -14. Coastal sustained a few injuries in the first half and were light on the bench so were hoping for



Jaymi Ngaia has played her 25th game for Coastal Women, her whanau came out to support her on her special day.

no more bad luck. Beth Cook's continued strong tactical kicking put Coastal in good scoring positions and Coastal forwards were able to benefit. Chenae

Lowry opened up the scoring in the second half with a try to Coastal off the back of some hard work by the forwards. Charlotte Webby continued to make

strong line breaks and good carries to get Coastal going forward. Coastal rejigged their bench to cover injuries and lost some momentum. Southern took advantage, emptying their bench and scored the next four tries. Coastal finished the game strong with Annastasis Hita scoring the final try of the game. Coastal going down 24-36.

Congratulations to Jaymi Ngaia who played her 25th game for Coastal. She's a work horse in the forward pack, always making metres to get the team over the advantage line.

Coastal had a bye last weekend to rest and recover. They take on Okaiawa at Rahotu on May 20.

Coastal Colts



Current Junior Coastal players enjoy the action.

On May 6 we travelled to Tikorangi to play Clifton. It was a good day to play footy. It was a tight first

half with Clifton taking a 17-12 lead into half time. Straight after half time we scored again to lead 19-17

but in the last 20 minutes we started to run out of juice, eventually going down 34-24. It was our

best first half effort all year led well by our starting props Caius Owen and Quinn Thompson who both scored tries, and in the backs young Thomas Fisher was outstanding, who was named player of the day. Our next game was against Inglewood in Inglewood. You couldn't ask for better playing conditions. We had good periods of play throughout the match but like previous weeks, decisions, handling and passing let us down, and the opposition pounced and scored. We ended up losing 45-5. We are improving each week. Captain John Greyling was strong in the backs and so was player of the day Leo Bennett at hooker. The second round starts this weekend with a home game against Southern.

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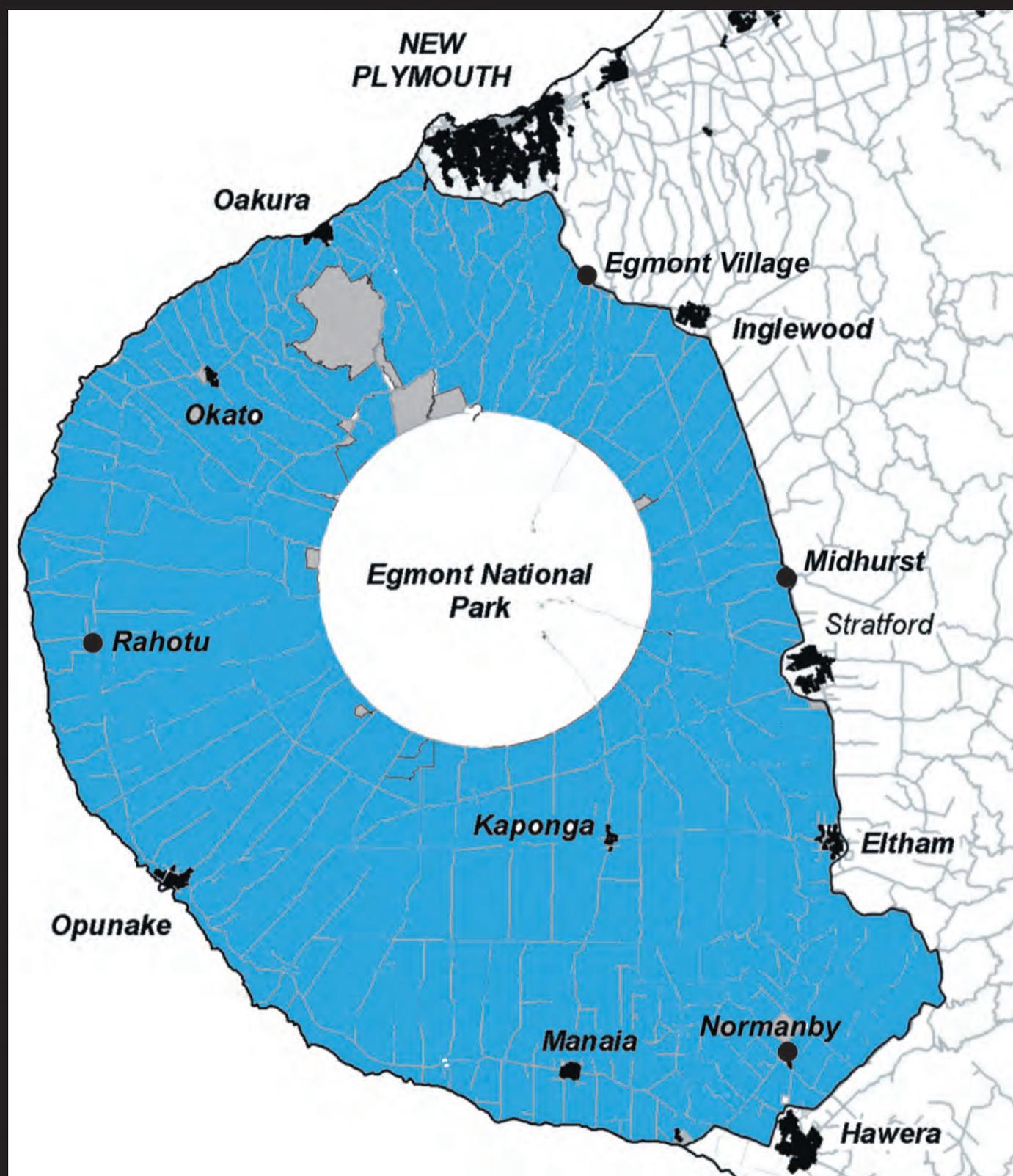
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Opunake and Coastal News is distributed free to every home and business within the rural area, bounded in the north by the New Plymouth city border, extending east to Egmont Village, and around to the edge of Stratford, south to the Hawera city border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

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Huge turnout for The Village Gallery's latest exhibition



Left: Yvonne Geeraedts with her watercolour *Glorious*.

Elements of Nature, the Village Gallery's recent exhibition, had a huge turnout of art enthusiasts at the official opening on Sunday May 7. Three extremely talented nature-loving artists were featured namely Yvonne Geeraedts (painting), Maryanne van Roij (ceramics) and Jennifer Patterson (Fibre artist). Yvonne also curated the exhibition.

The exhibit was opened by new Chairperson Faye Thomas who mentioned the valuable input of the Committee, who has put together "an amazing exhibition, it was so much fun working with you."

She also paid tribute to the recently retired Chairperson Lorna Davies. "I'd like to thank Lorna for an amazing amount of work."

The three artists each gave a brief address, starting with Yvonne, who was born in Holland and immigrated to

New Zealand in 1986. Her initial focus was jewellery, which she designed and sold, as well as the occasional mixed media work, but three years ago watercolours came to her creative attention. Joining Watercolour New Zealand and the interaction with others artists helped her to become "hooked on it." Ironically, she admitted that at one stage, she decided she was not very keen on watercolour painting as a medium.

She concludes, "I get my inspiration from nature and colours."

When I am out hiking or biking, I find energy inner peace and relaxation, which calms my mind body and soul. That is what helps me get into my creative space. It is that calm spirit in me that reflects in my work. In this busy, crazy world, it is more important than ever to quieten the mind, body and soul and I hope you can feel

a bit of that while engaging with my work."

Maryanne van Roij describes herself as a ceramic artist (rather than a potter), who creates from her home studio overlooking her farm on the outskirts of New Plymouth. "I make a limited number of originally designed functional porcelain pieces."

Once the basic piece is made it serves as the canvas "The real fun for me is the decorating - form and function are a lesser priority." She continues, "I am very experimental with my work. I enjoy coming up with new ideas and designs, therefore no two pieces are ever the same as I am always evolving the designs."

Porcelain clay is her favoured material. "Mainly because I like the feel of it - its soft and smooth and requires a delicate touch."

However, she concedes clay is expensive and not easy to work with, "A temperamental mistress." Yet, at best the results can be "the most beautiful and rewarding."

"I am always drawn to nature for inspiration and flowers in particular. I like to think that flowers enhance and transform my work, elevating it from the ordinary and making the



Maryanne van Roij with her ceramic exhibit *Daisy*. pieces unique."

Riverton-born Jennifer Patterson explains that her interest in textiles started in 1989 when a patchwork and quilting group was formed in Stratford. Several art classes further enhanced her interest and skills, including one run by Janet Snow (dyes) in Hawera and later in the United States an informative class with Jeanette de Nicholas Meyer. "It was about changing the surface colour of the original fabric. Many classes followed as I have a strong belief in investing in myself."

Dyes, both natural and artificial, are important in Jennifer's work.

"I work a lot with silk and the layering of fabrics. Silk fabrics can be rusted, dyed with natural plant materials and layered and

stitched. After I rust or botanically dye my fabrics, I will hang them on my wall for several days to study the colour and markings and form a plan to develop a wall art piece. Live plant material prints well onto hand dyed fabric and papers ... The papers are used into making journals and they are finished off with various detailing in the spine. There are many varieties of silks used in the scarves and they are chemically dyed, some are already fringed and some I will fringe myself."



Golden Elm Avenue Art Wall Quilt is pictured with artist Jennifer Patterson.

Make sure you find time to see this outstanding exhibition at The Village Gallery, 106 High Street, Eltham, which continues until Friday June 2.

Elements of Nature

7 MAY - 2 JUNE 2023

Yvonne Geeraedts
Maryanne van Roij
Jennifer Patterson

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'Extinction is Forever' - Marilyn Rea-Menzies

I learn many things by osmosis, for example, when I visit galleries and exhibitions I observe and listen. People around me are invariably having serious discussions or differing interpretations that are both interesting and perplexing. I converse with them in my head, endless questions about what they seem to be seeing.

When Viv, from out of the blue studio gallery in Opunake, presented me with an opportunity to talk to Marilyn Rea-Menzies

about her exhibition 'Extinction is Forever' I jumped at the chance. One of New Zealand's leading textile artists, Marilyn's exhibitions, commissions and collaborations are recognized nationally and internationally.

I read reviews and visited websites. Vast amounts of information are available detailing Marilyn's influences and her impressive body of work. Articles discuss her process, imagery and the multiple talents she draws on to

complete her tapestries. Details about her life piqued my interest, providing a springboard for a lively discussion that proved Marilyn to be an impressively agile conversationalist and a very good sport. Lovely stories fleshed out the person she is and has clearly always been. Determined, independent and generous. Two-year old Marilyn painted the wash house walls with a slurry of washing powder and black shoe polish. Teenage Marilyn studied art and



One of Marilyn's artworks on display at the from out of the blue gallery in Opunake.

giving someone a work to enjoy which may add to their knowledge and awareness thereby helping to make the world a better place. Ever pragmatic, she added as an afterthought that you should always have something else coming along to start on.

Marilyn ended our conversation with two comments I am still thinking about. The first is that everyone in front of a work of art is recreating it from their own experience and secondly she believes art is the legacy we leave behind. It is how we know the past and how future generations will know us.

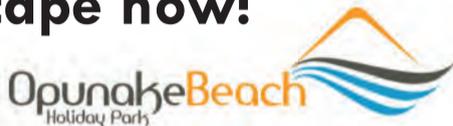
So, if you have the chance visit her exhibition, stand in front of the intricately woven kokako cloak then pivot and gaze at the exquisitely drawn and painted images vividly portraying the critical state of many of our flora and fauna. Talk to a stranger about what they see. I guarantee you will go home with questions and maybe some answers too.

from out of the blue studio gallery, 18 Halse Place, Opunake
<https://fromoutofthebluestudiogallery.com/>
<http://www.tapestry.co.nz/>

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history by correspondence at a small country school where, she cheerfully pointed out, she was the only 6th former and therefore also the Head Prefect.

Snippets of information resonated immediately. Inviting clients to cut their finished work from the loom to a background of corks popping made perfect sense. Revealing a piece that may have taken up to a year to complete should be a moment of triumph and high drama.

All through her life when there was no one to teach her Marilyn taught herself, as she says 'driven by a real need to do art.' She believes drawing is the basis of all good work, teaching us to look at the world in a different way by training the eye to see accurately.

I was curious how an artist feels sending their work out into the world and Marilyn admitted it can be tempered with some sadness. Quickly adding the sadness was balanced by the pleasure of

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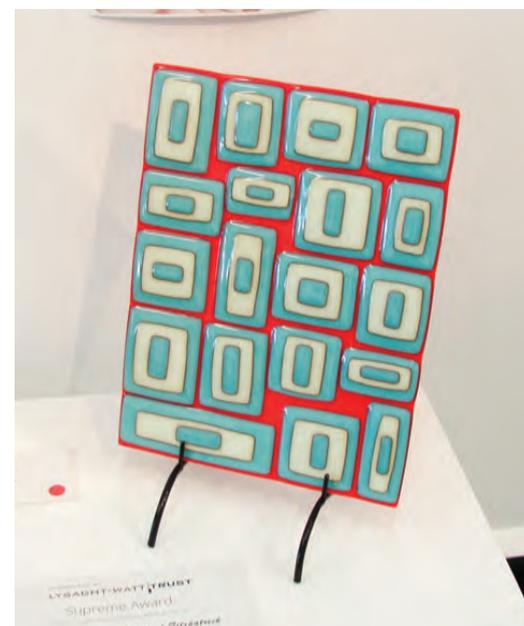
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Some of the winners at the recent Lysaght Watt Gallery competition



Left: *Majestic Tongaporutu* by Merv Turner, the winner of the local artist section of the competition.



Right: The 3D section winner and supreme award winner *Reactive Glow* by Rosalind Fitzpatrick.

Dog Championship Show in Okato

Keep this date free; on the weekend of 27 and 28 May the Okato Domain will be the venue for a Dog Championship Show, organised by the North Taranaki Dog Training Club. The event will start

at 9am and will continue until dark. As many as 130 dog owners have entered, each with 2-3 dogs who will strive show their best.

It's an important event with competitors hailing from all over the North

Island. You can expect to see quite a few camper vans, maybe as many as forty.

In essence this is a dog jumper agility show; the

activities will include courses consisting of jumps and tunnels. They range in difficulty from Jumpers C to Jumpers A.

Make sure you attend this special event – attendance compulsory for all dog lovers!

Contact Glenys Putt 06

752 4200 or email glenys.putt@gmail.com if you require more information.



The Dog Championship Show is on in Okato next weekend.

Fundraiser for Rahotu youth hall roof

The Egmont Youth Hall was flooded twice over a year ago and internal repairs have transformed the inside of the hall, it now looks upbeat and vibrant, a beautiful facility begging for use.

Sadly, the roof sprang a leak, damaging the internal ceiling and risking all the new interior work. A new roof is required, as is removal of outside boards affected by dry rot on the north wall. The building then needs to be painted, a huge job and a huge expense.

The people of Rahotu are an amazing group who unite for a cause and get stuck in, as evidenced by the cleaning up after the floods,

the landscaping and planting of lovely gardens and the donation of goods for a recent garage sale to raise funds for the above work.

There is a lot of goods left after the garage sale on April 22 and with more donations coming in, it was decided to have another garage sale in the Youth Hall on May 20. We need donations of good, clean, saleable items please. We have plenty of room in the hall.

Goods can be delivered to the hall before May 20 please. You can arrange a time with Elva Symons. No clothes please, as we are inundated with them now. Household and farm goods are greatly appreciated as are garden equipment, plants and tools.

We will have more lovely home baking, jams, and pickles for your delight. Some furniture, pushchairs, kitchen utensils, cutlery,

cups, mugs, bed linen, a bike, skis, all sorts of things.

There will be eftpos available. We will start at 9am and go to 3 pm again to give everyone a chance to come and find some bargains.

Please come and support us as we endeavour to raise funds for a community facility in Rahotu.

Daphne Holley.

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<p style="text-align: center;">GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 3 Action, Adventure 2hrs 30mins M Friday 19th May 7pm Thursday 25th May 7pm Saturday 27th May 1pm</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SUPER MARIO BROS Animated, Family 1hr 32mins PG Saturday 20th May 1pm</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">A GOOD PERSON Drama 2hrs 9mins R16: Violence & drug use Saturday 20th May 7pm Sunday 28th May 7pm</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">BIG GEORGE FOREMAN Sports, True Story 2hrs 8mins M: Sunday 21st May 1pm</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">MAYBE I DO Comedy, Romance 1hr 35mins M Saturday 27th May 7pm</p>	



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 3
 Still reeling from the loss of Gamora, Peter Quill rallies his team to defend the universe and one of their own - a mission that could mean the end of the Guardians if not successful.

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What's On Listings

ONGOING

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8277 or 06 761 8337

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.

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

WEEKENDS

The Historic Cape Light & Museum: Open 11am - 3pm weekends, Bayly Road, Warea.

APRIL 7 TO NOVEMBER 6

State of Nature exhibition: PukeAriki Museum, New Plymouth.

APRIL 27 TO MAY 29

Marilyn Rea Menzies Handwoven Tapestries and Drawings exhibition: At the from out of the blue gallery, Opunake.

MAY 20

Garage Sale at Rahotu: Fundraiser for the Egmont Youth Hall. At the Hall, 9am-3pm.

MAY 23

Otukaia Reserve Trust AGM: Oaonui Hall, 11am.

MAY 25 TO JUNE 10

We Will Rock You: At TSB Showplace, New Plymouth.

MAY 27, 28

Dog Championship Show: At the Okato Domain. See editorial in this issue of OCN for details.

MAY 28

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

MAY 29

Okato and District Historical Society AGM: 47 Cumming St, Okato, 7pm.

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JUNE 13 TO 17

Taranaki Aglow presents The Taranaki Tour: Opunake, Hawera, Inglewood, Stratford at various venues. See ad in the May 18 issue of OCN for more details.

JUNE 30

Tumahu Hall Paper, Scissors, Rock tournament: At the Hall, 2417 Wiremu Rd, 5pm.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on Thursday June 1. Phone us on 06 761 7016 to be in it.

TARANAKI AGLOW PRESENTS

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FRI JUNE 16th 7pm INGLEWOOD Town Hall 34 Cutfield St
SUN JUNE 17th 7pm STRATFORD War Memorial Centre 55 Miranda St

Women's Meetings

WED JUNE 14th 10am Belmont Church 357 South Rd Hawera
SAT JUNE 17th 2pm St Andrews Church 90 Regan St Stratford

Phone 027 243 6835 or visit www.doveministries.com-events

PUBLIC NOTICES



FOURTH RATES INSTALMENT

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the fourth instalment of rates for 2022/2023 without incurring a penalty will be **Wednesday 31 May 2023**.

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Chief Executive

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to take over my gardening clients in Opunake area. I'd like to introduce successful applicant to each garden and client. Hand over date 30 June. Please contact Nicky Halsall, 027 222 9109 or email thehalsalls4@gmail.com.

CHURCH SERVICES



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 Service - Okato - St. Paul's -
Pew for You, every 3rd Thursday of each month, 4.30pm-6.00pm

Opunake Catholic Church

St Martins, Pungarehu: 8.30am every 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
Other areas
Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)
Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am
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St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

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

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome



MANAIA RSA

Manaia Anzac Day raffle results

- 1st: N. Craig, Hawera
- 2nd: P. Brownlie, Hawera
- 3rd: J. Rowlands, N.P.
- 4th: J. Meads, Manaia

Pungarehu Community Society Incorporated AGM

Sunday May 28, 11am
Pungarehu Hall, SH45,
Pungarehu, Taranaki
All welcome

TO LET



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Inquiries to Brenda Simpson - Ph 06 278 4169



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FARMLAND FOR LEASE

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The closing date for tenders is 26 May 2023.
Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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



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- Inglewood Book Centre, 31 Rata St
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