



Mixed feelings on the farm about Fonterra's latest move

On May 16 Fonterra surprised the country with the shock announcement that they are looking to sell off popular consumer brands and businesses. These include household names like Mainland, Anchor and Kapiti. "While these are great businesses with recent strengthening in performance and potential for more, ownership of these businesses is not required to fulfil Fonterra's core function of collecting, processing and selling milk," said Fonterra CEO Miles Hurrell. "Due to our co-operative structure, we believe prioritising our Ingredients and Foodservice channels and releasing capital in our Consumer

and associated businesses would generate more value. "At the same time, we believe Fonterra is not the highest-value owner of the Consumer and associated businesses in the longer term and a divestment could allow a new owner with the right expertise and resources to unlock their full potential." So what do farmers in Taranaki think? Well known Coastal Taranaki dairy farmer and former Fonterra Shareholders Council member John Washer says it's been a long time since he's been "close to the action" and he doesn't have any inside information about what's behind Fonterra's recent announcement.

"I am at ease because for the first time in the last decade the shareholders seem to have confidence in the directors as there was no one standing against them at the last election," he says. "So I feel the shareholders must be happy with the present directors and thinking they know more than we do and are doing it for a good reason for the good of the Co-operative. "I was initially concerned about it. Twenty one years ago when I was on the Council everything was being put into the added value of our products. I don't know why they are selling down some of the added value companies, but they must know something about the head winds facing milk that we don't.

"In the coming months Fonterra will surely have local shareholder meetings and maybe a vote so I think it's important that all shareholders attend, listen, and have their say."

He says he continues to have confidence in dairying. "It's still the biggest success story in New Zealand. Our family has done very well out of dairying, way back to 1865. That's 159 years and I've no intention of getting out of dairying.

"Fonterra our co-operative pays shareholders on the 15th of every month and keeps servicing towns like Opunake and our Opunake and Coastal

Newspaper going." Hayden Goble of Tataraimaka, who with his wife Bridget was New Zealand Share Farmer of the Year in 2023 says the announcement from Fonterra was a "bit of a shock." "We didn't think Fonterra would go so far as selling the consumer business," he says. "It's going to be good to hear more details from Fonterra and what they are going to do with the money. It's a little bit worrying about the future implications on the co-operative if they don't have a consumer business."

Te Kiri farmer Ian Armstrong was a former deputy chair of the Kiwi Dairy Co-operative which merged into Fonterra and has been on the board of Mainland Products.

"My initial response was that I was very surprised but having listened to the webinar on Sunday night I understand their rationale. At the moment I'm sitting here with an open mind. I'm aware that with consumer companies they can be very capital hungry and don't stop spending money. They are a specialised field and I can understand where Fonterra



Oaonui farmer Bryan Roach has reservations.

are coming from. They can be a sacred cow and it's taken some courage to raise this. I think it's a timely discussion to have and good on them for raising it."

Oaonui farmer Bryan Roach also says the announcement came as a surprise.

"I was a little bit shocked at the announcement. Without reading all the information and just taking it on face value I would not be in favour of selling brands that have

taken generations to build up. "One bit that does concern me is that the new owners could buy milk from milk companies which are in opposition to Fonterra. Once it's been bought they could move the operation overseas and all that would not be good for the whole of New Zealand. So far, given what I know I would not be in favour of it, but I would have to go along to some of the meetings and listen."



Fonterra CEO Miles Hurrell believes selling off popular brands would generate more value and unlock potential.



John Washer has confidence in the decision of the directors.



Ian Armstrong can understand where Fonterra are coming from..

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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.

Shellfish

An opinion and some facts on the shellfish ban by a local that has been going to the tide for five decades.

Fact. A legal ban has been put on shellfish gathering by the government of the day.

Fact. This is not a Rahui, as a Rahui only applies to a specific section of New Zealanders and is obeyed out of respect and cannot be legally enforced. So Rahui signs are misleading and should be removed.

Fact. In the year 2000 a survey was done on the North Taranaki coast and is being quoted by some as a survey on a ban area. This is wrong and it was 24 years ago, so findings are irrelevant.

Fact. Legal size for Taranaki paua from 1 October 2009 is 85mm. This is when poaching started.

Fact. There was an

organised raid on two beaches by outsiders.

Fact. There have been no recent surveys done, so there is no scientific information of any kind to say there is a shortage of shellfish or they need replenishing, except on the two raided beaches.

Fact. The problem on the coast, and has been since October 2009 is poaching.

Fact. The second problem is the lack of a Fisheries presence to stop the poaching.

To summarise, of the two or three beaches that were raided there would be about 40 that were not.

Between Taungatara River and Arawhata Road there are 12 that have shellfish beds.

After the raids we all of a sudden overnight have a lot of marine experts, some of whom would struggle to find a beach. Maybe if it had one of those yellow signs saying Holiday Park they would.

Then we get some kind of gong given for someone for fixing the coast when it wasn't broken.

We have no proof whatsoever, scientific or otherwise that there is a shortage of shellfish. In actual fact we have some locals smashing kina so they don't overtake paua beds.

It is now time for you do-gooders that are talking the talk to walk the walk. Get yourselves a plan, go through the proper channels and become accredited honorary fisheries officers with bells and whistles, so you can be seen and heard. More inspectors is a must.

The logical and sensible solution would have been to close the beaches that were raided. It's not rocket science. It's common sense.

Low Tide

Fast tracking policies are choking us all

According to MP Pretty Boy David MacLeod his great government's fast track policies are working well. Okay to him it might be but what is it actually doing to the whole country? It's beginning to choke and suffocate us all big time, yet I keep hearing from this Mickey Mouse Three Stooges Coalition Government that they care for us all. Well what a load of complete and utter smelly rubbish, putting it mildly. Since this political party was formed in 1936, they've never ever cared about us all, but only for themselves, as they haven't changed since that time, and they never ever will at any time in the

Continued on page 3.

ADELPHOS

They say there are two certainties in life: taxes and death. Millions worldwide have experienced severe trauma in the last few years: The deadly COVID-19 virus, climate change anxiety and the carnage in Ukraine and the Middle East have been delivered to our living rooms on large screens during the 6 o'clock news. A faint and disquieted anxiety reminds us that our own life is also fragile. Life and death can be separated by a few minutes minus one breath.

Dr. Irvin Yalom is a psychiatrist and leading world expert in existential psychotherapy and death anxiety. He informs us that death is so terrifying that we bury our anxiety deep in our unconscious. How

many of us have thought about our own death while attending a funeral or during a health scare? Dr. Yalom is an atheist and open about his personal fear of death. At death he believes all consciousness, personal connections and existence ends. He views life's meaninglessness and non-existence after death as a motivator to create a purpose for living. The answer to lessening his own death anxiety is living the fullest life without regrets, helping others, appreciating the past and being surrounded by loved ones near the time of his death. He suggests that his clients make a free will choice to find their own meaning and a purpose for living to lessen their death

What greater comfort?

anxiety.

Dr. Irvin Yalom is 92 years old. His popular books have helped countless readers with end-of-life and death anxiety issues, in particular his book, *A Matter of Death and Life*, 2021.

Jesus also addressed death anxiety: He provided a meaning and purpose for existence and assurance about both a conscious afterlife and hope through the distress of end-of-life and death issues. Before miraculously resurrecting Lazarus four days after his burial, Jesus assured Martha—Lazarus' sister—who was grieving and anxiety-ridden: *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and*

whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26, NIV). Countless millions have answered "yes" to the question Jesus asked Martha. The apostle Paul, plagued by constant persecution, answered "yes" and was at peace in writing: *"For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" and that he, "... would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord"* (Philippians 1:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:8).

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Te Rangimarie,
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Letters to the Editor

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future.
So again may I remind those people who actually stupidly voted for this Mickey Mouse Government not only have you put the whole country in jeopardy, but you all put a government in when previous National governments have nearly ruined our country. You all never even listened to what our Labour Government was saying, so now the whole country is suffering the consequences because of this.

*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.*

Bus transport

Once again, I read with interest the article published in the Opunake & Coastal News 02 May. In this edition the writer refers to the increasing number of services scheduled for the Opunake – New Plymouth Bus Service to five days a week, that is, Monday to Friday. I recall presenting an article to this publication back in June 2015 when there was a threat of losing the service. My advice then was “to Use it, or loose it” At the time of writing that article my partner and I were working and living in the UK where I was managing a coach company. We have since (2018) moved back to Queensland where I am currently employed as Assistant General Manager for the CAVBUS Group who operate 150 buses and coaches out of three depots. I must congratulate the Taranaki Regional Council for their support of this Coastal Service and also the passengers that utilise it. Having worked for many years in this industry from a driver to holding senior management roles in New Zealand, Queensland and the UK and now back in Queensland, it is the same set of issues and the three main issues are patronage, driver retention and subsidy. I believe it to be true that no road passenger transport service that can survive without subsidy, whether this funding comes from large corporations, business parks or local and Central government as is the case here. So support this initiative by your Regional Council. When I drove the service around the coast for Newmans Coachlines in the mid-eighties there were two services a day from Hawera to Opunake to New Plymouth and Return, and one on a Saturday. I note that I read an article in the Australian Bus &

Coach magazine (ABC) that the Taranaki Regional Council are placing EVs to service the people of New Plymouth. Congratulations once again to the Council, who are showing initiative and foresight. Many cities around the world are introducing electric vehicles. The state government where I live have just procured 200 electric vehicles and the bodies will be built onto the chassis locally, therefore boosting the local economy. In my current role I was instrumental in the purchase and operation of the first two full electric buses to operate a timetabled passenger service contracted to the state. These buses are now over three years old and are still performing very well. With the cost of fossil fuels especially in New Zealand EVs are the more economical purchase over the whole of life of the vehicle. I believe New Plymouth is an ideal city to enhance this greener form of transport moving around a relatively flat city.

Robbie Harrop

Not enough information

The Manganui Gorge access Swing Bridge has been opened. Very impressive, should keep park-users and park staff safer. The question is what does the tin shape at the start of the bridge mean? Looks like something from the Dungeons and Dragons. Sadly, just like the carved poi pole at Dawson Falls Visitors Centre, no information board signs letting park-users (our visitors) know what their meaning is?
After all, Egmont National Park is there for all New Zealanders.
There are no new information board signs anywhere on the Pouakai Crossing and Taranaki Crossing Treks, as the Department of Conservation referred to in the treks upgrade plans.

*Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth*

GeoEngineering in New Zealand skies and across the world

Condensation trails (Con Trails) are short lived trails that sometimes appear behind jet aircraft and they are short and dissipate

quickly, remaining for only a minute or so.

Chemtrails are different and more and more people are awakening to the fact our skies are being butchered by chemtrails on an often daily basis. Some days the trails slowly spread and gradually dim the whole sky, very disturbing. Other days the trails react differently, forming very unusual cloud patterns.

These trails are known as geoengineering, and they are clandestine operations worldwide. For those who think this is a conspiracy theory, think again, and on the web go to ; map.geoengineeringmonitor.org.

The maps in this program show there are approximately 1300 geoengineering programs worldwide, of which four are in New Zealand. two are supposedly for CO2 control and two are for other, whatever that may mean.

According to tests carried out overseas, these trails contain heavy metals such as aluminum, barium, and strontium and who knows what else. Ice from mountain tops are showing alarming levels where there should be nothing.

In New Zealand, most of the trails are laid by Air NZ and Jetstar commercial airline flights between Auckland and Christchurch, or Auckland and Queenstown. To prove this is factual, download the FlightRadar24 app, which identifies registered flights above.

The most convincing sight is seeing the sky with flights laying chemtrails and also other flights with short condensation trails. It also makes scientific sense that condensation will dissipate quickly.

Government denials of the existence of chemtrails are immediate. Now we have Christopher Luxon as our PM, it is not hard to convince oneself that he is fully aware of these programs. He was until he began his parliamentary career, CEO of AirNZ, and these programs have been ongoing for many years now.

Who actually gave approval for these programs? Apparently the OIA denies they exist.

It appears the Government and the Regional Councils,

who are responsible for caring for our environment, are complicit in these clandestine operations. Contact your MPs and Regional Councils and demand a truthful enquiry.

My belief is the perpetrators are attempting to convince us to be Climate Alarmists, and therefore these operations must cease immediately.

The climate is always changing in cycles and the present push for climate alarmism is crazy and completely misguided. CO2 for example, is at present only 0.04% of the atmosphere, historically low and by all accounts should be higher, as it would mean much better plant growth. This shows just how crazy the whole Green Renewable Energy story is. That is another subject for another story.

*Alan Murray
Ohawe.*

Commemorating ANZAC Day

I'm in no doubt that many upon many around our country all commemorated ANZAC Day 2024 while not forgetting this ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia, and Israel and Hamas.

I've heard many upon many war stories from those who were extremely lucky to return home, even stories from two kiwi soldiers who were captured by the Germans and ended up in one of many Prisoner of War camps. I had two uncles who were together in World War II. One of my uncles was wounded, then my other uncle and a good mate crawled through enemy lines over dead bodies in mud to get his brother, then the three of them returned to a trench to safety.

Some soldiers would start talking, then stop and burst into tears, yet what I heard really made me shudder with horror. To all of those men and women who risked their own lives so we can have the freedom we have and enjoy today I am proudly thanking each and every one of them for their bravery and courage, yet still we have some people who still really don't realise what

our soldiers did and went through.

*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.*

Opunake revitalisation programme / greenspace

I recently attended the public meeting regarding a proposed CBD greenspace and how the Business Association could encourage people to visit and spend some time in Opunake. The existing greenspace proposal intends to block off the intersection on Napier St corner and create a greenspace which will remove the four popular angle parks outside the now vacant TSB building.

Opunake is a unique town that attracts many people from outside the area to enjoy and experience the fantastic safe beaches plus the many internationally renowned surfing spots. In addition, there are amazing cafes which are popular for locals and weekend visitors for brunches plus the diverse local artisan studios. However, our CBD area is generally looking tired with many faded frontages and dull exposed walls as they have not been refreshed for at least thirty years, this was when artist Dennis Lattimer was living locally.

There is a town in Tasmania with 1600 population surrounded by dairy farms, known as Sheffield, which was struggling to survive with declining visitor and population numbers. A small group of residents were

inspired by a small Canadian town, Chemainus, that through mural art rescued itself from ruin. Sheffield, which commissioned its first mural in 1986, is now known as “Town of Murals” and is a major tourist attraction with over 200,000 tourists annually.

Likewise, Katikati in NZ which was also in a state of decline after the share market crash and the kiwi fruit industry crisis found out about Chamainus in Canada, and how they turned themselves around. Now Katikati is known as NZ's Mural Town with seventy outdoor arts, sculptures and carvings and after ten years they are now prospering with 300,000 visitors annually.

I see so many similarities with Opunake to both Sheffield and Katikati, so Opunake could easily achieve the same accolades. Commission artists to paint murals on blank walls depicting our history and uniqueness to the rest of NZ. Having fresh and colourful outside artwork may also encourage the CBD business owners to give their frontages a freshen up. I believe there is financial assistance available from the Council for this which most businesses/owners appear to not know about.

Following a mural theme, there would be cost benefits as opposed to the current greenspace proposal, as there would be no requirement for design consultants or developers to be involved nor the civil work required to change current infrastructure. It would be as simple as maybe

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Letters to the Editor

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involving the Egmont Community Arts Council for contacts for a network of competent artisans to employ and their experience with attaining earlier murals. Let Opunake become known as Opunake Alfresco Art or in Jean Roach's words "Mural Town of the West" and not the place where they attempted to build an artificial reef and now are proposing an artificial turf in the middle of the CBD area at a considerable expense when huge undeveloped greenspaces already exist in short walking distance to both the sea and mountain sides of this area.

Lynda Corkill
Opunake

Who was first?

An interesting question I was asked last week, who was the first woman to die on Mt Taranaki (Egmont)? Mmm, this I didn't know, or at least remember. I found out it was Evelyn Oxenham (22) in January 1913. This answer brought many questions. Evelyn

was the fifth person to die on the mountain, though let's rephrase that. She was the first Pakeha woman. The question flowed around and was left unanswered as we did not know or find out whether any Maori women had died or were killed on Mt Taranaki.

Another question was asked of me. Who was the first European woman to make an ascent of Fanthams Peak (Panitahi)? I said Fanny Fantham in 1887 at the age of 19. An arm shot up and asked me a question, Did you ever meet her? (humbling, I must look old)

Another question was who were the first female mountain guides on Mt Taranaki? Answer I recalled there were sisters Hilda and Molly Haldane.

The final question I was asked was, who was the second New Zealander to climb Mt Everest, after Sir Edmund Hillary? The answer is something all Taranaki people should know, Nick Banks from New Plymouth, in 1979, becoming the 100th person to have climbed Mt Everest.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth

Mountain women of Taranaki

Following on from Ian MacAlpine's interesting letter about the first female fatality on Mt Taranaki our research revealed some interesting facts about women who have climbed Mt Taranaki including the first to tragically lose her life in her quest.

The first European woman to climb Mt Egmont was Jane Maria Atkinson nee Richmond, who reached the summit, aged 31, via the Kaimiro route on March 7 1855. Jane wore canvas dungarees of her own making. The next women to reach the summit were sister-in-laws, Blanche Richmond nee Hursthouse and Mary Richmond nee Smith, who did so on the February 28 1859.

In March 1887, Frances Fantham (Bayly) was the first woman to reach the top of Panitahi, and this was named Fantham's Peak in her honour. The same day, the four men, Thomas Dawson, Charles Goodson, Gilbert Wylie and Bradshaw Dive, who had accompanied her proceeded to the summit and on their arrival were surprised to find a party of about 20 others including several ladies who had travelled by the Inglewood route. The ladies were listed as Mrs J R Lever, Miss A Turner, Miss Clough and later in the day, Mrs O M Curtis and Miss K Lawson.

On May 25 1887, a party including two women, Miss Jane Mitchell and Miss Maggie Hastie reached the summit, and they were the first women to reach the peak from the Manaia side. On the way down, a boulder which had come loose, rolled down the mountain and struck Jane Mitchell who was seriously injured. She was carried to Dawson's Falls, arriving at 9 o'clock that night, and was taken to her father's residence at Manaia the next day.

Jane Mitchell, also known as Jean was born in Oamaru in 1872, the daughter of John

Dryburgh and Elizabeth Ann Mitchell nee McAulay, of Burnbank, Mitchell Road, Manaia.

She died unmarried on January 9 1946 at Hawera, and is buried at the Manaia cemetery.

Margaret (Maggie) Ann Hastie was born in 1870 and died unmarried in Auckland on

April 5 1951. Her ashes are interred in the Manaia cemetery with her parents Andrew and Asenath Hastie nee Lavis.

On March 17 1899, Mrs C S Curtis was the first woman to reach East Peak (Sharks Tooth) via the Stratford or Pembroke Road track, on their way to the summit. The party included Mr and Mrs C S Curtis, Mr & Mrs F G Arden, Mrs P Bayley and Miss E Dixon, later Mrs Hemingway. (Mrs Arden and Miss Dixon did not reach the summit)

On the February 27 1890 a party including Mrs Halcombe, Mrs Standish and Miss Saddler reached the peak, and the local newspaper correspondent recommended women to wear "either a sort of Turkish costume with loose trousers and blouse or a knickerbocker suit".

The first women to reach the summit from the western side at the end of Kahui Road, Opunake were Miss Berry and Miss Drummond in February 1900.

A letter to the editor from Old Auroa-ite dated August

29 1933 about an early visit to Lake Dive, states that Miss Maggie Hunter, then a girl in her early teens, accompanied by Mr J and G Hunter, Norman and Frank Innes and two Auroa-ites, cut a rough track and after an arduous tramp reached the lake. Maggie Hunter (now Mrs Stoddart of Waipukurau) "certainly has the honour of being the first lady visitor to Lake Dive."

The first accident involving a woman on Mt Egmont was on January 26 1913, when Miss Evelyn Oxenham, aged 22, from Fitzroy died from exposure. Her body was not found until the 29 January.

On the July 26 1953, four nurses from the Nurses Tramping Club at the New Plymouth Public Hospital where killed in a fall. They were Mrs Ruth Caldwell (29) staff nurse, formerly of Nelson, Miss Julie G Cassels (18) nurse, of Eltham, Miss Janet Cameron (20) nurse, of Wanganui and Ellen B McBeth of Marton who died on the 28 July from injuries received.

On the May 15 1954, Miss Jennifer Jill Pease (21) of Manaia was killed by a falling stone.

In 1927, Rod Syme was the only person in South Taranaki climbing Mt Egmont regularly, and at the same time at the Hawera Tennis Club, there was a group of young women, friendly, looking for adventure, but a bit shy. Unbeknown to Rod, these

women, after some rather secretive discussions, had decided they would like to climb the mountain, but the big question was how or who should approach Rod Syme. Finally, feeling there was safety in numbers, the required courage was plucked up.

On the February 5 1928 Rod took Dora and Mary Hawken, Myra and Joyce Powdrell and Evelyn Buist (Syme) to the peak, followed on February 12 by Ev Buist, Dora Hawken, J Blair, Muriel Strange, Ivy McClure and Betty Page. On the February 26, he took Betty Ryan, Jean Christie (from Hawkes Bay) Myra and Joyce Powdrell, Grace, Edna and Mavis Death and Gladys Duke, and on March 4, Eva Clark, Myra Powdrell, Joan Page, Eileen Cameron, and B Cartwright.

On the March 19 1928, Rod Syme called a meeting for those interested in forming an Alpine Club, and all the above women became members. On the April 1, Rod took the following women to the summit, Rua Symes (from Hawkes Bay) Doris Meyrick, Sybil and Molly Washer, Kathleen Buckeridge, Ina Haybittle and G and L Spragg.

From RootsWeb. Sources "Hawera Star" reports, Rod Syme, Hawera and Egmont - The Story of a Mountain by A B Scanlan

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Delay continues to rankle Manaia



Questions continue to hover over the future of the town's War Memorial Hall...

Te Korowai o Ngaruahine programme manager Karl Adamson made an impassioned plea at a recent public meeting in Manaia. "Do we want to wait another 10 years for a community facility? Come on whanau let's flipping do it." Nine years ago the Manaia District War Memorial Hall was closed for failing to meet earthquake strengthening standards. Eight years ago a similar fate befell the town's Sports Complex. Since then Manaia has been without a community facility. A debate has raged in the town about whether the hall or sports complex or both should be strengthened, pulled down or something new put in their place. The one thing that everyone seems to agree on is that the process has taken too long. Two years ago a solution

appeared to be at hand with a suggestion that the South Taranaki District Council and Te Korowai o Ngaruahine work on putting together a shared facility. Te Korowai had wanted to move their offices out of Hawera and into their rohe. As Manaia is the largest town in their rohe, moving here seemed a good fit. Since then the Council and Te Korowai have been working together, and the Council has been putting together a business case outlining the costs of the various options. On May 15 about 60 people were at a public meeting at the Robert Gibson Memorial Hall to hear the latest update on plans for a new community facility. The meeting was chaired by Manaia Community Services group chair John Close and heard from South Taranaki District Council

group manager community services Rob Haveswood and from Karl. Rob said nothing had been decided yet. The Business case was due to come out at the end of June but it could possibly be earlier than that, and there was no reason why the community couldn't be able to see what was in it. The new facility would be funded from the Long Term Investment Fund, so there would be no effect on rates. Karl spoke about what Te Korowai would like to see in the facility. He was asked if the iwi had sufficient funds to do what they wanted to do. He said they did. He was asked "do you trust being in partnership with this Council?" "One hundred per cent," he replied. "I trust them. At this point Iwi and Council are working in partnership to create something for the

community. We are working in partnership and there is no other way. We want to work together because we live in the Manaia community and we want it to succeed."

There was some discussion on the future of the War Memorial Hall which had been opened in 1955 after the previous town hall had been partially destroyed by fire in 1953. Concerns were raised about the possibility of there being asbestos in the current building.

"I think a central location is an excellent idea and it's sensible to demolish the hall," one man said.

Karl said material and artifacts from the War Memorial Hall could be used in the new facility.

John Close asked if something could be done to bring the Sports Complex back up to acceptable earthquake standards.

"That's what we want so that the kids can play sport again," he said.

Previous surveys and meetings around Manaia have produced mixed messages about the preferred option.

"We had discussions two years ago in this building and at the marae and the outcome from both meetings was that the community wanted both," said Te Oti Katene. "Now I'm hearing that they want to know what we want."

The Manaia Community Services Group had recently carried out a letterbox survey and John Close says this had not shown any clear

preference.

Karl said the community needed to present a united front.

"What's really helpful is to get some collective feedback to go to the Council and say this is what the community want, so there's no excuse for any of our partners to say we don't know what the

community wants," he said.

The May 15 meeting comes after a meeting in Manaia to discuss the Council's Long Term Plan which was attended by about 45 people.

John Close said he was pleased at how the latest meeting went. "It's great to see so many people coming on board," he said.

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Beware of scammers

Kia Ora Everybody,

With the addition of the new pump track and winter sports starting up again the high school courts and events centre has once again become a busy place after school and throughout week nights. We have had a few concerns raised to us and we are wanting to remind all parents to be mindful of where your children are at all times and to make informed decisions on whether your children should be out by themselves and if so, making sure they are home at a reasonable time.

The main concerns raised to us so far has been around young children attending the skate park unaccompanied and making risky decisions when crossing the road.

It is a high traffic area, especially during the after-school hours and the road is often obscured by a number of parked vehicles and sun strike so we need to make sure we can minimise the risk of harm in the area as much as possible.

Once again we are seeing a rise in reported scams and fraud type matters. We urge everyone to be extremely cautious when it comes to anything online involving inputting personal details, money and payments.

The easiest ones to avoid in



CONSTABLE BRADLEY COAD

our experience are Facebook marketplace scams – where they are asking for payment before collecting or viewing an item. Always offer to pay in cash or make the payment electronically in person upon collection of the items.

The following is information and advice from Netsafe:

An online scam is any scheme designed to trick people out of money or steal their personal information that uses, or is delivered via, digital communications. Here are a few tell-tale signs you might be being scammed:

- **Contact that is out of the blue** – even if the person says they're from a legitimate organisation like the bank, an embassy or your internet provider.
- **Getting told there's a problem with your phone, laptop or internet connections** – often they

will offer to fix your device or say they are from your phone or internet company.

- **Being asked for passwords** – legitimate organisations will never ask for the passwords to your online accounts

- **Needing to verify your account or details** – don't respond or click on any links in the communication even if it looks like it's from a real organisation.

- **Trying to get you to move outside of an online trading or booking website or app (like Air BnB)** – don't pay outside of the normal website or app processes.

- **Offering money or a prize in exchange for something up front** – they might say that it's a "processing" fee or something similar.

- **Being asked for money by friends/partners you've met online** – this is a very common tactic, do not pay the money.

- **Unusual ways to pay for something** – scammers try to use payments that can't be traced such as pre-loaded debit cards, gift cards, bitcoins, iTunes cards or money transfer systems.

- **Asking for remote access to your device** – never do this unless you have actively sought out the service they are providing.

- **Pressuring you to make a decision quickly** – this could be to avoid something bad (e.g. account being closed, trouble with the IRD) or to take advantage of something good (a deal or investment).

Keep your personal information secure and be sure to think carefully before entering your details online or giving them to someone.

You could also do some research to find information using some of the details you've been told. Try searching "problem with my computer scam," "cheap concert ticket scam," "verify my account email scam," or "NZ Chinese embassy scam," and see if the name of the organisation or person offering them appears.

If the person contacting you has said that they are from a legitimate organisation and you're not sure if it's genuine, you can also contact that organisation to check. Make sure that you use the phone number or email they have on their official website or in the phone book – and do not use the one given by the person or in the email they have sent you.

Nga mihi

*Brad
Constable Bradley Coad
Opunake Police.*

More water for Oakura

Ōākura's water capacity is about to be increased thanks to a new two-kilometre water pipe.

The existing pipe is being replaced with a larger one along Wairau Road, which will help the growing town meet its water needs while improving the supply for firefighting.

"The pipe along Wairau Road has come to the end of its life so we're taking the opportunity to replace it with a larger pipe that gives us capacity for future population growth," says NPDC Manager Infrastructure Projects,



Queens Road water pipe replacement.

Andrew Barron.

The \$1.6m project will take place from Pahakahaka Drive to the state highway. Drivers are asked to travel with care on Wairau Road during the works period as there will be traffic management in place.

The water supply for residents in the area will not be interrupted except when the new pipe is connected to the supply network, with this work taking place overnight when water demand is lowest. NPDC will be in touch with householders before this takes place.

Stage two of the project will take place around the Ōākura Water Treatment Plant next year.

The Wairau Road work is one of many water infrastructure improvement projects that are in progress across the district.

NPDC is more than half-way through laying new water pipes as part of phase two of Urenui's water improvement project, and the replacement of a wastewater manhole and short section of pipe that have sunk on New Plymouth's Katere Road will begin soon.

In the next few weeks a stormwater pipe in

Continued page 7.

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A pumping good day to open a pump track

Everything was pumping as the mayor, councillors and students from Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Tamarongo got on their bikes and opened the Opunake Pump Track.

It was a fine morning on May 16 as kaumatua John Hooker led the party which included the mayor, councillors, council staff, students from the kura and members of the public into the pump track on the corner of Tasman Street and Longfellow Road. After walking a circuit of the track, John pronounced the blessing and South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon donned a cycling helmet.

"I declare the Opunake Pump Track open," he said as he biked down the first slope. He was followed on their bikes by councillors Bryan Roach and Aaron Langton as well as students from the kura.

Mayor Nixon said the project was a year in the making.

On May 31 last year the Taranaki Coastal Community Board voted to get behind the project with a \$5000 grant from the board's discretionary fund.

The Opunake and Coastal News reported (June 15 2023) that Community Board chair Andy Whitehead said the project was largely



Students from Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Tamarongo were among the first to enjoy the new Opunake Pump Track.

an initiative of the South Taranaki District Council who had applied to the Toi Foundation for a grant given to projects carried out on Council-owned land. South Taranaki District

Council development advisor Fran Levings described a pump track as being "like a condensed BMX track, except it's made of asphalt." Originally the project was earmarked for Hurst Park, but after consultation with the community it was decided to place it at the Opunake Sport and Recreation Ground instead. Mayor Nixon says he believes this was the right place to put it.

community advisor Fran Levings said contractors Trailpro had also done the pump track at Coastal Taranaki School. Mayor Nixon said the fine morning had contrasted with the scene a week before when the contractors had packed up and gone back to

Auckland. He said the Pump Track had been a community effort with funding from the Toi Foundation, OMV

and the Taranaki Coastal Community Board. He thanked the iwi and hapu for supporting the project.



Councillor Bryan (Roachy) Roach gets on his bike.

More water for Oakura

Continued from page 6.

Inglewood will have a new internal lining installed, and wastewater pipes will be replaced on Waitara's McNaughton and Stafford streets and on New Plymouth's Sunley and Gilmour streets. The replacement of water pipes on Inglewood's Pukatea Street will start in the next few months.

Andrew says NPDC just recently finished installing a new 600m water pipe down Queens Road in Glen Avon, and wastewater pipes on Mould and Strange streets in Waitara.

"This is our bread-and-butter work: keeping our critical infrastructure networks in good condition so that they meet the needs of our communities – both today and in the future," he says.

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Social investment aims to drive better results

Social investment aims to drive better results from social services. Too often our most vulnerable are let down by the status quo. We believe it is important to intervene early to prevent a child's life from veering off track. The underpinning idea of Social Investment is that if the Government intervenes earlier, our most disadvantaged Kiwis can have a better opportunity at getting their lives on the right path.



BARBARA KURIGER MP
TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

Youth crime, families living in motel rooms and truancy rates are all

examples of the need for a social investment approach. The Social Investment Agency is tasked with setting the standard for social investment practice to ensure there is consistency across government agencies. We want every single New Zealander to fulfil their potential and feel supported to do so. That is why we have announced a new standalone Social

Investment Agency to ensure the investments we make in public services are delivering the best possible outcomes. The new central agency will be effective from 1 July 2024 and will be replacing the current Social Wellbeing Agency. Additionally, a Social Investment Fund has been announced which will commission outcomes for vulnerable New Zealanders, and work with community, NGOs and iwi

providers. The current lack of support is reflected in the rise of welfare dependency, declining school attendance, rates of youth and violent crime and the increasing rates of inequality. Over time, by scaling-up successful social services we will deliver improvements for people, their families, and our communities. Despite the increasing billions being spent on

well-intended programmes, social services are still failing many New Zealanders who are most in need of community support. We want to ensure those that rely on, and the taxpayers that fund them are getting the best possible outcomes from the investment we make in our public service

Barbara Kuriger, MP Taranaki/King Country.

Fast track bill sacrificing our environment for power and profit

The National Government is sacrificing our natural environment and granting itself unprecedented power, all for the sake of private profit. Even worse, they're shutting out every day New Zealanders, including us here in Taranaki, from having any say in the matter.



GLEN BENNETT
LIST MP

means just three individuals to National, ACT, and New will have the final say on the Zealand First campaigns. future of some of our most cherished natural assets. It's simply unacceptable for Ministers to accept donations from businesses likely to favour companies with one hand while making critical decisions about their

ecosystems and deplete our resources. One of them, New Zealand First MP Shane Jones, has openly stated his desire to prioritise commercial interests over our environment. He's keen to ramp up mining operations, regardless of the cost to our environment, climate goals, and future generations.

Among those invited to apply for fast-tracking are companies that have donated to National, ACT, and New Zealand First campaigns. It's simply unacceptable for Ministers to accept donations from businesses likely to favour companies with one hand while making critical decisions about their

projects with the other. To make matters worse, National's bill could silence the voices of New Zealanders throughout the fast-track process. If passed, New Zealanders might be kept in the dark, unable to voice their concerns about projects that could significantly alter our landscapes. This is nothing short of an attack on democracy.

The Fast-track Approvals Bill could also allow National to greenlight projects that are currently prohibited or have already been rejected by the courts. National MPs are already in discussions with large-scale polluters, including mining

companies, and have invited applications from over 200 companies.

Unsurprisingly, the Fast-track Approvals Bill is hugely unpopular. Public submissions have overwhelmingly opposed it. Seven of our eight regional councils have voiced their opposition, and the Auditor-General has raised formal concerns. Even former National minister Simon Upton, now Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, has warned of "significant environmental risks." This Bill is an industrial-scale disaster, yet National is determined to push it through.

Fast-track consenting can be effective if done correctly. Labour's fast-track consenting scheme, for instance, approved projects for residential and commercial building, renewable energy, and infrastructure with careful consideration for how these projects could harmonise with nature. Importantly, all approvals were made by independent panels.

In stark contrast, National's Fast-track Approvals Bill is an assault on nature, transparency, and democracy, all for the sake of private profit.

Glen Bennett MP

Government should be investing more in DOC say PSA

The PSA say they are gravely concerned that the drive to respond to Government saving cuts has seen DOC confirm to staff that is cutting 124 net roles. DOC is disestablishing 257 roles and creating 133 roles.

Of the 257 disestablished roles, 114 are vacant.

"The overall cuts to the Department of Conservation will impact its valuable work as an agency which safeguards our national identity and the

conservation estate, the jewel in our tourism crown," says Public Service Association Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi National Secretary Duane Leo:

"These cuts should be a huge concern to New

Zealanders who support the protection and preservation of our unique natural habitats. Even more so to Iwi Māori as kaitiaki of our natural spaces.

"The cuts will also inevitably create higher workloads for the remaining DOC workers

as the organisation has been underfunded in many areas and is facing cost pressures.

"In its November 2023 Briefing to the new Conservation Minister, DOC warned that 'the state of nature in New Zealand is in decline and significant habitats and species are at risk'.

"The Briefing points out that extreme storm events are racking up significant bills and the current network of trails and huts is 'not sustainable'.

"Given this, the Government should be investing more, not less, in such an important agency. The Government talks of growing the economy yet at the same time is shackling DOC, which plays such an important role in

boosting tourism, our second biggest export earner.

"In 2019, tourism on public conservation land and waters provided an economic value of \$4.1 billion nationally, accounting for 21% of the tourism industry.

"In the final decision announced DOC has shown that it seriously considered submissions made by PSA members and other workers. We particularly welcome the retention of more roles in resource management and aquatic units, where the proposed level of cuts would have resulted in almost no capacity to do priority work.

"Our delegates will be working closely with DOC to ensure that the change is managed to minimise impacts on individuals."

Your Taranaki MPs are here to help you.

Barbara Kuriger
MP for Taranaki-King Country
[barbarakuriger.national.org.nz/](mailto:barbarakuriger.national.org.nz)
barbara.kurigermp@parliament.govt.nz

Carl Bates
MP for Whanganui
national.org.nz/carlbates
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David Macleod
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Bates opens South Taranaki office

Whanganui MP Carl Bates, whose electorate covers the South Taranaki and Stratford districts has officially opened his office in Hāwera.

Although the office has been in operation since the beginning of March it was formally opened by Economic Development and Ethnic Communities Minister Hon Melissa Lee, with local Mayors Phil Nixon (South Taranaki) and Neil Volzke (Stratford) in attendance.

Carl Bates said he valued the presence and support of the local mayors and was keen to work proactively and constructively with them to promote their districts in Wellington.

“Provincial New Zealand has plenty of challenges

in the current economic environment” said Bates.

“It’s really important that I have a strong working relationship with all three mayors in the electorate” he said.

The office in Hāwera is staffed by Linda Weterman. Linda, who lives in Stratford, was formerly in tertiary leadership and operations management roles in the business, agriculture, and horticulture sectors, as well as not-for-profit governance and leadership and a partner in a family SME.

Linda is a volunteer for Hospice Taranaki (biographer), Business Mentors NZ and a First Foundation Student Mentor. She has also worked for the Parliamentary Service, experience which helps her

to navigate the roadblocks faced by constituents.

Carl said having offices in Whanganui and Hāwera with professional, empathetic staff will provide a service for constituents even when he is not personally available.

“My commitment is to represent every constituent in the Whanganui electorate, and opening the offices will definitely enhance that.”

The Details:
Where: 44 Victoria St, Hāwera

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am-noon and 12.30pm-3pm. Monday and Friday by appointment.

Phone: 06-278-2180
E-mail: carl.batesmp@parliament.govt.nz

RIGHT:

Member of Parliament Melissa Lee speaking at the opening of the office whilst Carl Bates looks on.



Rainfall figures reflect green drought

April rainfall in Taranaki reflected the tale of two halves seen in recent weather patterns with the north receiving above average rainfall while the south has been experiencing a green drought.

On average April rainfall was 166.1 mm, 11% more than usual, ranging from 60% less rain at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd, and 74% more at Manganui at Everett Park, Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures show.

Year to date rainfall ranges from 41% less rainfall at Waitotara at Hawken Rd, and 16% more rainfall at Kotare at OSullivans, with an average of 11% less than normal. Compared to typical full year totals, on average sites have already received 24% of a typical year’s rainfall, with the highest value at Uruti at Kaka Rd, 30% of normal, whereas Waitotara at Ngutuwerā sits at 18% of the typical year’s

total. Mean river flows for April were 36% greater than typical values, low flows were 2.4% lower and high flows 43.6% greater than typical

values. The maximum river flow recorded in April was 316.4 m3/sec at Waitara at Bertrand Rd, on 20 April at 11pm.

Mean river (non-mountain)

water temperatures were 13.7°C, an average of 0.2°C cooler than long-term April values. Nighttime-low water temperatures were on average the same as historic lows, and daytime high temperatures were on average 0.4°C cooler than historic highs. The maximum river water temperature recorded in April was 19.93°C at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd, on

10 April at 4pm. The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 13.9°C, which is 0.4°C cooler than long-term April averages. Low air temperatures for April were on average 0.3°C cooler than the April average for previous years. Day-time high temperatures were on average 0.3°C cooler than historic highs. The maximum air temperature

recorded in April was 25.54°C at Waitotara at Hawken Rd, on 10 April at 1.30pm.

The average soil moisture for April across sites in Taranaki region was 29.9%. Soil moistures were on average 0.9% wetter than typical April values. On average, low soil moistures were 7.9% wetter than previous lows, and the highs were on average 2.8% drier than previous values for April.



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Principals' Address

Waiho i te toipoto, kau i te toiroa

This whakatauki speaks to the importance of keeping connected, of maintaining relationships and dialogue so that we can keep moving forward together.

This term has been all keeping connected with each other. We have just completed a wonderfully vibrant Pitch Week where staff and students from our kura visit our feeder schools to start making connections, breaking down barriers, having fun and getting to know our future akonga (students).

Our Year 12 students visited the Race Unity Hui, and were true ambassadors for our kura. Their ideas to celebrate diversity, accept and connect people from different backgrounds, and to learn about other cultures were acknowledged at a National level. Opunakē High School will continue to wave the flag (literally and metaphorically) for embracing cultural diversity.

May, music month also received our attention. With students wearing their favourite band tee-shirts on Friday, and having a couple of lunchtime concerts. Koha was donated for this, which will be going towards growing and developing our music department.

Another thing Opunakē tamariki are growing is our food forest. Fruit trees have been planted-each one with comfrey around it following the permaculture model. The Education for Sustainability students have begun shaping beds around them, laying down cardboard and mulch. Thanks to Ian Armstrong for the mulch. More mulch going on next week (thanks to Bruce Clement) and the following week (thanks to Ross Sinclair).

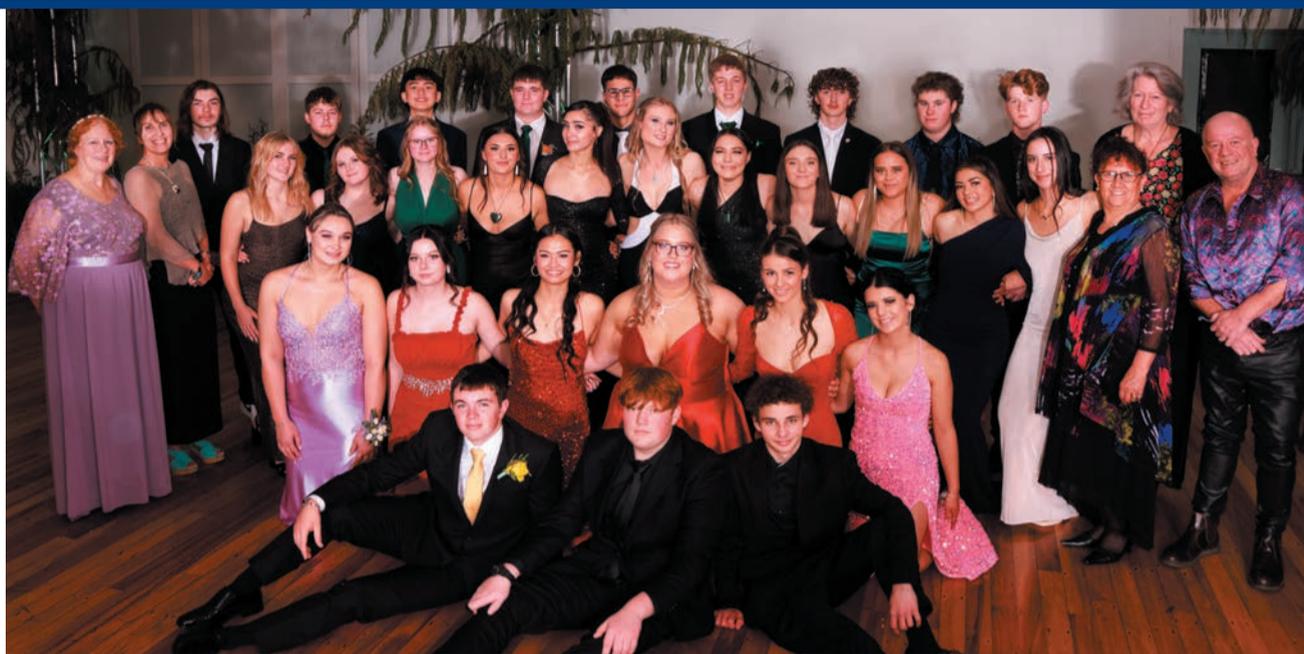
Let's not forget our Agriculture students who have received funding from Home and School to purchase chainsaws, and safety gear, and have been busy learning this valuable skill with Matua Dave.

We have also just completed our literacy and numeracy testing for Year 10 and 11, and look forward to a high level of success. All students who pass these tests will have achieved the co-requisite for NCEA Level 1. We trust our school wide focus on literacy and numeracy will start to pay off dividends in this space.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contribution the Lions club have made to supporting our individual students in achieving their dreams, and also our recent Japan fund raiser at the golf club. We would also like to extend our thanks to Opunake Golf Club, for supporting us in 'growing good people for a rapidly changing world'

Ngā mihi nui

Andrea Hooper Carr
Principal



AN ENCHANTED EVENING

The Enchanted Forest that was created by our Ball committee was truly magical. This vibrant evening where all our senior students connected in their finery, waltzed and dosey doed, and dined on delicious kai was a testament to our senior leaders. The Ball committee students put together everything from the table ornaments to the tropical forest. We definitely have some very talented event managers in our senior school.

The Opunakē High School Royal Family (from left); Wiremu Henry and Dallas Tapsell - Cutest Couple, Luke Forsyth and Jessica Holmes - King & Queen, Alex Moss and Aionee Nuku - Prince & Princess, and Charlie Carr - Spirit of the Ball



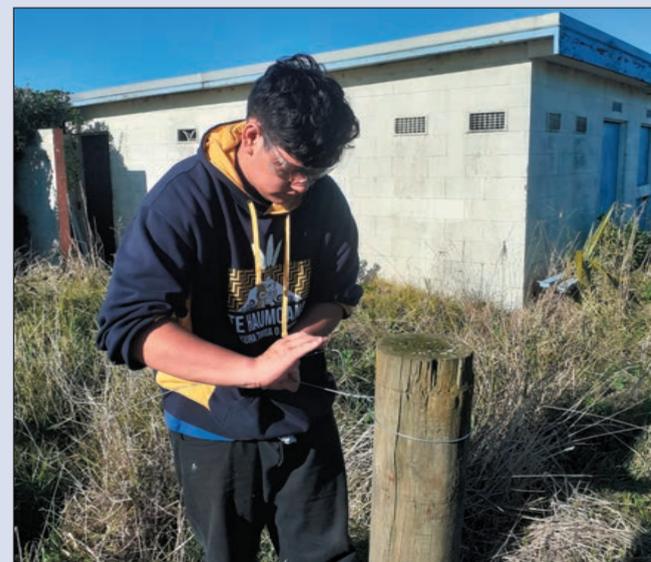
AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

Matua David Jane has had our senior Agriculture students doing the hard mahi on the tools recently. From learning fencing, to digging holes, operating chainsaws and being safe - the next generation of young farmers, arborists, machinists are learning some very valuable skills.

Top: Justyce learning how to tie wire and run fencing.

Bottom right (from left): Konnor, Tamzyn, Jess, Tristan & Kaleb learning the ins & outs of chainsaw operation.

Below: Jahrese learning to care for the tools.



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make a small donation with proceeds going to breast cancer. Hook and Sue Doyle hosted the occasion and to their surprise 25-30 people turned up.

So successful was the breakfast that it was decided to do it again, this time hosted by Richard and Sharon van der Fits. The next year Kathy Quin and Bryan Goodin agreed to be hosts.

In the years since the breakfast hosted by the Coastal Pink Ladies and Lads has become an annual event with the proceeds going to causes associated with cancer.

"We started with breast cancer and then did it for men's cancer," said Kathy. "Then we lost a very close friend to cancer and wanted to make sure that what we raised stayed local."

This year funds raised went to Hospice Taranaki. "They're (Hospice) not just there for the patient but for the family also," Kathy says.

The breakfasts have grown in popularity. To start with they were held in people's garages but a bigger venue

was needed, so they moved to the Warea Croquet Club, although Kathy says "Covid messed us about for a couple of years."

This year's breakfast, held on Sunday May 19 was the third time it has been held at the Warea Croquet Club. As well as breakfast and raffles, there was for the first time an auction.

"We were extremely happy with the auction which proved not only entertaining but was well supported by sponsors, guests and auctioneer alike". About a hundred people turned up.

There are now eight Coastal Pink Ladies, who with six husbands and partners make up the Coastal Pink Ladies & Lads.

They say they want to give a huge thanks to the sponsors who have helped them along the way. Over the five years they have been running the event they have raised approximately \$13,500.

"We get so much fulfillment, fun and gratitude from this day and hope we can continue to support our community in our own small way," they say.

Coastal Pink Ladies & Lads at their latest fundraising event.

Cancer fund raiser goes from strength to strength

What began as a champagne breakfast with 25-30 people to raise money

for cancer is now an annual charity fundraiser on the Taranaki coast.

It all began several years ago when Sue Doyle and Jacky Kopu held a pink

themed breakfast for Jacky's birthday. Family and friends were invited and asked to

Bottles galore at Kaponga WI

The May meeting of Kaponga WI was hosted by Gillian Frandsen and Sharyn Hurley and held at Ricky's Place in Kaponga and members were welcomed by President Jo Ellis.

The roll call 'Favourite Holiday destination' had the Gold Coast in Australia as a winner but many also enjoy holidaying in our own fabulous NZ.

The thought for the month was 'it's better to wear out than rust out.'

Anzac Day in Kaponga was attended by several members with a lovely bouquet of flowers made by Joy Eliason laid by Diane West and Gillian Frandsen. It was noted what a great attendance there was as usual at the Town Hall for the service.

Nine Kaponga WI members attended the recent Riverlea WI 90th celebrations held at the Riverlea Hall. The hall looked great, and it was

enjoyable catching up with so many South Taranaki WI ladies. Congratulations Riverlea.

Some members have recently celebrated birthdays and thanked their secret friends.

Four Kaponga members are to attend the upcoming AGM in Palmerston North with President Jo Ellis to be our delegate.

Silver tray Presented to Fiona Collins.

Competition Results; Louise Cake. 1. Jo Ellis. 2. Nan Stokes. 3. Gillian Frandsen.

Old Bottle. 1. Sharyn Hurley. 2. Jo Ellis. 3. Joy Eliason. Childhood Book. 1. Gillian Frandsen. 2. Dorothy Hughes. 3. Joy Eliason

After a delicious shared lunch Ricky, owner of Ricky's Place, gave us a talk and a tour of his extensive bottle collection that he has been collecting since the 1970s. He also showed us

around his property which has the Kaupokonui River as its back boundary. Over the summer months car boot sales are held there and have proved very popular. Some of our older

members were able to fill in some history of the previous owners of this address.

Ricky was thanked for hosting us and providing such an interesting venue.

Carolyn Nicholas



Kaponga WI members enjoyed perusing Ricky's varied collection of bottles.

Power cut in Opunake

A power cut in Opunake on Tuesday night May 28 was due to a vehicle hitting a power pole in Ihaia Road.

No one was injured and power was restored at 7am on Wednesday morning.



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Mangatoki WI

April is our birthday month and so on April 4, members met up at Karen Joblin's car park to carpool for a day in New Plymouth. There were 12 members present and President Olwyn's daughter and one child joined us for a while. Our first stop was at the specialist food shop Ottimo on Devon Street East where some purchases were made. From there, we went to Bianca Lorenne, a fine linens shop, where they sell high end Manchester drapes, furniture and gifts. It is run by a mother and her two daughters who also have a shop in Australia.

From here, we visited Belhams Interiors, a very high-quality furnishing firm. The owner gave us a short talk about their business and how they dress houses before being sold.

We then went for our lunch at The Shining Peak Brewery, which was new to most of us. After ordering our meal, we held a shortened meeting,



Members decorating butterfly patterns.

chaired by President Olwyn. Secretary Denise read the mail, one being an invitation to Riverlea WI's 90th Birthday Celebration, to be held on May 8 in the Riverlea Hall at 11.30am. Members were invited to make Anzac

wreaths at All Saints' Hall on April 22 and to attend the Anzac Day Service at the Memorial Hall Kaponga on April 25 at 10.30am. As Cathy White was unable to attend the day, Denise, our secretary, read the accounts

and were passed to be paid by Bev Marx. The raffles were drawn and were won by Jan Harrad and Kathy Cameron. The competition for the day was "a treasure from your childhood," therefore members brought items, such as school prefect badges, cards from a grandmother, clothing, photos and many more items.

Four members attended

the Anzac Day Service in Kaponga. Bev Marx made the wreath which was laid on the memorial by Olwyn Duthie and Helen Whyte.

Our May meeting was held at Touchpoint in Eltham on May 1, where we decorated with butterfly wings, which had already been cut out by Greg Carter and Bryce Roberts, painted black ready for us to decorate in colours of our own choice. Some were exceptionally beautiful and some, like me, had shaky hands. We then had our lunch either brought from home or bought from the café. Tea and coffee were made by Olwyn. After lunch we held our business meeting which Olwyn chaired, Secretary Denise read the minutes of the past few meetings. Cathy read the accounts to be paid. Bev had raised \$885 for Hospice in New Plymouth and it was passed that it be made up to \$1,000. Competition results: Flower: 1. Maree Kemp. 2. Bev Marx. 3. Cathy White. Shrub: 1. Lucy Moger. 2. Cathy White. 3. Bev Marx. Raffles: Lucy Moger and Joselyn Hicks.

There were many entries in the Items kept from

childhood competition. Many were handmade from the Plunket patterns which used to be issued.

Seventeen members and one grandchild attended the meeting. Two members went to Founders' Day at Manaia. Mangatoki was placed first for gaining the most members over the past year, third for the Yearly Report and Bev first for her bloom.

Eight members went to Whanganui in March, for the Homes & Garden Tour of gardens in and around Whanganui.

Borer bombs had been set in the Mangatoki church and were cleaned first and the gardens tended. The sick visiting had been done and Olwyn checked that members received the Federation Newsletter by e-mail.

Members then went back to continue with painting their butterflies for a while before leaving for home. Thanks were to be given to Greg and Bryce who cut out the butterfly patterns, etc. Another different and enjoyable day.

*Lucy Moger
Mangatoki WI Reporter*



The Opunake Lions Club members who organised the afternoon tea, from left, Kathryn Stanley, Kaye Mourie, Sue Huckstep, Liz Gasson, and Trish Anderson.

Cheers for Pink Ribbon cause

Cheerful chatter was the highlight of an Opunake Lions Club afternoon tea in aid of the Pink Ribbon cause.

This event was held at the Pihama home of Lions Club secretary, Sue Huckstep. "Everyone had a great time," said Sue.

One guest who had experienced breast cancer gave an informative talk about the illness.

Next everyone enjoyed an array of sweet and savoury afternoon tea treats. Each guest donated money for the fundraising and approximately \$400 was collected.

The church needs to adapt to a changing world says newly appointed minister

The church needs to adapt to a new way of doing and being in a changing world, says Michael Lemanu, a minister from the Methodist church of New Zealand, who moved from Auckland in January to take up a newly created position in the church ministry.

While traditionally people were expected to come to "our church and engage," it's now recognised with congregations getting smaller that there needs to be a more proactive approach. "We're not content to be passive. We want to engage with people."

There are nine Methodist

churches around the Mountain and part of Michael's role is to co-ordinate ministry across the region and work alongside the churches, not just to preach though he does that too as he did recently at St Pauls Co-operating Parish in Opunake. The role involves working with ministers, parish leaders and community leaders and bringing people together.

"I think speaking from a Methodist perspective we have a rich history in the whole of Taranaki."

He says the Methodist Church has always been concerned with justice on many fronts, citing

marginalised communities, racism, and sexual equality.

So far Michael and his wife and young family who arrived in Taranaki in January are enjoying the change in pace after Auckland.

"The slower pace of life allows you to be more aware. There's so much space and time to reflect on where we've come and where we're going." The idea of raising my kids here is also part of the appeal of Taranaki, he added.

When not working he and his wife who met through choral music are both interested in music and Michael has taught guitar.



Michael Lemanu and his family.

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

Welcome to this special quarterly edition of Southlink for Ōpunakē and Coastal News readers.



King's Birthday Weekend

Kerbside collection will continue as normal over the public holidays, so please put your wheelie bins and glass crate out on your usual day. To see when Council facilities are open over this long weekend, visit www.southtaranaki.com/kingsbirthday

DOG REGISTRATION DUE

It's time to register man's best friend. Dog registration invoices will be sent to owners over the next couple of weeks to re-register your dog/s for the coming year.

If we have your email address on file, please keep an eye out on your inbox as we will be emailing your invoice instead of posting it. Those without emails will get their invoices posted as usual.

All dogs three months and over are legally required to be microchipped and registered. If you need to register a new dog, please come in and see us at your local LibraryPlus or the Hāwera Administration Building and we can help you get this done.

If you have any questions, or haven't received an expected dog registration invoice before 30 June 2024, please do not hesitate to contact us tollfree on 0800 111 323.

Any outstanding fees after 31 July will have a 50% penalty applied on 1 August 2024.

Find out more on www.southtaranaki.com/dogsofsouthtaranaki.

Registration Fees for 2024/25*

Urban	\$201.00
Rural (first 2 dogs, per dog)	\$78.00
Rural (three or more, per dog)	\$66.00
Urban spayed/neutered	\$173.00
Selected Owner Policy - Entire	\$121.00
Selected Owner Policy - Spayed/Neutered	\$92.00
Disability Assist Dog (per Dog Control Act, Schedule 5)	Free
Dangerous Dog	Base fee plus 50%

*Fees to be adopted by Council on 4 June.



REGISTER YOUR DOG AND UPDATE INFORMATION AT WWW.SOUTHTARANAKI.COM/ANIMALSONLINE

Upcoming meetings (June - September)

Extraordinary Council – Long Term Plan Deliberations, Tuesday 4 June, 11am

Policy and Strategy Committee - Monday 10 June, 1pm

Extraordinary Council – to hear submissions on the Ōpunakē Greenspace Proposal, Wednesday 12 June, 3pm, Ōpunakē Town Hall

Ordinary Council, Monday 24 June, 4pm

Taranaki Coastal Community Board, Wednesday 10 July, 2.30pm, Rāhotu Hall, 5781 South Road, Rāhotu

Policy and Strategy Committee, Monday 22 July, 1pm

Ordinary Council, Monday 5 August, 4pm

Taranaki Coastal Community Board, Wednesday 21 August, 2.30pm, Coastal Care, 26 Napier Street, Ōpunakē



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

Taniwha Trading Cards coming your way

South Taranaki Libraries are launching into winter with *Takurua Toa, Winter Legends*, a reading programme that gives children the chance to collect Taniwha trading cards every time they use their local LibraryPlus.

Complete various quests (borrow books from your local LibraryPlus, attend one of the programmes, talk to a librarian about books you've been reading, log your reading or draw your taniwha) to earn a card or two. There are 15 Taniwha Trading cards in total to collect - 12 common and three super rare ones.

"Each card will be enclosed in its own mystery envelope to add to the surprise! The aim of the programme is to collect a full set of cards which will be available at any of the seven libraries in South Taranaki," says Council's Outreach Librarian Katherine Bosworth.

Takurua Toa, Winter Legends will begin Tuesday 4 June and run throughout winter, ending on Saturday 31 August. The programme is completely free and aimed at children 5 – 12 years. There is no need to register, which means tamariki can

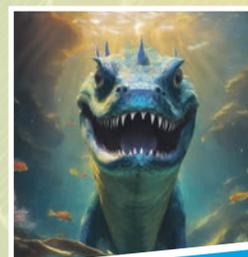
join in at any stage throughout the three months it is running. "We would love to see whanau (families) getting involved in collecting trading cards and visiting their local LibraryPlus over the colder months," says Katherine. "The programme will run for the entire winter to give everyone a chance to collect all 15 cards and participate in the various activities our libraries have on offer."

Come into the Library to pick up a Welcome Guide from Tuesday 4 June, or you can head online to download it at www.southtaranaki.com/takuruatoa.

Takurua Toa, Winter Legends has been adapted from the Far North District Libraries Summer Legends Programme, *Raumati Toa*.

"We were fortunate Far North Libraries shared with us their hugely successful programme and have allowed us to adapt it to suit our South Taranaki community.

This is the first time South Taranaki District Libraries have run a winter reading programme for children and it really is something quite special."



Scan the QR code to find out more...



Pump Track Temporarily Closed

Geez we've had a bad run of weather lately! Unfortunately, the Ōpunakē Pump Track will be temporarily closed as the weather was a bit cold when the asphalt for the track was laid, so now the contractor is coming back to bring it back up to their high standards (at their cost).

It's a real shame as we know the kids were loving it! But we want to make sure the track is in the best possible condition for you all to enjoy.

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National Fielddays at Mystery Creek



Fieldays is not just an event.

Meet the heart and soul of New Zealand's most iconic agricultural event

New Zealand's iconic agricultural event, Fieldays, held at Mystery Creek, Hamilton each year in winter brings together farmers, innovators, industry leaders, and rural enthusiasts. It's not only the visitors who make Fieldays an unforgettable experience, there's a community of volunteers who work closely with the wider event team to ensure that everything runs smoothly. These valued volunteers dedicate their time and effort to ensure that visitors have a memorable experience and leave Fieldays having learnt something new.

Whether they have volunteered for more than 50 years or just lent a hand once, being part of the organising team for this event is an experience that leaves an indelible mark.

Chris Kay's six-year stint as a VIP driver in the Events Team has done just that. He relishes meeting different people and ensuring they enjoy their day, whether

they're farmers taking a break from the farm or city dwellers exploring rural life. But it's the volunteer get-togethers that Chris looks forward to the most—breakfasts, lunches, and shared moments of connection. His advice to future volunteers is simple: "Enjoy what you do and know you are making a difference in your community."

Alexandra Perry joined the Fieldays Event Team as a volunteer in 2016 and has been an integral part of it ever since. Assisting visitors at the Information Booth, a crucial place for seeking guidance, Alexandra shares that her passion for Fieldays runs deep.

"Since I was young, Fieldays has always been a special place for me. When I saw the opportunity to volunteer (2016 was the first year I was old enough), I knew I had to help out," says Alexandra.

Last year, she had the privilege of working as a second-in-command (2IC), which was another great learning experience. What she loves most about volunteering is the camaraderie, the chance

to catch up with fellow volunteers and staff she's known since her very first event.

Wendy, who has been volunteering at Fieldays for 26 years, says that it's more than just an event for her; it's a chance to catch up with long-time friends. She has worn many hats throughout her volunteering journey, from being part of the Fieldays Fencing committee to serving on the judging

panel for the Exhibitor Site Awards. For Wendy, the best part of working at the event is 4 pm on Saturday, she laughs. "It's a busy week, with very early starts, but I wouldn't have it any other way."

Her advice to future volunteers? "It's easy to avoid the traffic if you arrive early before 6.30 am and wait until after 6 pm to leave."



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Rural banking issues are nearing crisis point.

Federated Farmers put banks on notice

Federated Farmers have released the results of their latest banking survey and the findings paint a damning picture of the state of rural lending.

“Rural banking issues are nearing crisis point and farmers are quickly losing confidence,” Federated Farmers commerce and competition spokesperson Richard McIntyre says.

“Things have clearly gone from bad to worse, with consecutive surveys showing all the key metrics we track heading in the wrong direction.

“We thought the results were bad in our last survey, six months ago, but farmers are now feeling even more miserable about the state of

rural lending.”

The Federated Farmers Banking Survey was conducted from May 3-15, 2024, and had 642 responses from across New Zealand.

“The record profits banks have been making for the last few years have been well-publicised, but there are a few other records being broken that we want to shine a light on,” McIntyre says.

“Farmers’ satisfaction with their banks has dropped five points to its lowest levels since our surveys began in May 2015.

“Six years ago, around 80% of farmers were satisfied with their bank, but that number has since plummeted to just 51%.”

A quarter of farmers

held a neutral view, while those saying they were ‘dissatisfied’ or ‘very dissatisfied’ increased to 23.6% - a new record high.

“Alarmingly, we also have one in four farmers reporting they have come under undue pressure from their bank,” McIntyre says.

“These aren’t just statistics. These numbers represent real Kiwi farming families who are clearly under huge pressure from high interest rates, rampant inflation and reduced incomes.”

Given the increased scrutiny of rural lending in recent times, Federated Farmers added a new question to their recent survey.

They asked: ‘Do you

think New Zealand banks are presently demonstrating a positive commitment to support farming through difficult periods of high interest rates?’

McIntyre says it’s incredibly disappointing that only one in five farmers responded with a ‘yes’ to that question.

“At a time when farmers are really struggling, I would have hoped to see our banks stepping up to help, but instead they seem to be

tightening the screws.

“These figures are of real concern and add considerable weight to Federated Farmers’ calls for an independent inquiry into rural banking.

“There are clearly some widespread issues in our rural banking system that need to be closely looked at and addressed - urgently.”

Richard McIntyre.

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Jones makes waves in Belgium



Sam Jones

Sam Jones who learned his golfing at Manaia attracted national media coverage last weekend with his first ever albatross at the Soudal Open in Belgium.

Jones had earned his spot on the DP World Tour after finishing seventh at the Q-School Final Stage last year. The 27-year-old golfer arrived in Belgium on the back of four missed cuts at four of his last five events.

In the first round played at the Rinkven International Golf Club he hit three

birdies and a bogey on his first nine and followed that up with four more birdies before his albatross, a two on a par nine, giving him a two-stroke lead at the end of the first day.

Jones finished the Open tied for seventh place with a group of seven at 15 under after a final round 67.

He plays in the European Open in Germany this week.

Sam Jones was 12 years-old when he and brother Ethan took up golf at the Manaia Golf Club.

Sam later took up a

golfing scholarship at the University of West Georgia and captained the golf team. While he was on holiday back in New Zealand in 2017 he won the New Zealand Long Drive title.

In 2019 he became the first Taranaki player in 70 years to win the New Zealand Amateur Golf championship. Two years ago he led Taranaki to its first Inter-provincial Men's title. He is a two-time Jennianna Homes Charles Tour winner.

Eva Langton Tall Fern



Eva playing in the NBL1 Central league for Norwood Flames in Australia.

Eva Langton has been selected to play for the Tall Ferns Select Team, with a squad of 12 athletes set to travel to Tokyo on 4 & 6 July 2024 to face Japan

Eva started playing basketball at the age of 5 for St Joseph's Primary School and then continued throughout high school at

St Mary's Diocesan School playing at a representative level U12 - U23

She spent two years in Nebraska, USA at a Junior College

And three years in Texas, USA at College

Eva played Tauhi League for Queens 2023-24 seasons And was named as a

travelling player for the BBNZ Tall Ferns for the Olympic qualifier in China earlier this year

Eva is currently playing in the NBL1 Central league for Norwood Flames in Australia.

Congratulations Eva.

Shamus - Men's Player of the Year



Shamus Hurley -Langton has been named Mens Player of the year for the Connaught Rugby Organisation in Ireland
Congratulations Shamus

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Tall Ferns Select Team

Basketball New Zealand has named an intriguing Tall Ferns Select Team, with a squad of 12 athletes set to travel to Tokyo on 4 & 6 July 2024 to face Japan – currently the ninth-ranked Women’s team in the world.

The squad includes: Amiee Book, Ella Bradley, Grace Hunter, Waiata Jennings, Eva Langton, Tara Manumaleuga, Esra McGoldrick, Lilly Parke, Tera Reed, Lilly Taulelei, Tahlia Tupaea and Lauren Whittaker.

The squad is a mixture of experienced national team athletes, alongside several newcomers who are currently embedded as student-athletes in the US College system. Six players – Book, Bradley, Jennings,

Langton, Manumaleuga and Parke – will be in line to wear the black jersey for the first time, under the guidance of four returning FIBA Women’s Asia Cup athletes in Hunter, McGoldrick, Reed and Tupaea.

McGoldrick and Reed also joined Whittaker earlier this year at the FIBA Olympic Qualifier tournament in China. With an average age of 22.4 years; Whittaker the youngest at 18 while Tupaea the most senior member at 26, BBNZ High Performance Programme Manager (Women) Lisa Wallbuton says this tour will serve as a key player development opportunity for the Tall Ferns.

“This squad has a nice balance and mix of the ‘old and the new’; we have

several base Tall Ferns in place with the chance for these US College players to come in and gain experience in this environment and exposure to international basketball. It’s also an opportunity for Tall Ferns coach to evaluate these athletes; can they play a role in our World Cup Pre-Qualifiers in Mexico (15-25 August)? Due to retirements and injury, we have roster spots which these young players will be in line to fill.”

Wallbuton says that alongside this development, the Tall Ferns Select team to face Japan will be a competitive team too thanks to its veteran leadership.

“This is a great chance for Tahlia, Esra and Tera to provide mentoring and leadership to this new

batch of Tall Ferns; those relationships within our team will play a key part in our success going forward.”

The Japan friendly tour will serve as the first hit-out for Natalie Hurst, who was announced yesterday as the Tall Ferns Interim Head Coach. Hurst says she is looking forward to working with his young and talented team in Japan.

“It’s a young team but that’s what’s really exciting for BBNZ – that there’s this young talent coming through and the fact we can send this group to play against Japan in two friendly games, it’s almost a free hit – getting this type of international experience is a great opportunity for any New Zealand team,” says Hurst.



Arna Bright Junior Tall Fern

Arna Bright has been named in the Junior Tall Fern Basketball squad that will travel to the FIBA U18 Asia Cup in Shenzhen, China.

FIBA U18 Asia Cup

The Junior Tall Ferns squad will arrive in China on 19 June for a short preparation camp, before competing in the FIBA U18 Asia Cup from 24-30 June. As one of eight teams to qualify for this tournament in Year Two of the U19 age group cycle, New Zealand has been placed into Pool B alongside hosts China, Japan and Indonesia.

Coach Josh Thompson says that the squad will be tested early in their pool

against some of the top age group women’s teams in the world.

With a Top 4 finish in mind, which ensures New Zealand a place at the FIBA U19 World Cup, Coach Thompson sees two obvious pathways for his squad to reach this goal.

“We’ll prepare as best we can to hopefully top our pool, which sets us up for a place at the U19 World Cup next year – as we’ll go straight into the semi-finals.”

Taranaki Indoor Bowls

What a stunner of a weekend Taranaki Indoor Bowls Rep Team had at the NWWTH bringing home second place and two trophies.

Poor Trevor the selector had a struggle of picking the next rep team with a few hard nights making decisions deciding who he was going to select. Well folks that decision has been made and the team to face the Manawatu team at Patea

on May 26 was named. Paul Midgley(sk), Sue Bourne, Stephen Vince and Daniel Shepard.

Rodney Morris(sk), Rose Ratahi, Ella Smailes and Kim Mahupuku. Martin Harding(sk), Chris Reed, Win Finlay and Brittany Vince. Trevor Bourne(sk), Andrea Berry, Neil Vince and Kaye Bird. Res Ray Finlay.

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New exhibition at Lysaght Watt Gallery

Lysaght Watt Gallery is pleased to host a solo exhibition *Langkah [Steps]* featuring local Manaia-based artist Krismarlianti and runs May 27 – June 22, 2024. Kris was born in Indonesia and grew up in a large family in West Java but was profoundly affected by the early death of her father in her mid-teens. The loss of this soulmate who had encouraged her to respect humanity and follow her dreams had profound emotional consequences for Kris until art later intervened. She attended university in the city of Yogyakarta and was introduced to acting and writing

which consequently enabled her to emerge from the shadow of family tragedy. Kris is perhaps best known today for writing and books of poetry in Indonesia. She later moved to Jakarta, initially for work in the corporate sector and completion of postgraduate study, but art and design soon grabbed her attention. Kris's serious interest in the visual arts really kicked off in 2016 when she made a further leap from fashion illustrator to surrealist acrylic on canvas painter and later abstract expressionist artist working in oils. *Langkah [Steps]* communicates

Kris's ideas, deepest feelings and emotions through the vibrant primary colour palette of her earlier paintings through to more recent works that also introduce pastel to her oil-based works and after moving to Aotearoa in 2021. Join Krismarlianti, First Prize Winner (Painting) Taranaki National Art Awards 2022 in her artistic journey over the past ten years as reflected through *Langkah [Steps]*. Lysaght Watt Gallery, 4-6 Union St, Hāwera, 10am – 4pm (Monday-Friday), 10am – 1pm (Saturdays).



Left: *I truly love you* is a wonderful piece of art from local artist Krismarlianti. Above: The artwork titled *One in a thousand days*.



OUT NOW! YOUR TWO BUS NETWORK OPTIONS

We've heard you loud and clear and we're excited to reveal two bus network options for Taranaki, based on your feedback!

Let us know which option you prefer and together, we'll shape the future of public transport in Taranaki.

SCAN FOR OPTIONS AND SURVEY



HAVE YOUR SAY!

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La Chimera is among the line up at this year's Italian Film Festival on at New Plymouth's Len Lye Cinema. Image La Chimera

Italian Film Festival arrives to delight New Plymouth audiences

New Zealand's largest Italian cultural event returns to NPDC's Len Lye Cinema.

Cinema Italiano Festival, or the Italian Film Festival is visiting 18 towns and cities across New Zealand, with the Len Lye Cinema the exclusive host venue for New Plymouth.

The festival programme is on until June 9, and this is the fifth year it has screened at the cinema located within Govett-Brewster Art Gallery.

Cinema programmer Alastair Ross encourages everyone, not just those with a love for Italian film and cinema, to check out the programme.

"Cinema Italiano Festival is one of the gems in the Gallery's year-round film programme, and the first of the three big international film festivals we present, amongst a total of seven festivals each year," Alastair says.

"It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the festival's artistic directors Paolo Rotondo and Renee Mark to present a really

great snapshot of classic and contemporary Italian cinema to Taranaki audiences."

"There are really too many highlights across the programme, but I don't think you can go past the 1952 award-winning classic *The White Sheik* on the big screen, and the glorious *La Chimera*."

The Festival also features three bonus screenings of the NZ-made short film *Maunga Cassino*, filmed entirely in Te Reo Māori and Italian. The film focusses on the meeting between an Italian deserter during WWII and a soldier from the 28th Māori Battalion.

The Italian Film Festival is one of many long-standing relationships between the Govett-Brewster and a number of embassies, cultural offices and international film festivals.

The Len Lye Centre Cinema screens a regular programme of artist films, cultural documentaries, and independent cinema, including film festivals for everything from Māori cinema to surf films, to international festivals.

Lysaght Watt gallery



A Solo Exhibition By
Krismarlianti

Langkah [Steps]

27 May - 22 June
2024

Opening Event:
26 May 2024
3-5 pm

**Lysaght Watt
Gallery**

4-6 Union Street
Hawera

Open: Mon - Fri 10.00am - 4.00pm
Sat 10.00am - 1.00pm

Sport and exercise grad champions movement as medicine

Rocki Robinson (Te Atiawa, Nga Ruahine, Tainui) – an A+ student who graduated from WITT in 2022 with Level 4 and 5 New Zealand Certificate in Exercise - is excited about her work.

An avid sports woman, Pilates specialist and personal trainer at a gym, Rocki avoids the 'e' word (exercise) and 's' word (sport) when communicating with her clients as a Green Prescription Advisor at Sport Taranaki where she works.

The Green Prescription concept was developed to support people to manage long term health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and more, as well as those preparing or recovering from surgery, and people who want to improve their health and wellbeing.

"We talk about movement and physical activity – language is important," she says. "I like the idea of movement as medicine."

She knows the gym is not for everyone, so she aims to find activity that appeals and is accessible. "Even a daily walk can be life changing," she says.

A big part of her job is to inform people of the numerous free or low-cost health, fitness and wellbeing services, support groups and resources that are available in the community.



Deputy Director – School of Nursing, Health, and Wellness at WITT Kieran McKendry says; 'In the exercise programme at WITT we're focusing on teaching students about different kinds of goals. It's not only about gyms and fitness for some of their clients. It's about making a big difference to people's daily lives and autonomy through small wins.

"If you can support someone with a serious health challenge or a disability to be able to walk with ease from their bedroom to the kitchen, or get dressed by themselves, or get up out of a chair, or carry a plate without dropping it they feel that much more independent and confident. That's a win."

There is an open day at the Western Institute of Technology in Taranaki. Come along and meet the tutors and take a campus tour.

Left: Rocki Robinson recently graduated from WITT with a New Zealand Certificate in Exercise.



Open Day

11am – 2pm, Saturday 22 June

Enjoy a whānau friendly day out

Come to our New Plymouth campus, chat to tutors, take a campus tour to see our learning spaces and check out the ākonga art exhibition. You can also buy some tasty kai made by our students at our popular world street food market.

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We are open **Mon - Fri 9am to 4pm**

CHURCH NOTICES



Church Services - *Manaiia, Kaponga, Opunake, Pungarehu, Okata, Oakura*

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

Other areas

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga

2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays of the month Mass at 6pm.
However during winter the time will be 5pm i.e. Saturday
10th June, 24th June and 8th July. After this date the time
will revert back to 6pm.
1st and 3rd Sundays of the month Liturgy of the Word with
Communion at 8.45am.
Thursday Mass 9.30am (subject to change).
St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church, Kaponga

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

Manaiia Union Fellowship

Terou St. Manaiia.

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

Friend & Fellowship Group

Thursdays @ Manaiia

Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer
and Bible study

Encouraging interactive discussion and Praise
All are welcome

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

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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

Contact Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799

Mason Brothers return to familiar territory



The Mason Brothers are returning to Taranaki for a concert.

The Mason Brothers are back and will be performing at the Kaponga Hotel.

Wayne Mason was a founding member of The Fourmyula, and he was 19-years-old when he wrote Nature, the song for which that band is best remembered, recorded in December 1969. The following year Fourmyula was on tour in England when

they heard it made Number One in their home country. In 2001 it was named the top song in the APRA top 100 New Zealand songs of all time.

The song was also covered by the Muttonbirds in 1992. After Fourmyula Wayne played in the Warratahs until 1994. He has been appearing in bands for the last 60 years.

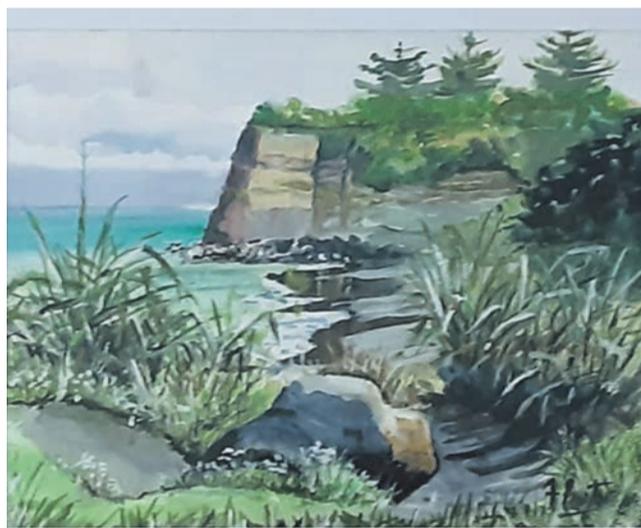
Two years ago he appeared with his younger brother Paul Bowers Mason as the Mason Brothers in their "50 Years of Nature" Tour.

As well as being a musician, Paul is an Anglican minister serving churches in South and Central Taranaki. In December he spoke to the Opunake and Coastal News while leading a Christmas carol service in Kaponga.

"Next year I promised Wayne that we will be back on the road," he said.

That promise has been made good. The two brothers are no strangers to Taranaki. Wayne grew up in New Plymouth and Paul remembers childhood visits to an uncle who farmed at Mahoe which is within coo-ee of Kaponga.

Land and Sea at The Village Gallery



"Land and Sea" featuring artists Jennie Purdon and Frank Eustace is an exhibition featuring at The Village Gallery in Eltham from June 5-29.

They have chosen "Land and Sea" as they both have land- and seascapes. Jennie's works are in watercolours and Frank's are watercolour and acrylics.

Frank was a painter from his childhood and many of the techniques he learned from his art teacher, Owen Curran, have formed the foundation of his career as an artist, whether sketching for cartoons or painting an 11 metre landscape, or theatre stage props.

His career as a dairy farmer fitted in well as he was exposed to wide open spaces and dawn to dusk through the seasons. Even a venture into chainsaw sculpture brought some outlets for his

talents.

For thirty years he produced a monthly cartoon for the front page of his Lions Club bulletin, drawn with skill and humour. His pencil is never still, and his sense of colour bursts from the paintings on this exhibition.

Jennie's watercolours have their origin in her architectural training and rural life. Her touch is gentle, absorbing the green background of New Zealand and the changing nature of the sea and still water.

Her early techniques were formed from formal classes and structural studies at university.

Jim Hayward and Merv Turner have influenced her move into more recent paintings. Also her retirement 'hobby' has turned into a new career.

Jennie would be happy to take on any commissions if anyone would like a painting done of their home or any building in its setting.

Above left: *North Middleton Bay* by Frank Eustace.



THE STRATFORD CHAPTER INVITES MEN AND LADIES TO AN EVENING

WITH



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WHEN: THURSDAY JUNE 13 2024

TIME: 7PM

WHERE: STRATFORD BAPTIST HALL

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CONTACT:

BARRY KOWALEWSKI - 027 372 5147

SANDY BARR - 027 530 0025

LAND & SEA

Artists Jennie Purdon and Frank Eustace



Land and Seascapes in watercolour and acrylic

JUNE 5 TO 29

THE VILLAGE GALLERY 166 HIGH STREET, ELTHAM
OPEN WED - SAT 10AM-3PM

MIND MATTERS

Adults whose childhood needs were not met

What was your childhood like? I often meet people who did not receive all the love, warmth and attention that they needed in childhood. This is seldom because their parents did not love them, it is most likely that mum and dad were too busy. Most parents in Taranaki love their children and work hard to provide for them. Some parents do not consider how much direct, physical, personal attention each child needs every day. They forget their child's emotional needs. What are these, you may ask? I leave the answer for another day.



DR. ROBERT SHAW

Often, without much thought, parents treat their children as they were treated. Every so often, I come across someone who does the exact opposite: "I had an awful childhood", they say, "and I am not going to make my children suffer as I suffered." Such parents can be very dedicated. They are motivated by their rebellion.

Today, MIND MATTERS is to help you think about how you are as an adult and how that might be the result of your childhood.

schools do not teach people how to parent or how to love. This is just an accident of history. There are countries which teach children about human relationships and mental health. We follow our British history and leave it all to chance. We shy away from the emotional side of life.

When parents do not provide their children with what they need for their mental health, this is carried on into the next generation. Were you one of those children?

What might you be like if you did not receive all the warmth and attention which you needed when you were little and trying to understand people? Neglect is not just

a matter of hugs and kisses (although they are important each day). Children need mum and dad to be available – this means they must: be physically present, show the child their emotions, and talk every day to the child about how the child feels and the little things which upset them. Dad teaches them to understand males and the male world. From mum, they come to understand girls and women. Most important: the parents must be consistent/reliable, but that does not mean they have to be perfect. "Good enough" parents are what we need. The child needs to learn to cope with the humanness of people (see MIND MATTERS a month ago).

If you are an adult whose emotional needs were not met when you were a child, you may have some distinctive features. These are not all bad, or all good. How you judge them depends on your history and your culture.

The distinctive features might include:

(1) Emotional independence. You are a practical person who does not get all emotional about things. Hence, you appear strong, resilient, and self-reliant. These are qualities often valued in rural people. Actually years ago you learnt how to repress your emotions. Now you have forgotten how to show your feelings to others. You deny your feelings and set up a mental wall to protect yourself. You are afraid to show your vulnerability. Your "little child" remains inside you.

(2) Overachieving and perfectionism. Because you never feel good enough or worthy of love, you overachieve. You want to show people you are competent, hard-working, successful or creative. In

your adult life, you still crave the approval of mum or dad (or some substitute persons).

(3) Difficulty maintaining close relationships. Many relationships suffer because one or both of the people struggle to express their emotional needs. Most partners are willing to help, but they are not mind-readers. When I talk to these couples, they tell me all the excellent reasons they have for doing what they do. They live in their practical world. However, they do not know many words to describe how they feel. They are "okay," "good" or "angry". Their relationships become transactional. "Be good and we will have sex." They do not want to upset their partner: "It is like walking on eggshells."

(4) Craving for affection and fear of abandonment. This one is not hard to understand. Because your parents were erratic or absent, you seek a partner who will reassure you that all is well. These are the people who text their partner as the day progresses. They do not like absences, particularly those which are unexpected, or long. Often the partners understand this behaviour—they are obliging and tolerant.

(5) High levels of empathy, but no friends. There is a Charlie Brown cartoon where someone says "I love humanity, it is people I cannot stand." This could be a sign of childhood emotional abandonment. Warm loving feelings are present, but the person does not know how to show these to others. They feel that others will not be interested

in them, and they do not wish to impose on others. They envy people who walk into a room and immediately start to talk to people and make friends.

If any of these characteristics worry you or your family, the good news

is that you can do something about it. The idea that people have a fixed Emotional IQ is unhelpful, adults can learn.

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

Childhood maltreatment responsible for up to 40% of mental health conditions

Australian research has found the widespread impact of child abuse and neglect, with analysis showing they cause nearly half of the country's common mental

conditions. Researchers say childhood maltreatment should be treated as a public health priority.

JAMA Psychiatry

Record Fair at Everybody's Theatre, Opunake

**Friday 31 May 2024
2pm to 5pm
Ph 0800REKORDS**



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Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes
2hr 25mins | M Thu 30 May 7PM

The Garfield Movie
30mins | TBC Fri 31 May 7PM | Sat 01 Jun 1PM | Sat 08 Jun 1PM

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga
2hr 28mins | R16 Sat 01 Jun 7PM | Fri 07 Jun 7PM | Thu 13 Jun 7PM

Joika
1hr 51mins | M Sun 02 Jun 1PM | Sun 02 Jun 7PM | Thu 06 Jun 7PM

Bad Boys: Ride or Die
1hr 55mins | TBC Sat 08 Jun 7PM

Back to Black
2hr 2mins | R13 Sun 09 Jun 1PM

Unsung Hero
1hr 53mins | PG Sun 09 Jun 7PM

Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes
Violence | 2hr 25mins | Rated: M
Thu 30 May 7PM

The Garfield Movie
30mins | Rated: TBC
Fri 31 May 7PM

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theory and practice

What's On Listings



ONGOING

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:

Monday: Burger special \$15, Happy Hours 3pm- 6pm; **Tuesday:** Pork ribs \$20, Pool Tournament 7pm; **Wednesday:** Pizza night 2 for \$24,

Poker night \$30 buy in; **Thursday:** Steak night for \$20, Poker Night \$27 buy in; **Friday:** Pensioners lunch \$15, Lamb Shank \$20; **Saturday:** Chicken Schnitzel \$20; **Sunday:** Roast night \$20 Complimentary dessert for dine in customers.

NOW TO OCTOBER 13

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

NOW TO JUNE 22

Langkah (Steps) - A solo exhibition by Krismarlianti: At Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera. MAY 31

Record Fair: At Everybodys Theatre, Opunake. 2pm.

JUNE 5 TO 29

Land & Sea Exhibition by Jennie Purdon & Frank Eustace: At the Village Gallery, Eltham. JUNE 8

Ngati Haupoto Marae AGM: Otutekura, Ngariki Rd, Rahoitu. 11am.

JUNE 10

Opunake Business Association monthly meeting: Opunake Business Centre, 5.30pm..

JUNE 13

An evening with Allan & Ariana Levi: At Stratford Baptist Hall, 7pm.

JUNE 22

Opunake Bowling Club AGM & Prizegiving: At the Bowling Club, 10am

WITT Open Day: At the WITT Campus, New Plymouth. 11am-2pm.

JUNE 23

135th Celebration. St Andrew Presbyterian Church: 10am.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Next Meeting is on Monday June 10, 2024 at 5.30pm

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

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The next issue of the paper is due out on June 13. Phone us to be in it.

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

This newspaper is subject to NZ Press Council procedures. A complaint must first be directed in writing within one month of publication to the Opunake & Coastal News email address. If not satisfied with the response, the complaint may be referred to the Press Council, PO Box 10879, The Terrace, Wellington 6143. Or use the online complaint form at www.presscouncil.org.nz. Please include copies of the article and all correspondence with the publication.

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BUILDER. Hay Barns, Garages, Sheds, Roofs, Gutters, Bathrooms. All building maintenance. Local builder. Dion 021 027 06657.

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

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

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

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

GRAZING

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Happy 18th Birthday Riley Scrivener



Opunake Bowling Club Inc AGM & Prizegiving

Saturday 22 June 2024 at the Bowling Club Commencing at 10am Members are asked to bring a plate
C. Commane President

RENTALS

RENTAL WANTED. Semi retired professional couple require standalone property with garage, unfurnished. One environmentally friendly cat. Ex property manager so your house will be well maintained and cared for. Contact Ranui Hohaia, 027 2299 312. ranui.hohaia@gmail.com.



SUPPORTING OUR TAONGA SPECIES TO THRIVE - Predator control on Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki (Egmont National Park)

Taranaki Mounga Project is an ambitious, landscape-scale project working to enhance our native birds, flora, and fauna across Mt Taranaki, Pouakai, and Kaitake, as well as Ngā Motu/Sugar Loaf Islands. In 2024, the Department of Conservation (DOC), with the support of the Taranaki Mounga Project, will conduct an aerial 1080 predator control operation to treat more than 34,000 hectares of the National Park. This will target rats, stoats, and possums which are the biggest threat to our native species.

Why we are doing predator control

Whio (blue duck), titipounamu (rifleman), miromiro (tomtit), rūrū (morepork), kererū (New Zealand pigeon) and many other native bird species are now seen more regularly and in higher numbers in the National Park. These species are good indicators predator control operations in Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki are working. Thanks to intensive trapping complemented with aerial 1080 operations, whio numbers have risen from functionally extinct 20 years ago to around 40 resident pairs across eight intensively monitored rivers. These rivers are now at carrying capacity and spillover of birds is occurring right around the Mounga with at least 200 birds estimated.

Seeing our forest flourish and having even more native birds visit neighbouring communities is another measure of success. Returning other species such as kākā, yellow-crowned kākārīki, kōkako, and more kiwi is also our dream for the future.

Predator control works

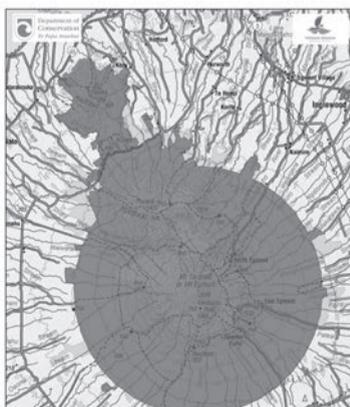
Aerial 1080 remains one of our best tools in protecting native taonga and is the most efficient, effective, and safest way to control predators in the rugged country of the National Park. In particular, it targets all predators in their home ranges at the same time. This is fundamental to the success of the project.

Method of predator control

This operation was scheduled for 2023 but will now be undertaken in 2024. DOC has worked closely with its treaty partners on desired outcomes and consulted with stakeholders and the community. From 23 May 2024 DOC with its contractor Epro Ltd will apply baits containing biodegradable 1080 over the area shown on the map. A pre-feed of non-toxic baits will occur first priming the predators to eat the pellets.

The toxic cereal bait pellets contain 0.15 per cent of 1080, are cylindrical and approximately 2cm in diameter. They are dyed green to deter birds and contain a cinnamon lure to attract rodents.

Non-toxic pre-feed cylindrical pellets are approximately 2cm in diameter and sandy coloured (not dyed).



The aerial operation uses calibrated buckets and GIS mapping technology to ensure bait drops in the designated area. Please see map attached.

1080 is poisonous to humans and domestic animals. Always remember:

- DO NOT touch or eat the bait.
- WATCH CHILDREN at all times.
- DO NOT EAT animals from this area.
- Toxic baits and carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS. These may wash downstream and out of the National Park.

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs placed at the public access ways in the above areas. Warning signs indicate pesticide residues may still remain in baits and carcasses, possibly for more than six months.

If you suspect poisoning

Always contact your local doctor or local hospital or the National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or 03 479 7248 or dial 111.

For further information, contact:

- Biodiversity ranger, DOC Ngāmotu/New Plymouth Office 55A Rimu Street, Strandon, New Plymouth 4312 Ph: 06 759 0350
- Epro Ltd, 283 Broadlands Road Taupo, 07 378 4852

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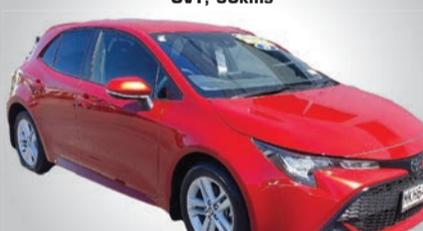
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