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We Will Rock You. See What's On pages

Historic event for Rawhitiroa

The relocated gates to Rawhitiroa School's Memorial Pool on Anzac Day was attended by a large crowd who came to witness the unveiling of a plaque recognising those who fought in various wars.

The project was generously funded by Patrick McLaughlin who passed away in 2021 and thus sadly did not get to see the opening of the new landmark. Two of his uncles perished in World War 1.

Among the various media in addition to local newspapers was Brian Vickery from Bryan Vickery Media. The official ceremony began with a prayer by Padre Lindsay Maindonald of the Eltham RSA, then the laying of wreaths, a playing of the moving Last Post and the raising of the New Zealand flag.

Those gathered were given a comprehensive history of the first McLaughlin in the district by Angela Kiser from the Rawhitiroa Women's Institute who was pivotal in instigating the project.

Hugh McLaughlin who left County Antrim Northern Ireland at the age of 18 initially settled in Australia where he spent three years goldmining before coming to New Zealand where took part in the famous gold rushes in Otago with some success.

He returned to Ireland for three years where he married in 1870 and came back to New Zealand in 1875 with his wife Mary first settling in Patea and later moving to Rawhitiroa around 1895. They lived on the same road as the memorial gates raising at least 9 children (possibly more) their children attending the first Rawhitiroa Primary School which opened

in 1898. The Rawhitiroa Hall opened in 1901.

When the First World War broke out four of the McLaughlin sons signed up for the army.

Two of the sons never returned home. Sadly Edmund and John were killed in action and were buried in France. Hugh (junior) was wounded but did return.

The fourth son Alexander stayed in New Zealand as a Reservist.

Hugh and Mary passed away in 1925 and 1926.

A grandson Patrick Leo McLaughlin who was born in 1938 and an only child, lived on the same road as his grandparents later moved to Eltham with his parents when they retired. He was bank manager at the TSB Savings Bank for many years.

Patrick was very much a community man. A Catholic,



From left, Padre Lindsay Maindonald and Angela Kiser from the Rawhitiroa Women's Institute, who gave a history of the McLaughlin family. Also pictured (right) is cadet Cody Mitchell from the Stratford ATC Air training Corp 48 Squadron.

he devoted a lot of time to the church. He did not have children but was always

immensely proud of his uncles and his McLaughlin heritage. In the year of his passing

the Rawhitiroa Women's Institute initiated the Anzac

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The gathering at Rawhitiroa.

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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.

The wonderful sport of surfing

A big congratulations to the FREESURF Youth Organisers, Cain and Bianca Aldridge on their inaugural Surfing Competition recently held in Opunake. Absolutely thrilled that after many years of thinking and planning such an event has finally come to fruition for you. It is fantastic that the ideals of sportsmanship and caring for others are some of the base fundamentals encouraged through your coaching and love of your sport. Seeing youngsters encouraged at such a young age to give it a go and participate is very enlightening. Opunake truly deserves young people as drivers for our youth in our little slice of paradise and we will be the envy of many regions outside of Taranaki. We will have an up-and-coming untapped talent pool of new children now living in Opunake and hope they will be encouraged in time to come and participate in the wonderful sport of surfing. I will be on the lookout for more events and updates on FREESURF in the future, and hope that

local businesses and the community will be behind this very rewarding activity for our youth. So a big thank you guys!

CB “Wantabe Surfer”
Opunake

A brief history of shooting in Hawera

Seventy years ago in 1953 a young Frank Eustace turned up at Small bore for the first time aged 13 years. Back then we shot in the Produce Hall of the then Hawera Show Grounds at Hicks Park. The Legion of Frontiersmen, sometimes in uniform shot there on targets called the old top hat ones. The backstop was a huge pine log and it had to be replaced every two years with a new log. The walls were timber-framed and clad, and the old borer had had a field day. In fact, one night the wind got up and blew part of it down. Some of the rifles were 303 service rifles with a Morris tube in to reduce the calibre. There were also rifles called 12/15s of breech lever design. Later

came the BSA Target rifles. The ejectors of these would send empty shell cases flying up to four metres in the air. Nowadays most target rifles are bolt action single shot. The hall was also the rugby gym and sometimes the floor would be covered in clods of earth from rugby boots coming in from the fields. Back then we could only shoot on Friday nights as all other nights were taken up by rugby practice. The wind and rain managed to get in the hall. Sometimes we couldn’t shoot because there was up to 7cm of water lying on the floor. In about 1970 a lined social room was built in the old hall. We thought we were made. Back to Friday night shooting. It was also late night shopping in those days and we became almost overcome with young shooters, and numbers skyrocketed to having over 100 shooters a night.

As skills and numbers increased in those days we could front up with two good Bridgeman shield teams. That was 18, made up of three teams of six. We had about 30 senior members. In over 70 years there hasn’t been one accident or injury and well over one million

shots have been fired, and we preached gun safety. We are told that proud history is now not good enough. New regulations are on the horizon, they will be lengthy, involved and costly and some over 100 pages of regulations. In my view, this will not add one iota of safety to the general public. There is a good chance that many rifle clubs could fold because cost and that safe training ground for safety with firearms will be lost.

Frank Eustace
Hawera

National and Greenpeace will ruin our country

It now seems that Greenpeace is welcoming National’s renewable energy policy as half of them still don’t like any oil and gas exploration as they both stupidly think its causing climate change. Well to me, both of these parties are completely stupid and ridiculous, as they both

Continued Pg 4

ADELPHOS

In the last issue of The Opunake and Coastal News AdelpHos looked at Part 1 of Cartoon Contemplation and Claire Bretecher’s sometimes baffling cartoons near the back page. We noted in Part 1 that sin is becoming an outdated word and concept. New research by the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) of New Zealand tells us that the mindset, “... toward blasphemy and terms using the F-word are softening.” This language of blasphemy (using the names of “God” and “Jesus Christ” disrespectfully) seeks to overturn what God stands for and what Jesus died to save us from—Sin. In contrast, the usage and understanding of the “s” sin word is ever diminishing. Oh yes, one

Cartoon Contemplation—Part 2

starting point definition of sin is anything that replaces or separates us from God. To summarise Part 1: Bretecher’s cartoons use a kaleidoscope of human emotions as she asks her readers to think about the weird and unhealthy relationships her characters exhibit. The Old and New Testaments tell us that sin separates people from a healthy relationship with others, ourselves and especially God. In this Part 2 issue we’ll look at the most common outcomes of sin, but, first we’ll look at how people usually respond to it: 1.) pretend that it doesn’t exist, 2.) make themselves their own god and 3.) lead hedonistic lives—indulging their senses. The most

common outcomes of sin are: 1.) it becomes addictive; the more we have the more we want, 2.) it affects our thoughts and subconscious and subsequently affects our sleep quality, and 3.) sin negatively affects our relationships with others, God and ourselves. Sin is a big deal for the whole world because only God is holy and people aren’t. Therefore, no one can erase their own sins or enter God’s holy heavenly presence without His forgiveness. Just as we wash our bodies to clean them, asking God for forgiveness for our sins cleans our spirit and sets us free from the way they affect us. That’s what Christians call salvation. And it’s free. All we have to do is ask God in faith for forgiveness, through His son Jesus who died so that we are able to ask. And in order

to ask for the forgiveness of our sins we need to want it. The Christian’s good works then flow from following Jesus’ compassionate examples (Matthew 25:35-40). Apart from faith, good works alone cannot save us from sin. However, faith and works walk hand in hand together (Ephesians 2:8-9; James 2:14-17). So Bretecher’s cartoons can lead us to contemplate what’s challenging about being human. She doesn’t reveal any solutions or give advice. That’s why some find her cartoons a bit deadpan or weird. Claire’s cartoons don’t actually define sin. But she leaves the reader to think about the brokenness that sin results in. Something to contemplate.

Amazing grace,
AdelpHos

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from Pg 2

hydro helping our country's electricity, yet what is wrong with water power as it's been used successfully overseas like in Hawaii and further afield while as for nuclear

power, I say no way.

To all our farmers, really don't listen to either Greenpeace and National, as not only do they both want to ruin our great farming industry but the whole country which National really did once upon a time, so keep on and do what you are doing producing milk and meat for us and the whole world. Also remember this Labour government has always helped every farmer when being down in the dumps especially when we had this pandemic on hand.

Tom Stephens,
New Plymouth

worldwide. And now in the last two months or so cyclones and rains which have caused widespread devastation to the North and East of the North Island in particular.

These events brought to my mind a prophecy published in the Taranaki Daily News in February 2011. The headline read "Kaumatua foretells Wellington's doom." The Lord had shown him massive destruction through a tsunami. Houses sliding down, and even the roof of The Beehive lying in the streets. It would occur in the month of June. This prophecy was given 50 years ago this year.

If this should come to pass, could the answer be written in the Bible? In the Old Testament when the Israelites turned and worshipped other gods, God brought hardship upon them to bring them back to honour only Him (Amos 4:6-11). Famine. Drought, crop failures, plague and warfare followed after each of these events. "Yet you have not returned to me."

In the New Testament we read Romans 1:21-32. Acts which were once an abomination are now legal.

The governance of New Zealand, as for many nations was based on Judeo-Christian principles. Clearly some of these principles have been eroded.

Hebrews 9:27 says Man is destined to die and then comes judgment. But God, through his Son Jesus Christ provides Salvation through Faith, that through his Death and Resurrection he offers each one of us Eternal Life. Today is the Day of Salvation. May it be so with you.

Bible believer
Hawera

Opunake's new policeman

The capital town of the Coast, Opunake, has a new policeman in Bradley Coad, originally from Tauranga not only has lived in Opunake for years was a policeman at Hawera, has now moved back into his hometown with his wife Chloe Ashton, also a police officer at Hawera at this stage, yet maybe one day she might join her husband in the near future.

Now this is all very well but still everyone that lives around our coast, and also these rural farmers, everyone must be always vigilant, especially seeing that photo of that burning car next to the Kapuni War Memorial Hall and if it wasn't for those tremendous people for what they did, I do believe that hall would have or could have been literally burnt down. So that's why it is so extremely important that everyone regardless where you all live must always keep in contact with each other and help out our coastal policeman.

Tom Stephens,
New Plymouth

Taranaki Maunga, yet one of the local iwi is in the process of building an upgraded accommodation building at Dawson Falls, which seems perhaps suggestive of double standards.

Firstly, Peter Moeahu people we have spoken to each other, wonder why you claim on their behalf, Peter Moeahu? Sorry but many times it seems you speak like a politician, or a counsellor without saying anything useful.

Guess what, I can't wait for the settlement of the Treaty of Waitangi regards to the Egmont National Park and Mt Taranaki (21 years in the making), so climbers like me can get a first ascent of Taranaki Maunga plus and I can start doing outdoor adventure projects, once Taranaki iwi sort out name changes, to Taranaki Maunga and the Te Papakura o Taranaki.

Personally, it is important to me that what one chooses to call the environment under one's feet, that as long as climbers respect the maunga while going there, they still be allowed to enjoy our unique environment, experiencing views and allowing humans to experience what is good for people's mental health while in the Egmont National Park while visiting the mountain's high or lower slopes. We also hope to see many more people sharing the awesome experience in our local Egmont National Park, especially Maori iwi friends. Many local people and visitors are in general looking after our environment and keeping it attractive for park users to enjoy.

Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth

Recycled gondola pods

Peter, thank you for your well thought out reply on 26 April 2023, in the TDN which was to do with buying second hand Queenstown gondolas pods for the Department of Conservation and the iwi to place on Taranaki Maunga. We hear what you are pointing out in regards to placing man-made structures on the slopes of the

Dairy Farm Run-off



Opunake residents do not have to go far to observe the effects of dairy farm run-off in their area. The enclosed photograph was taken on the Opunake Walkway 24 hours after a deluge. Considering that there are about 40 streams collecting run-off around the mountain, one does not have to be a brain surgeon to realise the scale of the problem.

Dr Greg Wood,
Opunake

Climate Change?

In recent years we have witnessed the destruction of Christchurch and later Kaikoura. Even more recent is COVID-19, and this epidemic was and is

Anzac / Gold Star Celebrations

What an absolute pleasure to be able to attend several Anzac Services this year. There was good attendance across our District for all Services held. Although the numbers were down from pre-covid times, it was great to have the sun shining and be there in person without the previous Covid restrictions.

I must give a huge shout out to the organisers of the various Anzac Services. There is a tremendous amount of work put in

behind the scenes to make everything happen seamlessly on the Day. So please accept our gratitude and appreciation if you were one of the behind-the-scenes organisers who made things happen for us.

The day before Anzac I was involved in helping with the flower bouquets that the Eltham RSA put on every plot in the RSA section at the Eltham Cemetery. That's a total of 227 bouquets. This only happens through the

generosity of donations of flowers and fauna as well as the volunteers time to make it happen. We had a record number of helpers on the day and were able to make up 227 bouquets in 45mins. Well done to everyone involved in making that happen. The RSA section looked absolutely smashing as always.

I also attended the Rawhitiroa Service which was their first Anzac Service in the newly created

Memorial Area at the bottom of the Rawhitiroa pool gates - what a stunning job the Working Committee have done out there. I would like to commend the Locals, who with hard work and dedication, have created a wonderful Memorial area.

It was also great to see the Council Staff work with the Committee to help get the project over the line. A prime

Continued on pg 4



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Anzac / Gold Star Celebrations

Continued from pg 4

example of the Council working collaboratively with the Community. On another note, earlier in April I attended a Gold Star celebration at the Eltham

Fire Station in recognition of Gareth Bartley's (aka Bart) 25 years of being a volunteer firefighter for our local brigades. Most of those years were in Kaponga and of late in Eltham. That is a huge achievement and one

that we need to recognise and value. When people volunteer, they are making a commitment to share the most precious of resources – their time. The fact that Bart has for the last 25 years

willing shared his time, knowledge, and skills to lend a helping hand and to show kindness and caring, is huge. And it does make a difference in the lives of the individuals who have been touched by his generosity.

Bart has made a significant contribution to both the Kaponga and Eltham Communities and it was great to see that recognised and appreciated.

Till next time, take care on the roads, especially over the winter months that are just ahead. Brrrr!!!

Cr Steffy Mackay

Manaia's wayward weka has a mate as second bird discovered

The mystery of Manaia's wayward weka has deepened with the capture of a second weka discovered in the South Taranaki township.

While weka are relatively common in the South Island they've not been sighted in Taranaki for decades. Having two weka turn up in the township has Department of Conservation staff worried someone is illegally releasing the birds in the area.

Back in December local man Peter Andreoli caught a weka in the small town.

A second weka was seen by Manaia local Jenny Oakley and husband Guy on their farmlet in late March. The pair volunteer at predator free sanctuary Rotokare Scenic Reserve and for the Taranaki Kiwi Trust so understand weka pose a risk to vulnerable wildlife, particularly on Taranaki Maunga.

"I thought there was only one weka and it had been caught," says Jenny. "But Guy saw the rear end of a weka disappearing through the grass one day".

Then Jenny heard a weka doing its cooe call down in a swampy area of their farm. Over a period of days, the couple played weka calls off



Cheeky South Island weka caught by the Oakleys.

Jenny's phone and the bird would reply.

But catching the wayward weka was not so easy, Jenny says.

"I talked to DOC and set up a live-catch possum cage with cat nuts and a bit of meat in it, but it (the weka) was pinching the food from between the bars without entering the trap!

Jenny wasn't prepared to quit her weka-capture efforts, and altered her tactics based on DOC advice.

"A DOC ranger mentioned weka like going through dark tunnels, so I wrapped the trap up in black cloth."

The first night Jenny and

Guy caught a rat, and the second night they caught a weka.

"It was very healthy looking and quite happy," she says.

DOC took the weka to Brooklands Zoo and the Oakleys reset the trap as there may be other weka.

Both birds are being cared for off-display at Brooklands Zoo while further DNA tests are undertaken, and a decision is made on where they will be rehomed.

DOC Biodiversity Supervisor Jared Coombes says there may yet be more weka in Manaia.

"We're continuing to

Photo: Jenny Oakley

ask locals to keep an eye out and report any weka sightings to us. If they can humanely capture a weka alive, as Jenny and Guy have, that will help us, too. We encourage people to hand over any birds to us immediately, and we'll take it from there."

To catch, hold or release wildlife species you must have permission from DOC. Holding or releasing native wildlife can result in fines and or prosecution.

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Social media diet could lead to eating disorders

There are concerns that social media use is a risk factor for young people developing eating disorders. Researchers reviewed work published between 2016-2021, and found evidence from 50 studies in 17 countries indicating that social media usage leads to body image concerns, eating disorders, and poor mental health. Some factors such as high BMI, being female, and having pre-existing body image concerns made

people more susceptible, while appreciating your own body and having high social media literacy provided some protection. The authors say that body image dissatisfaction and eating disorders have been ignored as a global health issue, and they recommend more education and awareness, and early identification of at-risk young people.

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Burglaries galore in rural areas

Kia Ora everyone,
As I'm sure everyone is aware, there has been an increase in burglaries across the South Taranaki area, but especially in the rural areas surrounding Opunake. The general theme I am seeing

is that we are making it too easy for these people to take our property by leaving sheds unsecured, keys in farm vehicles and items lying about in plain view which become easy pickings. I encourage everyone to keep



CONSTABLE BRAD COAD.

their houses and sheds locked and secured and just to generally be more vigilant around security. Another good practice which can help, should items go missing, is to keep a record of serial numbers of items and vehicles – especially for

things like tools, chainsaws, and farm vehicles.

Similarly to Constable Stone in Okato, I am developing a plan with the intention of being more connected with the community. I've managed to make my way to a few local meetings lately and I plan to attend more community groups/events. If you have any event or meeting that you would like me to attend, then please touch base. I am also in the very early phases of trying to organise a neighbourhood support or watch type group where we as Police can work alongside the community to minimise crime within our

Area. The long-term goal would also be to have some local CCTV cameras to help prevent and solve crime and I will keep you all posted on our progress within that space.

One important point that I wish to pass on is that we as Police need the communities support as we are only as good as the information that we have and receive. I ask that you all notify Police where there are offences occurring, if you see or hear of suspicious behaviour within the community or if there is anything of note you think Police need to know to keep our communities safe.

Although some matters may seem minor and not worth reporting, it may be the information we need to assist in another matter or investigation.

Use 105 to report things that don't need urgent Police assistance and if you can't get through you can report online www.police.govt.nz/use-105.

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Appreciate your time.
Constable Brad Coad

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Last month I lost a bunch of keys (about 5) somewhere in the region of Aubrey Street, New Plymouth. In spite of multiple visits to police stations, advertisements in three newspapers, placing notices in letterboxes (\$100 reward) and copious time-consuming searches the keys have remained lost.

The important key was the Smart key to my car. I, firstly, contacted a key-making firm in New Plymouth and the proprietor came to my Okato address to sort out the situation for me – yielding a useable key. The complicated process was going to cost me \$1,000 (GST included). After working on it for about an hour the man said that he couldn't help me after all and explained why, using terms I barely understood. He kindly refused to accept payment for his time, effort and travel.

Next, I contacted the agent for the type of car I own. This time I was quoted \$1111.22 and I would need to have the car delivered by trailer to the firm. "That'll cost an extra



Over \$2000 needed to get this car a key so it can leave the carport.

\$500," I was told (Although I would need to contact a different firm). Now, I was up for about \$1611.22.

Two weeks later I contacted the CEO of the same firm to request a written quote (confirming the earlier one) for the process of getting keys for my car and another employee from the firm phoned me. I was in for a big shock. This time the quote was different; \$2,300 this time – more than double the first quote from the firm (I thought that inflation was around 7%)! I was also told,

would occupy 4-6 weeks as parts would be needed from Japan.

As I paid \$7000 for the car seven years ago, the car is arguably worth less, I expect, than the cost of the getting-a-key process. At the time the seller only had one key and I should have immediately had another key made. I approached a key making firm, at the time, but was put off by the amount quoted at the time - about \$300 or thereabouts.

If you have bought a car with only one a smart key, for goodness sake get another

one using the original one as a prototype. It's when you have no key to hand over that the cost is at its most expensive. Don't make the mistake I did.

And if you spot my bunch of keys somewhere (one key is purple, the car one has black plastic at the head) the \$100 reward is still on offer. I'm still keen to get my bunch of keys back (Where are my glasses? – is that a bunch of pigs I can see flying past?).

Rolland McKellar

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New Zealand's most stolen cars

Revealed: NZ's most stolen cars, amidst 43% surge in theft claims



Wayne Tippett, AMI's Executive General claims.

The Toyota Aqua has taken the top spot from the Mazda Demio as the nation's most frequently stolen car, AMI can reveal.

In Taranaki the Mazda Demio was the most stolen car.

In 2022, the Aqua, also known as the Toyota Prius C, accounted for 11% of AMI's vehicle theft claims, despite only making up 1.47% of the country's fleet. The Toyota Aqua pips the Mazda Demio, which now comes in as the second most stolen car, closely followed by the Nissan Tiida. Rounding out the top ten are the Mazda Atenza (Mazda 6), Toyota MarkX, Toyota Vitz, Subaru Legacy, Toyota Corolla, Subaru Impreza and Mazda Familia.

Of note is the Toyota MarkX's inaugural entry into the top 10, with theft claims surging in recent years from only 21 claims in 2020 to 441 in 2022, a 2,000% increase in just three years.

This pattern is mirrored across the rest of the data, as theft claims soared to new highs in 2022, up 43% on the year prior. This is a growing trend, despite a Covid-related dip in 2020. [1]

AMI's Executive General Manager Claims, Wayne Tippett says the fact that thefts are trending upwards again makes it even more important to ensure insurance details are current. "Across New Zealand, we received 8,492 claims for vehicle thefts in 2022, up 43% on the year before, and up 54% from 2019.

"There are some things you can do to make your car less attractive to thieves, such as locking it, removing any

valuables, and parking off-street or in a busy, well-lit area. Immobilisers are good, but if your car doesn't have one installed, steering locks are effective deterrents too. "I'd also urge people to check the sum insured on their insurance policy is up to date. Second hand cars are generally holding their value better than they used to, due to supply chain delays, parts shortages, and other factors," Mr Tippett says. "So, if the worst happens and your car is stolen and written off, you want to make sure that your sum insured is at an appropriate level for your car."

Regionally, Auckland far outstrips other areas of the country for vehicle theft claims, with almost 3,000 claims last year, well above runner up Canterbury, with 1,214 claims.

Recovery rates remain high, with 94% of all Aquas recovered, 93% of Demios and 91% of Vitzes, suggesting the majority of cars are being stolen for joyrides.

"Virtually all of these cars are recovered, so it's likely they're being stolen for joy rides or to commit other crimes, such as burglaries," says Mr Tippett.

AMI's top 10 most stolen vehicles for New Zealand (2022):

1. Toyota Aqua
2. Mazda Demio
3. Nissan Tiida
4. Mazda Atenza (Mazda 6)
5. Toyota MarkX
6. Toyota Vitz
7. Subaru Legacy
8. Toyota Corolla
9. Subaru Impreza
10. Mazda Familia

The most frequently stolen vehicle in each region, and the regions ranked (2022):

Ranking Region Stolen vehicle claims (all makes & models) Most frequently stolen vehicle

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Auckland | 2,986 claims |
| | Toyota Aqua | |
| 2 | Canterbury | 1,214 claims |
| | Toyota Aqua | |
| 3 | Waikato | 884 claims |
| | Toyota Corolla & Toyota Aqua (equal) | |
| 4 | Wellington | 663 claims |
| | Mazda Demio | |
| 5 | Manawatu | 485 claims |
| | Mazda Atenza | |
| 6 | Bay of Plenty | 440 claims |

- | | | | |
|--------------|----|-------------|------------|
| Mazda Demio | 7 | Northland | 302 claims |
| Nissan Tiida | 8 | Hawke's Bay | 187 claims |
| Mazda Demio | 9 | East Coast | 75 claims |
| Mazda Atenza | 10 | Otago | 73 claims |
| Mazda Demio | 11 | Southland | 65 claims |
| Toyota Vitz | 12 | Taranaki | 50 claims |
| Mazda Demio | 13 | Wairarapa | 49 claims |
| Mazda Demio | 14 | Nelson | 39 claims |
| Mazda Atenza | | | |

(NB: Marlborough and the West Coast are excluded, due to very low numbers of thefts)

AMI's tips to help prevent your vehicle being stolen:

- Where possible, park down a driveway or inside a garage.
 - If there isn't any off-street parking available, try to park your car in a well-lit area.
 - Consider using anti-theft protection measures, such as a car alarm system, immobiliser, steering wheel lock, fuel cut out switch, handbrake lock, or car tracking system.
 - Don't get out of your car and leave the engine running or keys in it, even for a few seconds.
 - Make sure you always lock your car, especially whenever your car is parked and unattended.
 - Don't leave valuables on display.
 - Avoid leaving windows or the sunroof open when you're not in the car.
- Note - All data is based on AMI Insurance motor claims data from 2022. Cars are ranked from highest frequency of theft to lowest.

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Colin Cooper keynote speaker at Kaponga ANZAC commemoration

The ANZAC morning service in Kaponga was led by two young pipers, with members of the Queen Alexandra Rifles RNZAC on guard.

Wreath Bearers included representatives of the Kaponga RSA, RNZDF, STDC and Community board representatives, Kaponga Lions Club, and the Kaponga, Mangatoki and Riverlea Women's Institutes.

The guest speaker at the service was Colin Cooper, the former Taranaki and Chiefs rugby coach.



LEFT: Colin Cooper, former Taranaki and Chiefs rugby coach, who gave an awesome speech.

RIGHT: Lynette Gargan of Riverlea WI. She is wreath maker for her WI and also the RSA. In addition Lynette was Head Caterer for the luncheon which followed the service.



A stern heads up given at Board meeting

Manaia continues to miss out through the lack of a community facility. That was the message Manaia resident Mary Moore took to the Taranaki Coastal Community Board at their April 28 meeting in Opunake.

After the Manaia War Memorial Hall was closed in 2015 for failing to meet earthquake standards the South Taranaki District Council budgeted up to \$1 million to replace the town hall with a combined community facility. In 2018

the Manaia Sports Complex was also closed for failing to meet earthquake standards. Last year Te Korowai o Ngaruahine had suggested having a community facility shared between Iwi, Council and the Manaia community. "Since 2015, there have been

several failed community consultations concerning the Town Hall, and a failed proposal for a combined Sports Centre and Town Hall. There is a recent proposal of a collaboration between Te Korowai Board, the Council and the community of Manaia for a shared facility," Mary said at the Open Forum part of the meeting. "The result in 2023 is that Manaia still has no community hub and no apparent plans for improvement."

"It is not just a building that the community lacks. Our community- the children, youth, families, the elderly, the lonely and the isolated are missing out on opportunities for gathering, joining, sharing, learning, socialising and just enjoying. "Manaia misses out on council and other potential events since there are no facilities in which to hold them."

Mary said there were also

concerns about the state of Row Park, the town's only play ground.

"What we have is a minimalist play ground that is 10 years old now and we are asking the Council to bring forward the budget for refurbishment."

She said there had been no news about the business plan for the combined facility which was supposed to be due out in February, or about how negotiations between the Council and Te Korowai were progressing.

Rob Haveswood who is group manager community services for the South Taranaki District Council said they are continuing to work on the business case, although a change in personnel had meant there was a delay. The Council are also continuing to negotiate with Te Korowai.

Deputy mayor Rob Northcott said it had been a drawn-out process, and that an earlier plan for a combined facility had been rejected by the Manaia community.

Taranaki Coastal Community chair Andy Whitehead said the Community Board would continue to keep an eye on developments in Manaia.

"I think the Council has been given a stern heads up that things are not progressing as we would like them to be."

Later in the meeting the Community Board considered the Manaia Community Service Group's application for \$3566.24 from the board's discretionary fund for the town's community garden.

Continued on page 9.

Debbie Ngarewa-Packer
List MP based in Te Tai Hauāuru

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SENIORS COMMUNITY MEETING

1 APRIL CHANGES

With Glen Bennett, MP for New Plymouth

Monday 8 May | 2:00 - 3.30pm
Barclay Hall
158 Tukapa Street, New Plymouth

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glen.bennettmp@parliament.govt.nz
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A stern heads up given at Board meeting

Continued from page 8.

The board's deputy chair Sharlee Mariekura said she was happy to support giving the entire amount asked for.

"There's a whole community doing this, and it provides for the whole community," she said. Andy Whitehead said he was impressed with what they

had done. "Although some things in Manaia have not been happening, other things have been happening very successfully," he said.

Deputy mayor Rob Northcott said more should be done to promote projects like this in smaller centres. He contrasted the situation in Manaia to that of Patea

where a piece of land had been set aside for a community garden but no group had taken it up. "The more we can get people enthused about growing

their own vegetables the better," he said. The board voted to grant the entire amount asked for.

An historic event in Rawhitiroa



A photo of those who never came home including the two McLaughlin brothers hangs in the Rawhitiroa Hall nearby.

Continued from page 1

Resurgence Project which has involved contouring the whole area where the memorial gates are located and were given assistance in the project by funds provided by the executors of Pat McLaughlin's estate, a project which they felt Patrick would have supported and a fitting memorial to the pioneering McLaughlin family.

After a formal unveiling of the memorial plaques by Janice Hawkes, President of the Rawhitiroa Women's Institute, representatives of the McLaughlin family came forward to lay wreaths and were joined by others laying wreaths. There were various other speakers including Llew Eynon, President of the Eltham RSA whose

interesting address explained the protocol concerning the wearing of war medals. Relatives are entitled to wear medals on their right chest. Recipients of the medals however wear them on their left chest. "Most officers were righthanded and used their right hand to draw their sword," he said by way of explanation. The ceremony ended as it had

begun with a prayer from Padre Lindsay Maindonald and recognition of the significance of Anzac Day and those who served in the Great War whose names will be remembered in the plaques to all who visit and reside in the Rawhitiroa district. "It's an historic event," he said. Afterwards all who attended were treated to a lavish lunch in the nearby Rawhitiroa Hall.



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Principal's Address

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa

Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

The whakataukī above speaks to the importance of keeping connected, of maintaining relationships and dialogue so that we can keep moving forward together. Term two has begun, and while our Principal Mrs Andrea Hooper-Carr reconnects with her whanau in the UK, we carry on our learning journey to ensure that our students achieve their hopes and dreams.



Mrs Hooper-Carr and daughter Charlie taking in the sights

Community is especially important this term with the Senior School Ball on May 12th, followed by the Community Ball on Saturday May 13th. This is the chance for our Opunakē community to dust off their dancing shoes, have a great night while raising funds for student resources provided by our Home & School committee. Make sure you get your tickets from the school office.

Open Day is coming up on Friday, May 26th. As a school we invite all potential students for the 2024 year to come and take a look at what we have to offer. Contributing schools will tour the school during the day and the school will remain open for parents and other community members to look around our campus from 2.30pm until 4.30pm. Staff will be available to answer any questions that you might have about our school and learning programmes.

Finally, I would like to thank all those in our community and beyond for their ongoing support of our school and students, we could not function as well as we do, without you. A big shout out to Nick Bull and his team at Shoe Clinic New Plymouth. Over the last two years Nick has given us well over 100 pairs of sports shoes to support families in need and enable our students to take the field or court and just be active. Let's make sure we support Shoe Clinic in New Plymouth so they may continue to support us in the future.

Nga mihi

Barry Skinner
 Acting Principal

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Taranaki Anniversary Weekend, March 2025

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Opunake High School
 Te Kura Tuarua o Opunake

Open Day

Friday 26th May

We'd like to invite all potential 2024 enrolments to our 2023 Open Day.
 From 10-2.30pm, contributing primary schools visit us and we're open from 2.30-4.30pm in the school hall for other visitors.

As dawn broke, Opunake commemorated those who perished in all wars on ANZAC Day.



Lead by the Auroa Pipe Band, those who gathered at dawn leave Opunake Town Hall to march to the cenotaph.

As dawn broke, Opunake commemorated those who perished in all wars on ANZAC Day.

As is the tradition, a solemn crowd gathered at the Opunake Town Hall and lead by the Auroa Pipe Band marched down to the cenotaph on the cliff top overlooking Opunake Beach.

The usual laying of wreaths and speeches which followed ended with an address by Reverend Ian Sargeant.

The procession then returned to Opunake's town Hall where there were further speeches by local dignitaries representing various groups.

A message from the Prime Minister the Right Honorable Chris Hipkins was read out. In it he said "The ultimate cost of any war will always be its human toll – families displaced, lives lost, cultures repressed, childhoods cut

short. It is appropriate that our thoughts also rest today with members of our refugee communities who have experienced conflict first hand, and with all those who in 2023 are still living in the shadow of war."

A letter from the Governor-General of New Zealand Dame Kiro was also read to those gathered by the Chair of the Coastal Taranaki Community Board Andy Whitehead. Dame Kiro acknowledged "New Zealand's involvement in war had come at great cost, and that for many who have come back home, war has marked an end to life as they knew it".

Referring to "the destructive nature of war" she also noted that "the challenges of recent years have been a sober reminder that our lives and prosperity are dependent on many factors beyond our control, as we remain vulnerable to world events and natural

disaster".

Opunake High School Head Girl Jorja Symes who spoke of Anzac Day as "a day of unity" had a positive message. "I encourage you to not sit in sadness for the ones laid at rest but to give

thanks, look forward to the future with the knowledge that we are part of something greater than our being and continue to live everyday with purpose, with pride, integrity and kindness."

Brian Vincent, President of the Opunake RSA who also spoke acknowledged the

Auroa Pipe Band who turn out every year in honour of Anzac Day



Beth Cook, Jorja Symes, Aria Brophy and Ella Griggs represented Opunake High School at the Dawn Parade.



Brian Vincent, President of the Opunake RSA.

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ANZAC Day in Okato attracts many

A large crowd was present to attend the ANZAC commemoration on Tuesday April 25 in Okato.

At 10am the Parade set off, a hundred metres south of the Cenotaph on Carthew Street, led by bagpiper Steve Cochrane. He was followed by members of the Okato Volunteer Firefighters, senior students of Coastal Taranaki School as well as their principal Scott Walden and others. At the very front were Trinity Lovell and her daughter Bay Belton; they are members of Steve's family.



The Parade sets off down Carthew Street. Steve Cochrane is playing the bagpipes with Bay Belton to his left and Trinity Lovell.

When the Parade arrived at the Cenotaph several wreaths were laid, (to the accompaniment of bagpipes

played by Steve), including one by New Plymouth parliamentarian Glen Bennett; the inscription read

In grateful remembrance. Another was laid by a representative of the New Plymouth District Council. A third wreath read simply *Lest We Forget.*

Next, the New Zealand flag was lowered and a minute's silence observed, after which the flag was returned to its usual position at the top of the mast.

Lesley Dowding, the main organiser, gave a brief speech which concluded with, "You are all welcome."

Around 10.30am people entered Hempton Hall for a commemorative service. On



Glen Bennett MP for New Plymouth laying a wreath.

Continued on page 13.

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A guide to keeping lovely orchids alive

Orchids are beautiful plants, but they can be viewed as the divas of the plant world. However, with patience and understanding, you can enjoy orchids in your home for many years to come. To keep your orchids alive, follow these simple steps:



A colourful orchid.

Experiment with how you style your orchids, potting them, suspending the head in water, or even hanging with exposed roots.

Choose a colour of orchid to fit your decor.

Show your personality with the style of orchid you choose.

Don't:

Overwater your orchid. Moth orchids need regular watering, about twice a week in summer and every seven to 10 days in winter.

Do not water them from above, as water left standing in the crown and between leaves can cause rotting.

Keep your orchids near a radiator as orchids don't like heat.

Place orchids in bright shade to avoid damage and maintain optimum health.

Do:

Leave aerial roots intact as cutting them away could damage the plant's growth. Cut stems diagonally to encourage new growth. Support the stems to help your orchid stand tall and

grow.

Feed your orchid with a liquid fertiliser, such as Yates Thrive Orchid Liquid Plant Food, every week from spring until late summer in the active growth/flowering stage, and every 2 - 4 weeks from late autumn to early spring.

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ANZAC Day in Okato attracts many

Continued from page 12.

the stage were Glen Bennett MP, Graham Emmerson, Craig Taylor Army RNZIR, CTS principal Scott Walden, Head Boy He Tairou Goodin, Deputy Head Girl Ocean Baylis and Jordan Smith, Head Girl.

Dave Lilley played the keyboard for all musical accompaniment during the service.

Lesley Dowding gave a brief introduction and mentioned there would be a flyover by aeroplanes, as well as a fleet of helicopters – all in honour of ANZAC Day. She said she thought some may want to go outside when they heard the aircraft. “On this day we recall those who, in the great tragedy of war, gave their lives for the freedom of mankind and those who sleep in unknown resting places in many lands and in every sea.”

After a prayer and the hymn *Abide With Me*, Scott Walden gave a brief speech mentioning many theatres of war and diverse conflicts, as well as those under UN auspices.

The keynote speaker was Craig Taylor, who spoke about the various military



The New Zealand flag is lowered, watched by organiser Lesley Dowding amongst others.



Mike Gordon sings a moving rendition of *Amazing Grace* in Hempton Hall, watched by Coastal Taranaki School’s principal Scott Walden, Deputy Head Girl Ocean Baylis and Head Girl Jordan Smith.

conflicts including World War I. “The war to end all wars.” He added, “As you know this did not come true.”

He alluded to the Ukraine war stressing the need to “stand up for those who are victims of might is right.”

He concluded, “Remember the dead and let the living be humble.”

He Tairou Goodin read *In Flanders Fields*. This was written by Colonel John McCrae, MD, Canadian Army, May 1915.

Well-known vocalist Mike Gordon sang an especially poignant rendition of *Amazing Grace*.

The *Ode of Remembrance* was recited. This is the fourth verse of Laurence Binyon’s poem *For the Fallen*.

After the Lord’s Prayer, the National Anthem was sung, followed by refreshments, which was kindly prepared by the Okato Lions Club.



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

By Natasha McKinney, Poutiaki/Curator, Puke Ariki Museum

It may be 2023, but the extraordinary stories of World War One soldiers continue to emerge. Powerful letters written home from the battlefields by Arthur John Gilmour of Manaia, Taranaki, have recently been donated to Puke Ariki's Archive Collection by his family. They were kept for over 100 years, and tell the lively story of Arthur's journey from Manaia to Nelson College, to Otago University, then Trentham Military Camp, and dispatch to fight at Gallipoli and the Somme. Arthur served as part of the Otago Infantry Battalion, in the Sixth Reinforcements of New Zealand's Expeditionary Force.

Arthur's collections of sixteen letters will be presented here in the Ōpunake and Coastal News over coming issues.

An educated young man

Arthur was the son of John and Jessie Gilmour, and his family had lived in south Taranaki for three generations. Arthur's connections to home were strong, but he had spent long periods away from it since his teenage years when he boarded at Nelson College for Boys (1906-1911). Here he writes to his parents in 1909 as the school year at Nelson College drew to a close, and summer was approaching.

Civil Service time table last Tuesday, but as yet, have not received my matriculation one. So mother is going down to Wanganui for a few days, it is a pity that she (you) will not come down this way at the same time.

The cherries are beginning to show signs of appearing now; I hope they are ripe about the time I go home, because I have a tin box here which would come in very handy to take some home.

We have only three weeks now before Civ and a month before Matric, so I shall have to do a harder three weeks swat than I have ever done.

Last Sunday night a lady sang a solo in our church and it was really good; she appeared to be a trained singer and they had the biggest congregation at church that night, that [sic] they have had for some time. I am sure it was not the preacher's fault as



Arthur J. Gilmour of Manaia. PAColl-9454-01, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, N.Z

they have a lay minister preaching, on account of Mr McKensie being away at the assembly. To-day was half-term and we had trifle for dinner; I only had one dig as the supply at our end ran out.

We had a scratch game of cricket last Wed afternoon and another on Friday but I

think our side got beaten on both occasions. I am nearly always on a loosing [sic] side some how or another.

Seven of our boys sat for first terms and six passed and Quilliam from New Plymouth passed his second terms exam. Quilliam passed Matric at the end of 1907 and, if he goes on at the same rate will have his L.L.B. at the end of 1911.

Yesterday the seniors played against another senior team but were beaten by eighty-nine to seventy-six runs, one of our boys made forty-eight runs and just missed winning a bat from Mr Fowler by two runs.

Lawson seems to be doing very well at fishing this season; I think it would be a good scheme to go camping with him in the holidays; you speak to him about it and see what he says.

I had Dr. Barr several times at the middle of last term for my knee; he has apparently



The Cenotaph that bears the name of Arthur J Gilmour at the Manaia Band Rotunda.

dated the bill wrongly. I think I had him from about July 8th - - 3 weeks. I wish you would send a pair of suspenders and if you could send a pair of braces at the same time, I would be very

much obliged. Hoping that you are both well and that I shall soon hear from you. I remain, your affectionate son, Arthur



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Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Taranaki

A family connection at Manaia dawn service



Piper Andy Davy and his brother Bruce, with ties sporting the MacDuff tartan, the tartan of the Auroa Highland Pipe Band.

Andy Davy has been coming to the Manaia ANZAC Day parade for 65 of the last 67 years. He has always been there as either part of a pipe band or as a lone piper. The only times he wasn't there was the year he was on holiday in England and back in 2020 when the country was in COVID lockdown. He was at the Manaia ANZAC Day dawn parade again this year, where the ceremony included a presentation from Manaia RSA president Barrie Smith thanking Andy for his service as a piper.

Andy was a piper with the Auroa Highland Pipe Band until the band wound up in 2000. In the years since he has been a lone piper at commemorations along the Taranaki coast. This year he was joined by his brother Bruce who acted as

drummer. Bruce had been drum sergeant in the Auroa Highland Pipe Band, of which he had been an active member for 25 years before shifting to the Wairarapa, where he ran a business in Greytown and lived in Carterton. He shifted back to Opunake 14 months ago.

"I'm glad to be back," he says.

The dawn parade began with a sizeable crowd gathering at the Manaia Bowling Club, which became the Manaua RSA base after the Manaia District War Memorial Hall failed to meet earthquake strengthening standards. The parade then made its way to the band rotunda led by a 1973 ex Canadian Army Scorpion tank. Phil Sandford said he had picked it up on a trip to Christchurch. He doesn't know how it got to

New Zealand, but tanks like this have been used by the New Zealand Army.

"It's really a reconnaissance tank," he says. It has a speed of up to 80kph, and has had a few outings since Phil bought it, including other ANZAC events.

At the band rotunda Barrie Smith welcomed everybody and Manaia RSA life member Aileen Joyce laid the RSA wreath. Cr Bryan Roach laid the wreath on behalf of the South Taranaki District Council and read the letter from Prime Minister Chris Hipkins.

"As we pay our respects to those who lost their lives during wartime, we also consider the ongoing impact conflict has had on our veterans and their whanau." the letter read. "Too often the sacrifices made by our veterans are unknown, their voices unheard, their stories untold. Today we lift up those who returned to these shores carrying burdens seen and unseen."

There were presentations from Nga Ruahine and from Auroa School head students Kate Muller and Leon Forsyth.



A Scorpion tank took part in the Manaia ANZAC Day parade.

The Rev Phil Woodmas said that at the time of last year's ANZAC Day the conflict in Ukraine had already begun, and a year later it was still going on. There was also the recent news about conflict in Sudan.

"Will the human race ever learn? That's why the phrase lest we forget is so profound."

He said it's also easy to forget the old truths and quoted the words of Jesus who said "love thy neighbour."

"Just maybe it's time to think about how we solve our relationship problems in this thing we call life."

The Ode was recited in English and Te Reo. The fly past took place as Andy Davy was piping the lament.

Barrie Smith thanked RSA Secretary Gordon Chisnall for organising the new wooden crosses bearing the names of those from Manaia who had fallen in World War II and encouraged those who with relations who had died in this conflict to have a look before heading back to the Bowling Club for refreshments.



Manaia RSA president Barrie Smith presents Andy Davy with a bottle of whiskey.

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Ross' slurry tanker does it all

A slurry tanker wasn't what Ross had in mind when he first contacted Nevada. He was looking for a stirrer and pump, but he ended up with an even better solution...

Ross Clark owns a 600 cow dairy farm in Midhirst and sharemilks on a 700 cow dairy farm further down the coast.

The two farms have quite different effluent storage set-ups. Ross' farm has two Herd Homes® and 3 effluent ponds, while the other farm has a 5,000,000L tank. So there's a lot of effluent to manage.

Ross was looking for a solution to cover a number of things:

1. Previously having discharge consent, Ross needed a new way to manage effluent on his farm.

2. He wanted a way to efficiently manage effluent across both farms himself without needing to get contractors in.

3. The effluent from



MICHAEL PRESTIDGE

the sharemilked farm is very thick and a pump couldn't handle it.

4. Pumping out of the Herd Homes® was disruptive and inefficient.

To clean out the Herd Homes® Ross had been taking the cows out, lifting the grates, and getting a contractor in to dig it out and spread with a solids spreader.

'It would take over a week and the cows can't go in, so it was really inefficient.'

After learning a bit more about Ross' situation, Mike at Nevada suggested a slurry



Ross Clark and his slurry tanker.

tanker to solve the issues across both farms. A slurry tanker would be able to clean out the Herd Homes® as well as the thicker slurry in the tank. He'd also be able to spread when and where he wanted.

'Now we can just leave the cows in there [Herd Homes®], lift a couple of grates, give it a stir, and suck it all out with the slurry tanker. We can just do what we want now, and it's a lot quicker.'

Ross' nice new tractor could easily handle a 20,150L Nevada slurry tanker which would also be a good size to minimise loads around the two farms. Midhirst experiences high rainfall, so a tridem axle

is ideal for spreading the weight across six wheels and minimising the impact on softer soils.

'The Central Taranaki farm is a wet farm, and I've taken it through a few wet spots down on the coast, and you wouldn't know you were pulling it through.'

Ross did shop around a other slurry tanker options, but ultimately chose to go for a Nevada 20,150L slurry tanker with loading accelerator.

'It has everything we wanted - turbo-fill, 8" sucker line, and the pricing was very competitive.'

Efficiency was clearly a key factor for Ross, and he's been impressed with how fast, easy and accurate the slurry tanker is...

'It fills in less than 4 minutes, and the RainWave applicators are just real easy. We go about 4km/h and it's got a very even spread. It's real simple and it works well.'

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Arable excellence showcase expanded with three new awards

New Zealand's arable industry is once again gearing up to acknowledge and celebrate the innovators and leaders who drive

progress in the sector.

"There's a danger that with all the focus on costs and challenges our growers are grappling with, we lose sight of our significant success stories and all the hard mahi that underpins a sector that returns more than \$1 billion in farm gate sales," Federated Farmers arable chair Colin Hurst says.

"The NZ Arable Awards are to be on August 10 at Wigram Air Force Museum in Christchurch. We're now calling for nominations of deserving people and organisations." Details of the awards, including how to make nominations, are at www.arableawards.nz

New Zealand's arable sector is notching significant production gains, with 2.3 million tonnes of product sold in 2021 (a 31 percent increase since 2018), and within that seed production of 81,000

tonnes (a 41% increase since 2018).

While each of the organisations have awards stretching back multiple years, the 2023 event is only the second time Federated Farmers, the Foundation for Arable Research, United Wheat Growers and the NZ Grain and Seed Trade Association have combined to honour our industry stalwarts and rising stars.

Nine awards were presented in 2022; this year there will be 12 as the line-up is expanded to recognise the cream of our scientists/researchers and employers.

"The arable sector provides full-time employment for more than 11,300 New Zealanders. The new Arable Employer of the Year Award will recognise someone who has demonstrated exemplary employment practices, promoted positive workplace culture,

employment retention and/or a progressive career pathway in the industry," Colin says.

The other two new awards this year are for Arable Researcher of the Year and for our top Plant Breeder/Plant Researcher.

"We haven't secured our place in the world as a leader in seed production - 60% of the world's radish seed, 50% of white clover seed and 40% of global carrot seed, for example - as well as underpinning our pastoral farmers with maize, feed and grass seed, without cutting edge research and development," Colin says.

Other awards cover growers of the year, innovation, emerging talent, agronomy, environment and sustainability and the hotly contested Arable Food Champion.

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National's farm policy condemned by Greenpeace

Greenpeace is condemning the National Party's new agriculture policy, saying that it will fail to address the climate crisis and health impacts caused by intensive dairying.

"People across Aotearoa are already experiencing the effects of climate change and unsafe drinking water as a result of big dairy. Removing rules and regulations will only make that worse," says Greenpeace lead climate and agriculture campaigner Christine Rose.

Rose is currently in rural Southland, testing people's drinking water for nitrate contamination. On Monday, one dairy farmer found nitrate levels in his water that were over 21mgL-1 - one of many with high levels of contamination. The Government's limit is 11.3mgL-1.

"We've heard support from farmers for more regulation of dairy herd numbers, not less", says Rose.

Nitrate contamination in drinking water is directly linked to high cow numbers and use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser. As dairy cow numbers in New Zealand doubled between 1990 and 2019, and the use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser increased by almost 700%, nitrate contamination increased as well, becoming a very real threat for rural communities.

"Governments have a responsibility to protect people's health. Nitrate contamination is endangering rural communities' drinking water, and can lead to increased risk of bowel cancer and preterm births. An agriculture policy that puts people and communities first must

strengthen regulations on intensive dairying - cutting synthetic nitrogen fertiliser, and halving the dairy herd," says Rose.

"The National Party has chosen to do the opposite - saying that if in Government, they will remove what little regulation currently exists. It will allow big dairy corporations like Fonterra to continue maximising their profits unchecked, while rural communities have to buy bottled water because the water at home is unsafe to drink.

"Protecting people and the environment means acting to regulate polluting industries like intensive dairy - not being lobbied into inaction by industry and corporate interests," says Rose.

"The National Party policy announced last week is not leadership, and

it's not responsible. By removing regulations, the National Party would not only give a free pass for the dairy industry to continue polluting rivers and drinking water, but also allow it to continue superheating the climate.

"The dairy industry is New Zealand's biggest climate polluter. Regulations that restrict dairy pollution are regulations that protect the climate and all New Zealanders. A responsible Government would bring agriculture into the Emissions Trading Scheme, phase out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser, and halve the dairy herd."

Greenpeace is also calling for support for farmers to transition towards more ecological farming - farming that works with, instead of against, nature.

"New Zealanders didn't farm like this in the past - with massive herds and huge amounts of expensive inputs like synthetic nitrogen fertiliser and imported feed - and farmers on the ground are telling us that they won't be farming like this in the future," says Rose.

"It's time for a new approach to farming. We can have thriving rural communities, where farmers work together to restore

the land, protect wildlife, waterways and soil. The farming sector can - and must - be part of the solution.

"Transitioning to ecological farming will protect people, and the environment we depend on. Ultimately, everyone has the right to clean drinking water, and a safe and stable climate - things that the National Party's agriculture policy fails to deliver."

Federated Farmers oppose increases to Ute Tax

Federated Farmers say they are opposed to increases to the Ute Tax announced this week says transport spokesperson Mark Hooper.

"This is just another cost on a productive sector already under huge pressure with rapidly increasing costs and slipping commodity prices.

"We've opposed the Ute Tax from day one because farmers don't have viable or reliable alternatives to get the job done on their farms - and now the Government is increasing it," Hooper said.

"Farmers aren't driving utes as some sort of status symbol. We have a genuine



An increase to ute tax on the way?

need for reliable four-wheel drive vehicles to tow equipment and get around our farms safely."

The maximum fee charged on the registration of a new ute will increase to \$6,900 (up from \$5,175 previously),

and the registration of a used ute will increase to \$3,450 (up from \$2,875).

"Farmers shouldn't be taxed on their work vehicles to subsidise wealthy Tesla owners in Remuera and Karori. That's just wrong.

"Today's announcement is a bitter pill to swallow for farmers who are already being hammered with all sorts of cost increases," Hooper said.

"Instead of heaping new costs on to a productive sector, the Government should be focusing on sorting out the state of our pothole-riddled rural roads.

"If they don't get on to that soon, we might need a ute to go anywhere."

A rainy time ahead say NIWA

In their Outlook for May-July, NIWA say seas continue to warm across the equatorial Pacific consistent with a developing El Niño. El Niño conditions may arrive during winter.

During May, variable weather patterns are expected for New Zealand. This will result in mixed air flows, with a tendency toward more frequent southerly flows at the onset of winter that are consistent with a developing El Niño.

During the beginning of May, a northerly-quarter airflow is expected to bring tropical moisture and very warm temperatures toward New Zealand via an atmospheric river (AR), resulting in widespread, heavy rainfall and increased risk of flooding. More than a month's worth of rain is expected for parts of the country.

For the coming three-month period, rainfall is about equally likely to be

normal or above normal in the north and west of the North Island and the north and west of the South Island, while normal rainfall is the most likely in the east of the North Island, and below normal or near normal is about equally likely in the east of the South Island.

Seasonal temperatures are most likely to be above average for the north and west of the North Island and the north and west of the South Island.

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Taranaki Air Rifle Club

On April 22 it was 25 Yards Rifles 40 shots. We were told rain, so in side it was. It so great to have the option in or out weather dependant. John Costain continues to improve and was asked what he has for breakfast, and he replied two weetbix with a dash of no-fat milk. There must be more

to it than that surely. Nigel Kay is going to have to be watched as he finished with a 99. Our oldest member Keith Zehnder just missed a possible with a 99 also. Now back to Nigel. His handicap score was a massive 426 to be top of the day followed by John Costain. Frank Eustace had the top score off

the rifle with 395 including a hundred on one card. Two PBs were achieved by Nigel Kay and John Costain. Scores were, with Handicap: Nigel Kay 426, John Costain 413, Frank Eustace 404, Geoff Coubrough 396, Keith Zehnder 410, Mark Evans 333. It was good to see Brian Holland back, and

a big thank you for doing the marking for the day. A good bench of shooters turned out in what looked like easy wind conditions for the 50 Metre Champs on April 29. It was not to be. It was tricky. In the first round Mark Evans with his trusty Springer led the field with Geoff Coubrough and

Frank Eustace hot on his heels. The second round for Mark was not good and he slipped to third but was first on a handicap score. Frank came through for a win with Geoff a narrow two points in arrears+. The day was a challenge with the wind pushing shots well offline and there was that dreaded

ting sound as pellets hit the metal target frame at times. Scores were: Geoff Coubrough 303, Nigel Kay 161, John Chandler 216, Frank Eustace 305, John Costain 246, Mark Evans 267, Daniel Chirac 109.

Frank Eustace.

Hyway 45 cruises into Annie Brydon



On Sunday April 16 the Hyway 45 Cruisers Car Club from Opunake visited Annie Brydon Rest Home in Hawera and took some of the residents for a ride in the cars. It was a very enjoyable morning for the club members as well as the residents and it is hoped there will be repeat performance at a later date.

LEFT: Peter Staitte with Mary McClean. RIGHT: Vaughan Brophy's sheriff car.



Coastal women secure first win



The final score was 39-29 to Coastal playing Inglewood.

Mural enhances new public toilets at Event Centre



Chris Fuller created a new mural at The Events Centre Opunake.

A whale-themed mural is the latest project to have been completed in the area outside the front of the Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre says South Taranaki District Council community development advisor Fran Levings.

Local artist Chris Fuller was engaged by the Council to design and paint the mural on the new \$270,000 public toilet and carparking which was completed in late 2022. Fran says the mural will enhance the building and area while also hopefully deterring vandalism.

Last year the Council, in collaboration with students from Opunakē High School, rejuvenated the space around the Opunakē Skate Park by installing and painting new boards along the back wall adjacent to the Event Centre. The Taranaki Coastal Community Board also contributed \$3,000 to the project. There remains one concrete wall left to paint and arrangements for a local artist have been sought to do a mural there, which will complete the project. Fran says that apart from the Opunakē town centre revitalisation upgrade, building a pump track at Hurst Park is one of the Council's next projects for Opunakē.

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Sandfords Manaia Golf results

April 30. Seniors. 1. Carter Symes. 2. Cory Laing. 3. Tyler Parata.

Group 1. 1. Archie Schumacher. 2. Ruby Edwards. 3. Heidi Schumacher. Group 2. 1. Ashdon Laing. 2. Marlin Severn. Group 3. 1. Lennox Finnigan. 2. Micah Gut.

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ANZ

Coastal Premiers v Stratford-Eltham

We were at Rahunu for our fourth game looking for our first win.

We had an OK week with a few guys out and a few guys in.

Thomas Kalin answered an SOS and came back, replacing Cullum Tito who's out for a month and Sean Mare who answered one the week before copping a head knock and a sore ankle, so chances are we won't see him again on the field this year which is a huge loss.

We started slowly with a lot of mistakes Stratford-Eltham got to a handy 8-nil lead with an early penalty and a good try off a dropped pass.

Then probably our best effort of the first half was a try to lock Luka Cassidy making a huge break and showing great pace to score



Jackson Sinclair.

with a handy conversion from Jackson Sinclair to make it 8-7.

Then Stratford-Eltham managed two penalties 14-7 after we had a try disallowed after some good play and a good pass from Kusi to

Dane Hofman for his first senior game crashing over in the corner, much to our disappointment.

We turned at 40 thinking we were right in this one but Stratford-Eltham upped their game in the second half, their scrum dominating ours and causing us problems getting our game going.

Then Stratty scored again making it 21-7 with an uphill battle.

A few injuries hit and we re-arranged the deck chairs and managed to score a perfectly executed try to Kobe Sinclair topping off a solid game for him, and a sideline conversion struck beautifully to get us to 14.

Stratty finished strong with a late penalty and a last-play try to get them to a 29-14 win which was much deserved.

They also had a few out

and they would have been stoked to get the win.

For Coastal in the forwards Jacob Whittle and Luka Cassidy had strong games, with our player of the day Beni Kalin. In the back division Thomas Kalin was sharp in his return and the Sinclair brothers and Kusi and Dane made the most of their limited opportunities.

Replacement Dylan Schuler made a huge impact when coming on for Blake Barrett who toiled hard carrying a sore ankle.

Congrats to the Women with a good win over the Moa and the Div 1 team with their win in the earlier game.

Cheers to the whole club for helping out when required. Everyone we've asked is only happy to help.

Coastal women secure first win of the season

Coastal women secured their first win of the season against Inglewood with the Coastal ladies getting off to a flying start with Leah Barnard and Brooke Sim (Chooke) scoring the first two tries of the game. Coastal were there to play after having two close losses in the early rounds.

The forward pack fronted up to the challenge stealing Inglewood's ball in the line outs and rucks and also having many carries over the advantage line. Jaymi Ngaia scored a try towards the end of first half, giving Coastal a 15-5 lead at half time.

Inglewood came out strong in the 2nd half scoring 4 tries and 2 conversions. Coastal had managed 2 tries by Leah & Jaymi but were down 25-29, with 20 minutes to play. As the ladies were standing behind the posts after the last Inglewood try, it was asked by the Coaches, "Who is going to go out and lead this team, we need something special so we can get this win."

Victoria McCullough captain took the challenge on board and fronted up and made some big tackles to gain us some forward

momentum, and followed this up by scoring a try from a pick and go close to the line. Aaliyah Kere-Rako converted it to put Coastal back in front 32-29. With 10 minutes left on the clock and tired bodies on the field; the tactics had to change with territory being the key. Experienced player Brooke Sim kicked the ball right where it was needed it and strong line outs helped to secure ball. In the final few minutes of the game Brooke Sim scored a try which was converted. The final score was 39-29 to Coastal.

Player of the game



Brooke Sim 25 Games for Coastal Women.

Victoria McCullough had an outstanding game showing great leadership. Congratulations to Brooke Sim who was recognized after the match for playing 25 games for Coastal.

Coastal Colts

We are a couple of weeks into the Colts season. We would like to start by introducing coaches and managers for the season starting with coaches. Matt Lawn has come back for another season and will be joined by recently retired player Richard Beckett. As

for the managers, we have Ryan Hoskings returning for his eighth season as Colts manager, and also joining the managers rank is Amanda Drought.

On Saturday April 22 we played Stratford-Eltham in Rahunu in showering

conditions. It was a hard game with the boys playing well with Leo Benett, Jack Fever and Samuel Drought leading the way for the forwards, and our midfield pairing of Caleb Lawn and Caleb Terry standing out in the backs.

Our handling and

passing was a big letdown throughout the game. Caleb Terry was our player of the day. At the end of the day we lost 12-0 to Stratford-Eltham. We had a bye last weekend on Saturday April 29.

This week we travel to Tikorangi to play Clifton.

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Coastal Division 1

April 21st and still looking for our first win. We were up against unbeaten Stratford Eltham, so it would be a tough ask. A few minutes into the game and it was evident this wasn't going to be a high scoring affair. Two evenly matched teams going at it and most of the game played between the 22s. Stratford Eltham had the wind and the better of territory but the defence shown by our lads was outstanding. Maybe a little too committed to preventing them from scoring as their only scoring points were from a penalty try for a professional foul. But 7 - 0 at the break was a score the coaches were happy with. The second half was an arm wrestle much like the first. A dumb yellow card for throwing the ball away could have cost us but for the ten

minutes the boys stepped up and held the line. We really need to get this type of stuff out of our game as it will cost us at critical times. It wasn't until the 75th minute that we managed to score with a try to Ryan Anderson in the corner which he brilliantly converted contending with the wind. An obvious game plan for the last five minutes was to bang away within range and hope for an indiscretion from them. Some good ball retention and continuity and that very thing happened, with Ryan Anderson calmly slotting the penalty right on what should have been time. It wasn't. A few more plays to hold on and we're on the board with a tight win 10 -7. A great win against a very good Div 1 team that shows we can compete against anybody.

Week 5 and off to Okato in cracking conditions to play Spotswood, who as a club have been struggling a bit for numbers. From the kick off we showed our intent for the day and the first phase of play was a few minutes long and without fault. The conditions helped but the little mistakes like knock-ons and dropped passes that have been in our game this year weren't there. This improved ball retention allowed us to put sustained pressure on the Spotswood line and it was just a matter of time till they cracked conceding a penalty try. After 15 minutes Harley Loveridge-Seymour scored a great try from a toe ahead after a storming run from Samuel Drought and the tries kept coming. 35-0 at halftime. The challenge for the second half was to

maintain momentum while keeping a clean sheet. The half started off well with Jayden Higgins scoring as good an individual try you'll see in club rugby from 70 metres. The rest of the half went to plan and it was good to see the concentration levels stay up to hold them scoreless and run away 64-0. There were great running games from the young guns Scott Quinnell, Harley Loveridge-Seymour and Samuel Drought. Some good defence led with some huge hits by captain Logan Stevenson. With round two just around the corner we are tracking in the right direction. The biggest job is just to get the whole squad there on a Saturday. With the top 15 on the field and a strong bench we'll be dangerous.

Coastal Women v Clifton



Chenae Lowry played her 25th game for Coastal.

The Coastal Women's rugby team was looking for redemption on Saturday April 29 against Clifton to make up for the heavy loss in pre-season. Chenae Lowry was playing her 25th game for Coastal, so the team wanted a win for her.

Coastal had a slow start to the game. They had a lot of ball but were struggling to get points on the board. Beth Cook and Shinae Minhinick made some strong covering tackles, and Ella Griggs had multiple goes at the try line but was continuously shown

the sideline. Ella with her continued determination managed to score a try late in the first half which had Coastal down 5-19 at half time. Something special was going to be needed to bring this game back for the Coast. Unfortunately Clifton scored first to push the score out even further 5-26. With a penalty 5 metres out Beth did a trick play with everyone thinking she was kicking for touch, but quickly tapped the ball with Ashley Rupapera running hard and receiving a bullet pass from Beth to score under the sticks. The try was converted by Aaliyah Kere-Rako. Then with tactical kicking deep into the opposition 22, the strong Coastal forward pack went to work. A great throw in by Leah Barnard to the leaping Jaymi Ngaia set up a strong maul which led to many pick and goes with Jaymi finding herself on the try line. Coastal were still down 17-26, but there was a strong

belief now in the team with 20 minutes still to play. With continued dominance from the forward pack and a one-woman advantage due to repeated penalties from Clifton, the Coastal ladies marched down the field and then opened it up for winger, Cleyse McLachlan to score in the corner. Captain Charlotte Webby and vice-captain Victoria McCullough had a high work rate, making metres and had strong tackles which continued to help Coastal's momentum. With two minutes left to play Coastal were down four points and hot on attack. The forwards continued their strong work having turns at picking and going at the line, and eventually were rewarded when Jaymi powered over to score, converted by Beth at the final whistle. Concluding an epic comeback, Coastal won 29-26. Congrats to Chenae Lowry on your 25 games. You played outstanding and showed true Coastal spirit.

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GO COASTAL!

Coastal Premiers v Spotswood

Okato domain was the venue for our fifth game of the round versus Spotswood United a team with plenty of talent who had beaten us pre-season.

We started well but mistakes were costing us dearly and then Spotswood sparked into action and scored a long range try to their No 12 Louis Bartley-Siena a hot stepping man with plenty of pace with him. No 10 Ethan Reti and No 8 A.J. Lemalu were tearing our defence to shreds Jackson Sinclair then scored after an intercept and ran 60 metres and dotted down close to the posts with a conversion by him to level at 7-all.

Then Rick McKenna scored after a long build-up to slice through, and after a spectacular dive to make it 14-7 to us.

After that Spotswood turned on the magic with two well worked tries from long range to take a well-deserved 17-14 halftime lead which could have been more but with desperate Coastal defence to keep it to that.

Our lineout and scrum were working well with Josh Lord, Jacob Whittle and flanker Luka Cassidy winning quality ball and making some blistering breaks to make it an exciting half of rugby, but with a few headaches on how to gain dominance.

Whatever was said at halftime, and with a few experienced forwards like



Congratulations Chris Gawler 50 caps for Coastal.

Jeremy Newell and Dylan Schuler coming on, we slowly got ascendancy.

Then Kusi Druana latched onto a poorly directed kick in the 43rd minute to beat 7 or 8 players to a try that he should not have been allowed to, but his power and pace finally got us back into the lead 19-14.

Then Beni Kalin scored after a heap of good lead up work to take us to 24-14.

Then Gareth Goodin scored down the right flank to give us breathing space 29-14.

Jeremy Newell was next to score, showing his power and determination in the 65th minute to give us a 36-14 lead before Thomas Kalin scored a brace of tries both from a fair way out to make the final score 50-17 our first

win of the season.

A huge relief after some narrow losses.

Full credit must go to all our subs who added plenty when coming on, 1 point went to Kusi, 2 to Luka and 3 to our POD Daniel Crowley. He just toiled hard all day, tackling hard on numerous occasions and serving our backline well from halfback with at times messy ball.

It was great to have Josh Lord again. He had some great runs and dominated the lineouts, and with both hookers Ropata Taylor and Matt Picard running hard and throwing well, giving coach Oliver a good problem of having two guys playing well.

Harry Foreman turned in a good shift before being

replaced by returning injured prop Andrew Trolove, leaving us concerned as he was reinjured again with the same complaint.

Dane Hofman injured his ribs and looked sore after the game.

So we hope for their speedy return, and with Logan Crowley returning from overseas and Cullum Tito, Scott Quinell and Blake Barrett returning from injury and Liam Hurley also reported to be returning due to being a good bugger we should be getting better numbers on the roster.

Full credit must go to Spotswood. The score flattered us as, at halftime there was many a person supporting the Coast looking a little worried, but it turned out to be an exciting game with lots of good tries to both teams. It was a lot of fun and very well officiated by ref Cam Stone and his helpers, so much appreciated.

Also mention must go to Taranaki prop Donald Brighthouse who normally fronts for NPOB but answered a SOS and said he would help out to make the game happen after Spotty had to default seven days earlier, which was no joy to anyone, but a real problem in rugby player numbers in a lot of clubs.

Off to Clifton next week. Not an easy assignment but one the boys will be up for. Ride the wave

Thank you Spinna Photography

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Ganesh Raj invites Taranaki to get behind Pink Ribbon Breakfast month

Celebrity foodie Ganesh Raj is asking Taranaki locals to show their support for Kiwis affected by breast cancer this May by hosting a Pink Ribbon Breakfast, Breast Cancer Foundation NZ's largest annual fundraiser.

The co-host of TVNZ's Eat Well for Less and self-proclaimed "Flavour Ninja" has created a mouth-watering new recipe for Pink Ribbon Breakfast - Raspberry Ricotta Pancakes with Raspberry Compote - to show his support for the

cause and entice more hosts to sign up.

Ganesh says he is inspired by the improving survival rates of breast cancer in New Zealand thanks to early detection and access to effective treatment, but more still needs to be done:

"Hosting a Pink Ribbon Breakfast is a fantastic way to raise awareness and help fund research into this devastating disease.

"Let us come together to support the fighters, admire the survivors, and honour those we have

tragically lost to breast cancer."

Breast cancer is the most common cancer for Kiwi women, with around 85 diagnoses in Taranaki every year. The proceeds raised from every Pink Ribbon

Breakfast goes towards supporting patients, ground-breaking research, and education campaigns to promote the importance of early detection. People can register at pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz

Authors, poets and bookmakers line up for Festival of Words

Spread the word, NPDC's Puke Arika Festival of Words is back with four-day pop-up event featuring speakers, poets, award-winning authors, and workshops next month.

Tickets went on sale today for the 15-18 June event, which is being held at Puke Arika Library, Museum,

community libraries in Bell Block, Ōākura, Inglewood and Govett-Brewster Art Gallery.

Among the line-up are previous Ockham New Zealand Book Award winner Dame Fiona Kidman, poet Elizabeth Smither, barber, mental health advocate and ambassador for the It's



Not OK campaign Matt Brown, author and TEDx speaker Joelene Stockman, poet Emma Barnes and bookmaker Teresa Francis.

Puke Arika Libraries Manager Dyane Hosler says the last festival in 2021 and it was a big success and the team is delighted to bring it back with plenty for word-lovers to enjoy.

"The festival is about exploring ideas, sharing stories, and igniting conversations and we are really excited with the programme we have developed which also includes book making sessions for children and adults and writing sessions with poets and authors."

She adds that with each session having limited capacity she is encouraging people secure their tickets early.

What: Pop-up Puke Arika Festival of Words
When: 15-18 June 2023
Tickets: Buy online at www.pukeariki.com/FOW or from the iSite at Puke Arika Museum.

- Fast Facts:
- Puke Arika opened on 15 June 2003.
 - Puke Arika and the Community Libraries had more than 842k people through their doors last year and issued over 416k items.
 - In January, a record 10,379 audiobooks and eBooks were downloaded.
 - As of February 2021, there were 22k active library members
 - This is Puke Arika's second literary festival after AdLib in 2018.

Some of the works on display at the Festival of Words.



Matt Brown is among presenters at Puke Arika's Pop-Up Festival of Words.

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The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on May 18, 2023. To contribute phone 06 761 7016.

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New Plymouth Operatic Society offers community accessible performance

The New Plymouth Operatic Society is excited to announce an accessible performance of the G.J. Gardner Homes season of *We Will Rock You* to be staged at Taranaki's TSB Showplace from May 25, 2023.

The performance, scheduled for Sunday June 4 at 3pm, is a special one. On offer is an audio described and sign interpreted performance for Taranaki audiences that hopes to allow the arts to be accessible for those hearing or sight impaired to enjoy the show whilst the other aspects of the performance will remain the same as per other performances.

Marketing Manager, Tracey Blake says "We are thrilled to work with Arts Access Aotearoa and the team at the TSB Showplace to enable this to happen this year again following the success of this type of performance last year.

"Making arts accessible to all in our community is a priority for the society,



The NP Operatic Society's production of *We Will Rock You*.

and this is just one of the priorities for our Taranaki wide society."

Blake says, "A NZ Sign Language (NZSL) interpreter will stand to one side of the stage and sign the dialogue as its being delivered, whilst members of the blind and vision impaired community, will be provided a visual description as the performance takes place through an earpiece and receiver. What's more, from 1.30pm, a backstage touch tour will also be available prior to the performance on the day."

People must book in person at the TSB Showplace box office and can expect a 50% discount for the affected person and their companion (normal booking fees & credit card fees apply.)

With just a month till opening night, audiences can expect a fantastic performance of over 23 of Queen's most famous songs with the performance of this ultimate comedy rock musical that is bound to get the pulses racing.

Museum to Temporarily Close on Mondays and Tuesdays

Aotea Utanganui - Museum of South Taranaki will temporarily close to the public on Mondays and Tuesdays while staff make preparations to shift part of its social history collection into its new, architecturally-designed building located at 4 Richmond Street, Pātea.

The recently completed facility, built by the South Taranaki District Museum Trust, will display large collection items including the Pātea Freezing Works fire engine and fire tender and other machinery from the District's past currently held at the Museum. In line with best practice for the long-term storage of heritage

collections, the building is fitted with a fire protection system that includes smoke detectors and a sprinkler system.

South Taranaki District Council Libraries and Cultural Services Manager Cath Sheard, says the Monday/Tuesday closure will run from 1 May till November 2023.

"The Trust and the Council are very excited to see this new facility completed," says Sheard. "The temporary closure will help the team concentrate on what the collection storage needs are, and prepare an exciting new display for our communities," she says.

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Sunday May 7th

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Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

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

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

An autumn tradition springs back into life

The Hawera Horticultural Society will be reviving an old tradition when they hold their Autumn Show this weekend (May 6-7).

The Society hold Spring and Summer shows every year, but this will be their first Autumn Show since 1989. The Society will mark 80 years next year, and Society president Paul Lander hopes the Autumn Show will again be a regular feature on their calendar.

The show will be held along the same lines as the Summer and Spring Shows, including sales tables and refreshments being available. A member of the

Society will be available to sharpen any garden implements, so Paul is encouraging anybody with secateurs, spades or shovels in need of sharpening to come along.

Recent growing conditions have been good, and Paul says he is looking forward to seeing a strong representation of dahlias, chrysanthemums, and a scattering of the roses still in bloom.

He says the show is already attracting interest from outside the province. Following a recent visit to Whanganui, he knew of a number of people from there

planning to be at the Hawera Show.

There are two national Chrysanthemum Shows every year, one each for the North and South Islands. At one stage the Hawera Horticultural Society hoped to be hosting the North Island show along with their own Autumn show, but with the North Island National Show not going ahead this wasn't possible. Nevertheless Paul says he is looking forward to seeing some of those who had been planning to be at that show still making the trip to Hawera.

He says he has been particularly pleased with the

number of entries so far in the Kids' section.

Very often most entries come in on the last couple of days before the show, so the early interest has been encouraging, says Paul.

"Our Spring and Summer Shows are now well supported by the public, so it's been worth having the hall for both days.

"Lockdown forced everyone to stay at home, so it brought people out into their gardens, which can be quite a relaxing enterprise," says Paul.

Super Rugby Pacific is back at Yarrow Stadium!



It's not too late to grab your tickets to the Gallagher Chiefs vs Queensland Reds at New Plymouth's Yarrow Stadium on Friday 12 May!

Rally together your friends and family for a night of awesome high-level live sport with local players in the mix - Tickets are on sale via Ticketek.co.nz

Funding boost for CoastalCare

Stage 3 of the CoastalCare internal rebuild received a financial boost thanks to a vote of \$5000 from the Taranaki Coastal Community Board.

The Coastal Taranaki Health Trust had applied for a grant of \$10,000 from the board's discretionary fund when the Community Board met at Opunake on April 19.

The cost of the project was \$396,075.33 and they had \$367,275.00 leaving a shortfall of \$28,800.33.

"We've run out of space which is probably a good problem as we've brought a whole lot of good services to Opunake," said facility manager Aretha Lemon.

She said some of the pressure had been relieved through "generous farmers" who had donated culled cows, but they needed to expand the pharmacy, and had to turn away a couple of

practitioners who wanted to operate out of CoastalCare.

Community Board chair Andy Whitehead said CoastalCare had provided services that wouldn't otherwise be available. He appreciated having a dentist in Opunake and not having to travel elsewhere to see one.

Aretha said Stages 3 and 4 still needed to be done, and if they didn't get everything they needed they would complete Stage 3 before moving on to Stage 4.

The board voted to grant half the money being asked for. Board member Monica Willson declared an interest and did not take part in discussion or the vote.

The board declined an application from Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Tamarongo for \$62,018.50 for funding, most of which was for fencing.

The Kura had so far raised \$450. Kura principal Robyn Davey said they had wanted to try to raise funds locally before looking further afield.

Monica Willson said the board should always be the last rather than the first resort for funding, and they should apply elsewhere before coming back to the Community Board.

Andy Whitehead said they didn't want to discourage the Kura from applying to the board for funding and there would be an opportunity to apply again after they had sought funding elsewhere.

Deputy chair Sharlee Mariekura declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion or the vote.

You can publicise your event in the Opunake & Coastal News. Call us on 06 761 7016 to do it!



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Sunday May 7, 10am to 3pm

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Society Sales Table

Entries & Enquiries

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Exhibition elements of nature at the Village Gallery

Elements of nature is a display put together by three nature loving artists, Yvonne Geeraedts (watercolours), Maryanne Van Roij (ceramics), Jennifer Patterson (Fibre artist).

We all get our inspiration by connecting with nature. It provides inner peace which gets the creative juices flowing. The exhibit is a visual feast reflecting New Zealand landscapes (in water colour), beautiful ceramic items and nature themed scarves, fibre wall hangings, bags and booklets.

We put this exhibit together to share our passion of nature with the wider public. The landscapes, ceramics and fibres are somewhat interconnected. A great



Elements of Nature exhibition is now on at The Village Gallery.

combination to promote getting back in touch with your environment.

Yvonne works mainly in her studio, but loves the challenge of plein air painting, being outside, immersed in the landscape, the quietness.

Maryanne enjoys detail, challenging porcelain and enhancing her works with flowers.

Jennifer's passion is dying fabrics, transforming them into practical items, gorgeous scarves and beautiful wall hangings.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on May 18, 2023.

Pink Ribbon appeal needs dazzling donations

Members of the Opunake Lions Club are holding a Pink Ribbon lunch on Saturday, May 6 at St Pauls Church Hall.

Guests are invited to wear



pink and savour the delights of a three-course menu, listen to guest speakers and

take part in quizzes. It is all for a good cause. All the proceeds are for the Breast Cancer Appeal for research.

Last minute tickets for \$40 can be obtained from Kaye Mourie on 027 307 9271. Otherwise, a donation would be greatly appreciated.

Elements of Nature

7 MAY - 2 JUNE 2023

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Jennifer Patterson

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Sports, True Story | 2hrs 8mins | M:
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Thursday 11th May 7pm

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Animated, Family | 1hr 32mins | PG
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Comedy | 1hr 38mins | M:
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also screening on
Saturday 13th May 7pm
Sunday 14th May 1pm

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Comedy | 1hr 47mins | M:
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Sunday 14th May 7pm

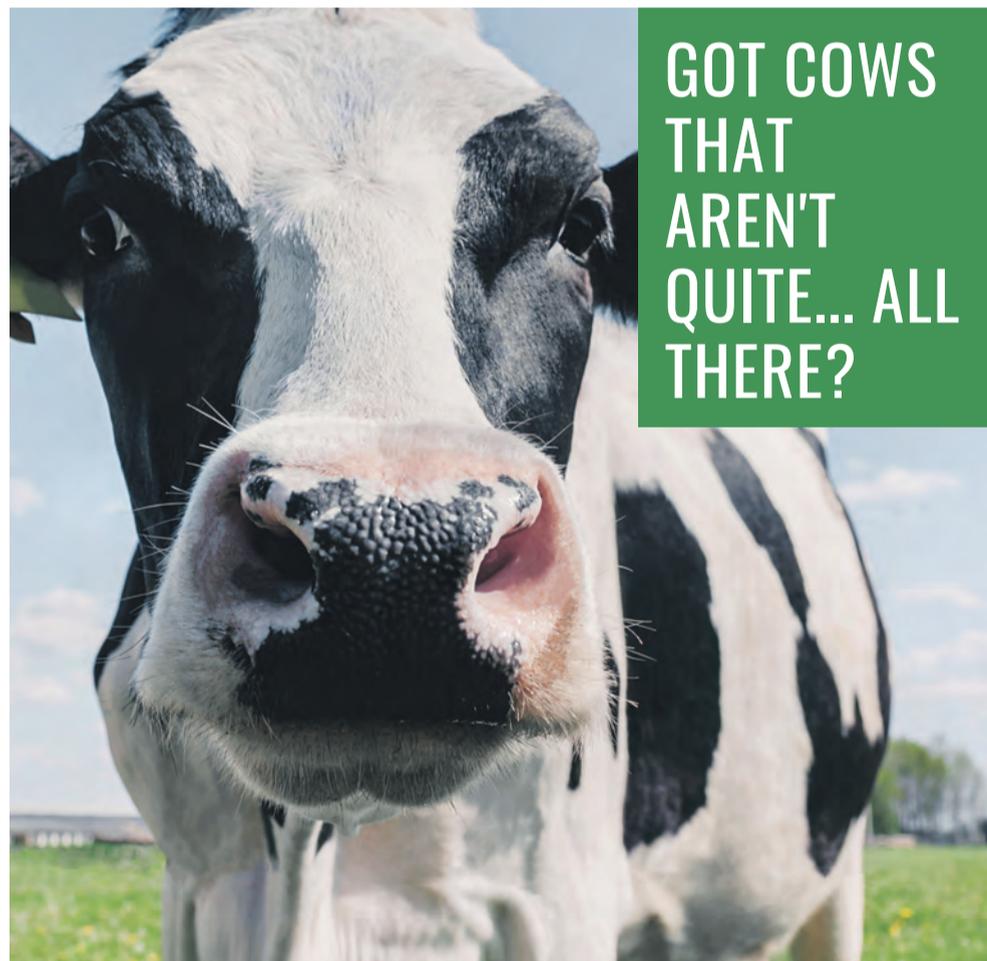
ARGONUTS EPIC TALES

Animated, Family | 1hr 35mins | G
Saturday 13th May 1pm



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80s for Brady 1pm-Book Club 2 7pm



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ANZCO, AFFCO, and Silver Fern Farms are working with CoastalCare to help you take care of your "special animals", donating proceeds to CoastalCare Health Trust to help us with the building extensions we need to get closer to our fundraising target!

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Pink Ribbon lunch
 Sat. May 6 starts at 11.30am.
 St Pauls Church Hall.
 \$40 per person.

Delicious 3 course meal. Free drink on arrival.
 Organised by the Opunake Lions Club.
 All proceeds to Breast Cancer Research
 For donations or tickets contact
 Kaye Mourie on 027 307 0271

**Okato and District
 Historical Society
 AGM**

Monday 29th May, 7pm

At our rooms
 47 Cumming St, Okato

Correspondence to
 okatodhs@gmail.com



Next Meeting is on
 Monday June 5, 2023
 at 5.30pm

Hughsons & Associates
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 Opunake Business Centre,
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 (opposite the Coastal Care
 Medical Centre)

HAWERA BUDGET
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