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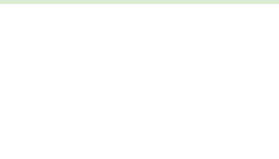
Lithium ion batteries can be dangerous. See page 6.



Armistice Day in Hawera. Turn to page 15.

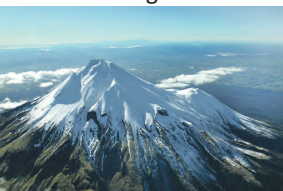


Kings show comes to Stratford. See pages 25 to 28.



A superb film about an avoidable tragedy. See page 30.

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS
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Good writing leaves room to fill in the gaps

The Lysaght Watt Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards were held in Hawera's new cultural centre Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga before a large crowd which included South Taranaki District Mayor Phil Nixon and Carl Bates, Member of Parliament for Whanganui.

The winning short story in the Open Section was Memories of Vertigo at 1300 metres by Anne Baylis from New Plymouth. It described an ascent of Taranaki Maunga as an adult with flashbacks to a time when the author fell when a young person and also her struggles since with vertigo. Older now, past tragedies on the maunga are also recalled.

The judge Tania Roxborough who judged the short stories described the winning story as "A luminous and deeply resonant piece of short fiction. With language that is both precise and poetic, it carries the reader onto the mountain and across the bridge until the maunga itself feels alive."



Winner of the Open Short Story section Anne Baylis of New Plymouth (left) with the judge Tania Roxborough. Anne is reading her winning story.

In summary she commented that overall the short stories in the Open Section "were marked by a quiet, thoughtful contemplation of life's moments whether humorous, nostalgic or reflective."

The judge awarded first place in the Secondary

School section to Celia Gribble from Stratford High School and her entry entitled "I want to go home." Celia's winning short story described the experience as a refugee adjusting to her new life in New Zealand interspersed with the chilling urgency with which they left their old life and some heartbreaking decisions they had to make. Her shyness as a refugee and finally her feeling of finally feeling in her new country is movingly portrayed. A "compelling and courageous story that confronts timely and important issues authentically and with careful crafting," said the judge with a tone that is sharp and deeply human and draws us totally in so we are rooting for her." Celia was also awarded second place and achieved a Highly Commended in the Secondary Section.

Of the Secondary School entries, the judge commented on the way the young writers were "unafraid to take emotional risks, many mining deep personal experience that felt raw, honest and brave."

The Open and Secondary School poetry sections were judged by Melinda Szymanik, a writer of poetry and children's fiction.

The Open section poems ranged from "the deeply personal to the omniscient eye looking down on the region," she said. "The poems that stood out for me were the ones that pulled me in and held me. It wasn't just the strength of the central ideas, but the language choices made, the unexpected turns of phrase and surprises that made me gasp, gave me pause, and had me thinking on the poem long after I'd put it down."

The winning poem was The Daughter of God by Erana Hokopaura-Watkins from Hawera. Commented the judge, "this was a standout for me, the shape

and homelessness, to faith and the very purpose of our existence, asking questions of both the narrator and me which I am still thinking on. Are we doing enough? What do we believe? How do we judge others? An immensely thought provoking and satisfying piece."

In the Secondary School section, the poems were "dominated by the serious business of growing up, of its associated fears and feelings, and looking for meaning, purpose and acceptance," she said.

The winner was Addison Pryce from Te Kura with her entry Dear Pihanga, which the judge said was a fresh take on the Battle of the Mountains from the point of view of one



Seated is Celia Gribble (Stratford High School) winner of three placings, including first, second and highly commended. Judge Tania Roxborough is reading one of Celia's stories.

of the poem providing several ways in, with themes from the domestic, that ordinariness of the suburban supermarket car park, through mental wellbeing

on the losing side. "Here we have a love story, a deeply felt connection, the poem effectively conveying the eternal yearning of Taranaki continued on page 5.



Reading her winning poem in the Open Poetry section is Erana Hokopaura-Watkins of Hawera. The judge Melinda Szymanik is listening in the background.

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For advertising, email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
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www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
Editor: Bernice McKellar
Journalists/Sales: Rolland McKellar, Bryan Kirk
Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith
Production/IT: Shane Butler
Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly
Registered as a newspaper.
Member of the Community Newspapers Association of New Zealand



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

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

Let’s light up Eltham

Hello Eltham ,Christmas is just over a month away and I was thinking back a few years ago when Eltham was the brightest spot for people travelling through our town .We as a town all got on board with the challenge for as many homes as possible to light up for Christmas, especially High Street from the southern end to the northern end ,and it was spectacular . There are already those that are enthusiastic to once again light up this main stretch of roading. So I’m hoping that us as Eltham’s townsfolk, our community and business people will encourage each other, our neighbours

and friends to once again “Light Up For Christmas.” It actually does not cost a lot, as some people imagine. You can get a long 30 metre-length set of lights from The Warehouse etc for a minimal price and the little led lights don’t even seem to increase the power bill much at all, as they draw only a small wattage. And of course there are the solar lights which look very effective. You don’t have to have great massive lots of lights ,two or three strings can be quite effective. If every household that are keen do a little display each put up some lights, the overall effect will look amazing. So come on Eltham, let’s light up our town this Christmas 2025. If you’ve got any questions

or ideas give Lindsay Maindonald a call 027 434 9267.

Lindsay Maindonald
Eltham.

Surf lifesaving stalwarts honoured

When reading about what Trent Oliver and David Hickey have done while belonging to the Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club I must congratulate both of them on their dedication as both have been members, volunteers and competed against other surf life saving clubs, and both have been awarded for their excellent work.

Trent was awarded

regional service and national service awards, while David has been given a national life member award, and both have received the regional life membership award.

To me, both men should be in the Kings Birthday Awards next year for their great dedication and work within the surf life saving institution in New Zealand.

Many people nowadays don’t really know what our surf life saving people go through and do by helping many people, yet still we have those who still don’t listen to what our Surf Life Saving and Water Safety New Zealand are trying to tell them and us.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth



Lindsay Maindonald is asking Eltham residents to once more think about lighting up their homes for Christmas.

ADELPHOS

The Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew chapters 5-7, is recognised as the greatest yet most challenging teachings

The Sermon on the Mount—Part 3

of Jesus. They summarise what Jesus taught life should ideally be like in the hearts and actions of believers. Today we’ll survey just two of Jesus’ most challenging topics in this three-part series. After reading Matthew chapters 5-7 most readers feel deflated. Try it. Because they’ll soon realise the difficulty of obeying Jesus’ seemingly impossible commands with only our own human ability.

Firstly, there’s Jesus’ New Testament command about adultery: “Do not commit adultery. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28, New International Version). This means exactly what Jesus says: anyone having a lustful thought commits adultery in their heart. The Jewish people, with their strict laws regarding sexual practices, marriage and gender, found this new idea difficult but far easier to hear than the Romans. Cruel elite Roman slave owners in

Jesus’ day could beat and rape their men, women and child slaves, without legal consequences. Jesus was a threat to both religious Jews and Rome’s politics and morality. How do you think Jesus’ words regarding lustful desires would be received in today’s overtly sexualised climate?

And secondly, Jesus’ command to love our enemies is arguably an even greater challenge in His multi-topic sermon, “... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you so that you may become the sons of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:44-45, Good News Bible). It seems impossible for someone to love and pray for the workplace bully who got them fired or the person who kidnapped and murdered their child?

Many people, even some Christians, have put The Sermon on the Mount in the too hard basket because they are relying on their own human ability to meet Jesus’ seemingly unreasonable expectations. Jesus never

intended to discourage us with impossible commands, but to challenge us to develop our spiritual potential. With the help of prayer and The Holy Spirit, Christianity is walking through life alongside God (John 14:26).

Mahatma Gandhi, St. Augustine and Leo Tolstoy praised Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount for His influential ethical teachings addressing revenge, love and hatred.

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Other Sermon on the Mount topics in Matthew chapters 5-7 challenge conventional understanding and call for a costly, radical and “seemingly” impossible Christian commitment. But Jesus promised us, “This is impossible for man, but for God everything is possible” (Matthew 19:26, Good News Bible).

A very blessed and healthy Christmas season,

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Green space gets new name

The Opunake Green Space came a step closer on Thursday last week (December 13) with the Ground-breaking and naming ceremony outside Te Whare Kotahi (the former TSB building).

The proposal which has received some mixed reviews in Opunake and was approved by the South Taranaki District Council last year will see part of Napier Street closed off to create a town square taking in Te Whare Kotahi, the town's Library Plus and the Peter Snell statue.

A new name, donated by Taranaki Iwi, was given by which it will be known in future, Puna Manawa Ora (the Spring of the beating heart) and a stone from the Waiaua River was placed

and buried at the site.

The contract will go out to tender and anyone is invited to apply says South Taranaki District Council community development advisor Fran Levings.

"We will know by Christmas who has been awarded the contract," says Fran. "Hopefully they will start work in February, as we wanted to leave it free in December-January as we didn't want to disrupt the busy period."

The Green Space is part of the South Taranaki District Council's small town revitalisation programme which has seen the Council work with co-design groups of local people to develop projects for their towns. Members of the Opunake



Cr. Aarun Langton digs the first sod at the ground breaking ceremony for what will now be known as Puna Manawa Ora.



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co-design group were at the ceremony last week. Group member Raewyn Cornford said they had been meeting monthly for the last two and a half years at the Sinclair Event Centre and working with the South Taranaki District Council.

"There were about 16 initially invited to attend and six of us stayed to the end," she said. "We worked with Brad Dobson the landscape developer and we brought it together. A core of us stuck to it and we pushed it through with the help of Fran (Levings)."

Bryan Roach who had also been a member of the co-design group said, "the idea has been floated for decades."

"It's taken this committee a long time to get to where we are. There's been numerous meetings, hundreds of emails and lots of discussions. The actual design took a

whole lot of work from the whole committee, and it was the whole committee's input. A special thanks to Fran Levings for running the whole committee and keeping us on track."

He said there are other revitalisation projects like extending the footpath on Napier Street that they want to see completed.

The ceremony started at 8am. Rihimona Ratahi, accompanied by Tonga Karena, carried the mauri kohatu (stone) to a prepared area where it was placed and buried, with South Taranaki District councillor Aarun Langton on behalf of mayor Phil Nixon digging the first sod.

Taranaki iwi chief executive Damon Ritai said the name given to the

stone Puna o te Mangonui reflected the importance of that river.

"It's a prominent river for us," he said. "The purpose of a mauri is that it's like planting a seed, and that seed grows and flourishes through the Kaipapa and through the community, and what that space is going to be, moving forward. When we think about a mauri it's like a life force that needs to be nurtured."

Rihimona Ratahi had picked up the stone from the upper Waiaua River.

"It was a beautiful day and we went for a hikoi up the Waiaua River and we allowed the mauri to choose us," he said. "When choosing a taonga it takes a little bit of time. You need the free time for your mind to be clear and

to be able to do the mahi. My work colleague and I went up the Waiaua. We had the rains that came and the rains that went and a lot of water had flown down the maunga, which allowed that to happen quite easily."

Aarun Langton said that a green space in the middle of town was something that his father, Opunake identity Rex Langton had always wanted to see.

"He said we needed to have a town centre," recalls Aarun. "He had travelled around the world and always talked about how every town has its green space. All places around the world have town centres where people meet, and we've had discussions on this for 20 years."

Even low intensity smoking can increase risks

Analysing the results of 22 long-term studies involving over 300,000 adults, researchers have found that those who smoke only 2-5 cigarettes a day still have a 60% higher chance of death from any cause than those who have never

smoked. When people quit smoking, risks of death and heart disease decreased over time, with the biggest drop in the first decade. But former smokers could still have higher risks, even 30 years after quitting. The researchers say that never

smoking or quitting entirely are more effective ways to reduce risk than smoking fewer cigarettes.

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Good writing leaves room to fill in the gaps

continued from page 1

for Pihanga, a love we can be sure will never fade, all in terms of the natural world: the mists, the sky, the earth and sea.”

The True Story section open to secondary students only was judged by Matt Rilkoff, editor of the Taranaki Daily News who awarded Kayla Malone’s entry The Mattress first place.

He described the entries as “ambitious” and tackled growing up, the teenage years with “flighty friendships, inner demons, secrets and discoveries”. Overall, they were thoughtful, funny and heartfelt. He also had some useful advice.

“Like many pieces by young writers, there was a tendency to complicate where simplicity would have served their reader better. The point of the story was not always clear – there was often a clutter of adjectives that camouflaged the narrative, sometimes so well the story is forever hidden.” Sometimes a forest is best described as a forest, the dew is no more than wet grass. Good writing leaves room of the readers to fill in



From left, Linda Cox (New Plymouth), Pip Harrison (Hawera), Anne Baylis (New Plymouth), John Sargent (New Plymouth) and Rolland McKellar (Okato). They were finalists in the Open Short Story section. Anne was first, Pip was second and the others were highly commended. Pip has won the event a record four times.

the gaps.”

Results: Short Story - Secondary School Section. First Place: “I Want to Go Home” Celia Gribble – Stratford High School. Second Place: “The Remnant” Celia Gribble – Stratford High School. Third Place: “Greener” Chelsea Jean Babalcon – Taranaki

Diocesan School for Girls. Highly Commended. “The Weight of Excellence” Celia Gribble - Stratford High School. “Til She Wasn’t” Lauren Kalin – Te Paepae o Aotea. “Badge of Honour” Toby Flynn – New Plymouth Boys High School.

Short Story - Open Section. First Place: “Memories of

Vertigo at 1300 Metres” – Anne Bayliss – New Plymouth Second Place: “The Sacredness of Stuff” Philippa Harrison – Hāwera. Third Place: “Crusty Exterior” Rebecca Clarke – New Plymouth. Highly Commended. “Shifting” Linda Cox – New Plymouth. “When the Wheels Come

Off” – Rolland McKellar – Ōkato. “The Fence” John Sargeant – New Plymouth. Poetry - Secondary School Section. First Place: “Dear Pihanga” Addison Pryce – Te Kura. Second Place: “Ōkato (in my head)” Lucinda Moorby – Sacred Heart Girls’ College. Third Place: “Jenga Blocks” Lauren Kalin – Te Paepae o Aotea. Highly Commended: “Ōkato 4:17pm” Lucinda Moorby – Sacred Heart Girls’ College. “The Ghost of Ōakura” Corey Barrett – New Plymouth Boys High School. “Things That Stay in Ōkato” Lucinda Moorby – Sacred Heart Girls’ College. Poetry - Open Section. First Place: “The Daughter of God” Erana Hokopaura-Watkins – Hāwera. Second

Place: “Three Sheets to the Wind” Koren Miller – Hāwera. Third Place: “Hopeless Romantic” Molly Sears – Manaia. Highly Commended: “Hill Country Rain” Philippa Guthrie – New Plymouth. “This is not a Dress Rehearsal” – Koren Miller – Hāwera. “Love and Rubbish Ten past Ten Sunday Night Wash Night” Philippa Guthrie – New Plymouth. Research Article. First Place: “The Mattress” Kayla Malone - Sacred Heart Girls’ College. Second Place: “The Great Lemon Heist” Lauren Kalin – Te Paepae o Aotea. Third Place: “A Small Price to Life” Claudia Taylor - Sacred Heart Girls’ College



The event was held in the new cultural centre Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga.

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Fire serves as battery warning

A farm fire that destroyed a storage shed and workshop and wiped out three tractors serves as a warning of the risks associated with lithium ion batteries.

Farmer Ian Armstrong contacted the Opunake and Coastal News about the fire on his Te Kiri farm back in September which a fire investigator said had started with a hole in a lithium ion battery in a power tool.

All that remains of a storage shed and workshop are slabs of concrete and the ruins of what had once been three John Deere tractors.

Ian said that "a real strong northerly" had been blowing when everything went up in flames and smoke.

"We had a well-equipped workshop with welders, electric and gas and a very good range of power tools when the fire got going."

Throw in a potent mix of propane, LPG and oxygen and things happened very quickly. Propelled by the strong wind the fire spread and three John Deere tractors which were lined up nearby went up.

It all happened at milking time between 4-5pm.

"The guy who found it came down from the cowshed, saw some smoke in the workshop and wondered what was happening. He went to go into the workshop and found it was locked. By



Within a short time a workshop and storage shed went up in flames...

that stage the flames were up to the roof level."

He dialled 111, but by that time all three tractors were alight.

"Within three or four minutes from the flames being up to the roof, the whole thing was burning."

Fire engines from Opunake, Rahotu and Kaponga attended and were there for some time.

A fire investigator put the cause of the fire down to a lithium battery.

"She found a lithium battery with a hole in it, and said that's your problem. I understand this wasn't the only fire in Taranaki caused

by that."

Ian says the battery had been in a power tool not on the charge, "and not a cheap one."

Ian says he had been well insured and had carried out a rigorous review ever year. His insurance company had been "really good." The loss of the tractors which couldn't be insured for their replacement value left him out of pocket, as had the buildings.

FENZ Taranaki community risk fire manager Christine McGinty says fires caused through lithium ion batteries are more common than they were 10 years ago.

"It's a nation-wide problem," she says.

It could happen anywhere lithium ion operated tools are kept, whether on a farm, a business or commercial premises, or in a garage or workshop at home.

"A lot of power tools are

lithium ion battery operated these days," says Christine. "They could get bumped around a lot which causes them to undergo a thermal runaway. If you are charging them don't overcharge, and definitely don't leave them overnight. Charge them on a hard surface, and not with combustibles around them."

She says often people keep their tools on a work bench with other stuff like cardboard boxes around them.

"There were a couple of fires in Auckland in the back of somebody's van and the builders would toss the tools in the back. Sometimes it takes a few bumps, others none at all."

She advises storing power tools in a metal box.

On a brighter note Ian said that at least he was going to have an improved set-up to what he had before.



The scene today.



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Vintage Cliff

Two and a half thousand excited fans packed the Aotea Centre in Auckland to see Cliff Richard in concert last Saturday night, his second concert held over successive nights. There was to be only one concert but a second was held to not disappoint his many fans who thronged to see the singer who, with 67 top Ten singles ranks third behind the Beatles and Elvis Presley in record sales in the UK.

And what a concert it was. Beginning with Move it, the song that started it all and of which John Lennon was to famously state was “the first English record that was anywhere near anything was ‘Move It’ by Cliff Richard, and before that there’d been nothing.”

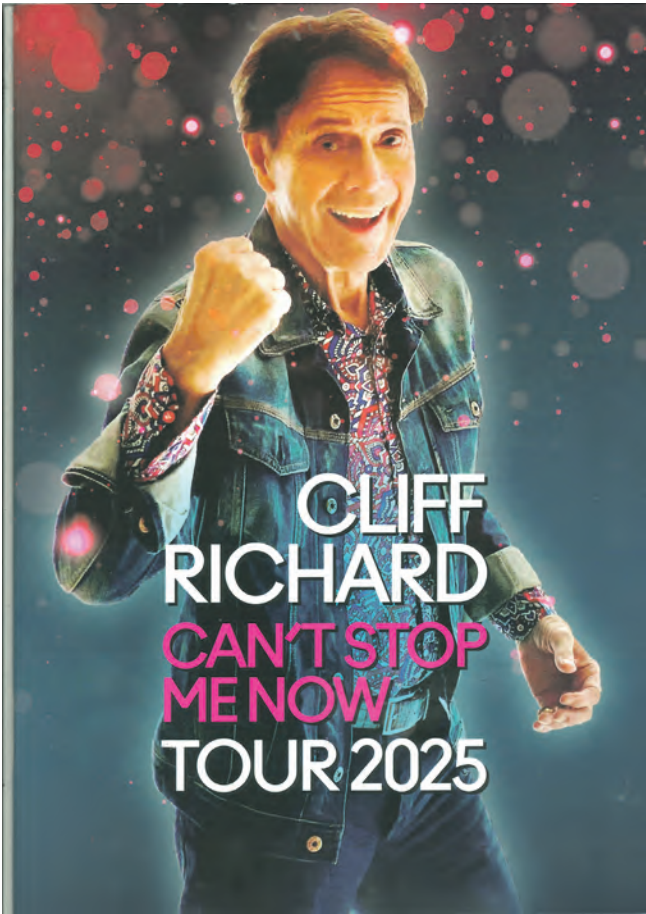
The atmosphere was electric as he launched into the single written by Ian Samwell, a member of Cliff’s first band The Drifters on board a No 715 Greenline bus. A volley of songs that have kept the British icon on the airwaves with a number 1 single in every one of the last 6 decades of his stellar career followed.

Alternating both rock and roll chart toppers with ballads, hit after hit was delivered with Cliff’s voice remaining as youthful as it was when, just 17, Move It hit the charts rising to No 2.

Most of the twenty plus songs that followed were among his major hits.

The fourth song in, the exquisite The Minute You’re Gone was shortly followed by the title song for which he is perhaps best known of his first major film The Young Ones. My oldest friend Linda who accompanied me to the concert said it was her favourite song.

Next came Living Doll, a song Cliff professed to not particularly like when first recorded but which soared to become his first number 1 single. It was followed by another favourite, Summer Holiday, the title song of his second major film. Another chart topper, it preceded the achingly beautiful The Next Time from the same film, a personal favourite.



Cliff Richard who played at Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in his Can’t Stop Me Now Tour.

Then came the upbeat On the Beach and next Miss you Nights, one of his loveliest ballads.

Cliff spoke frequently between songs. Before the prophetic Bachelor Boy which also features in Summer Holiday, he described how the director of the film demanded “another song”. Bachelor Boy was co-written by Cliff and the Shadows in just 8 minutes. Another no I hit.

After interval the second half kicked off with another upbeat number Wired for Sound. Do You Wanna Dance which followed got people dancing in the aisles and for those who remained seated it was impossible to not join in to the relentless dance beat.

Next came another tear jerker, Daddy’s Home. The entry in the Eurovision Song Contest Congratulations which came second to the lyrically challenged La La La by Massiel, Spain’s entry, spawned another humorous recollection from Cliff who joked when the Spanish

singer was announced as the winner he strode over and, congratulating her, shook her ... firmly by the neck.

Another ballad, the sumptuous Ocean Deep was followed by Cliff’s own personal favourite Devil Woman and, along with We Don’t Talk Anymore which followed, the only two songs to chart highly in the States. He never quite achieved popularity in the States which he mentioned with a touch of chagrin before performing the two songs.

At one point we were treated to a tantalising few bars of Apache, which became a massive hit for The Shadows, the band with whom Cliff became associated for many years. He was told at the time the instrumental would not sell unless Cliff played on it. He played percussion. The Shadows of course went on to independently amass five number ones themselves in the UK including one which displaced one of Cliff’s singles in the British charts which Cliff humorously

relayed in the concert.

A Saviour’s Prayer which followed had everyone swaying in the aisles and then another ballad, a Christmas hit, before which Cliff wished everyone a Merry Christmas; Mistletoe and Wine.

The Millenium Prayer followed as Cliff, renowned for his strong Christian faith, achieved another number one which initially struggled to get airplay because of its title said Cliff. DJs wouldn’t play it, he said.

The concert ended with the final number My Kinda Life which was somehow fitting for the entertainer who early on decided to devote his life to music and his career.

It’s My Kinda Life and I like it, says the lyrics.

Sensing the end of the concert those near the front gravitated to the stage to stand before their icon.

As Cliff casually discarded his jacket and briefly sat down, he hesitated on picking up his jacket before leaving the stage, the enthusiastic crowd still baying for more.

There was another 50 songs he could have sung from his huge repertoire. Theme for a Dream, The Day I Met Marie, A Little in Love, A Voice in the Wilderness, It’s All in the Game, Silhouettes...the list seems endless.

The secret to his musical longevity and huge number

of hits is of course his judgement – he knows a great song. That and his sensitive delivery and his utter dedication to his craft.

Apparently, several busloads from Hawera were among those who went to the concert.

It was a wild night.

I’ve seen Cliff perform around half a dozen times

including at Wembley Stadium in London where he celebrated his silver anniversary before 80,000 people. Each was memorable in different ways but last Saturday night on a number of levels probably capped them all.

It was just brilliant.

Thank you, Cliff.

Bernice McKellar

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South Taranaki asked to back Bates again in the 2026 election

MP Carl Bates has been reselected to be the National Party candidate for the Whanganui Electorate including Stratford and South Taranaki, for the 2026 General Election. National Party Electorate Chair Jeff Phillips said “Since he became the National Party candidate in February 2023, Carl has displayed enormous energy.” “He has the ability to relate to people across the spectrum and a fierce determination to represent our electorate in Wellington. Carl is visible, engaged, and accessible, with lifelong ties to the community having been born and raised locally.” Phillips says. Bates is one of the first



CARL BATES MP
WHANGANUI

tranche of selections for 2026, which included Prime Minister Christopher Luxon (Botany) and Hon Chris Bishop (Hutt South). Changes in the electoral boundaries mean the Whanganui Electorate will look somewhat different for the 2026 General Election. The electorate

will grow from an area of approximately 5,700 km2 to just over 11,200 km2, with most of the Ruapehu District now included too.

Carl Bates says that while this almost doubles the area of the electorate, and adds approximately 5 000 constituents, he is up for the challenge. “The old adage that if you want something done, ask a busy person comes to mind” says Bates. In his maiden speech Bates spoke about the role of an MP being a facilitator between the electorate and central government. He says he has consistently been active around the electorate, with a real focus on being present. Many will have witnessed his success in bringing colleagues and Ministers

to our region to understand both our challenges and opportunities. Since his election in 2023 this presence around Hāwera and South Taranaki has been regularly noted and commented on locally and he has developed a strong working relationship with South Taranaki Mayor, Phil Nixon and his council. Bates recently hosted Agriculture Minister Hon Todd McClay for farmer forums in Te Kiri and Pakaraka. He also hosted Climate Change and Energy Minister Hon Simon Watts for a similar forum in Stratford. He believes locals appreciate being able to meet face-to-face with Ministers and exchange their views. Balancing the

growth in his family with the arrival of Bonnie-Ann added another dynamic to his first term as an MP. Bates wants to particularly acknowledge all those who have supported him throughout this journey. “Candice is amazing, and her support has enabled me to achieve what I have, along with the fantastic work of my electorate office and parliamentary team. A huge thank you to my wider family and National Party volunteers for all their support as well.” Looking forward Carl Bates said his priorities continue to include improved health care services, and supporting our farmers, businesses and various industries, so we see more jobs and better incomes for people living in our region.



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The Green Party’s announcement that it will revoke any Fast-track consents, licences, or permits issued for coal, seabed, and hardrock gold mining projects has been welcomed by Greenpeace but New Zealand Minerals Council chief executive Josie Vidal has dismissed it as “performative nonsense.” This would affect seven current projects, including the Trans-Tasman Resources’ proposed seabed mine in the South Taranaki Bight, the Waihi North gold mine in Coromandel, and the Buller Plateau coal mine on the West Coast.

“The fast-track process is designed to bulldoze over environmental protections, so it is essential that the consents for the most devastating projects are revoked,” says Niamh O’Flynn, Greenpeace Aotearoa programme

director. “Revoking these specific fast track consents is non-negotiable for nature and the climate. These are toxic, destructive mining projects so we expect the Green Party will make revoking these consents a bottom-line if they are in a position of negotiating a coalition agreement in 2026.”

Josie Vidal says the Greens have produced an anti-mining policy without any consultation with the mining industry.

“Our mining industry makes a positive contribution to the New Zealand economy and does so in a way that minimises environmental impact. The Green’s policy makes New Zealand look frankly, ridiculous, when worldwide, there is competition for supply of the minerals we need for renewable energy, technology, medicine, and a better, healthier future.

“We need some economic drivers in New Zealand sooner, rather than later, and that is what the projects listed in the Fast-track Approvals Act are. It is disingenuous to suggest that projects that have been approved could suddenly be stopped for no valid legal reason - and certainly no reason based in facts, evidence and science.” Niamh O’Flynn says the Fast Track Approvals Act needs to be completely repealed. “It builds in a lack of transparency and consultation and is anti-democratic. It allows projects that have already been denied by the highest court in the land, and overwhelmingly opposed by iwi, local communities and experts.” O’Flynn says. Greenpeace Aotearoa is also urging all political parties to go further and commit to a permanent ban on seabed mining, and all new mining on conservation land. “This commitment sets the stage, but the ultimate goal must be to ban this destruction outright, regardless of the consenting mechanism. We must secure Aotearoa’s wild places for future generations,” says O’Flynn.

Josie Vidal says the mining sector supports New

Zealand’s environmental standards and are not seeking to undermine them.

“We consider the Fast-track Approvals Act, as it stands, strikes this balance. Experience to-date shows that it is not the rubber stamp that many critics thought it would be. The panels have been rigorous in their analyses of projects.

“We are not looking for any weakening of existing environmental safeguards and there is a lot of ‘noise’ around this legislation suggesting this is happening, without any evidence.

“Mining is a highly productive industry and we estimate with the projects advancing in New Zealand at the moment, 2000-plus well-paid jobs will be added in regional New Zealand.

“Revoking the Fast-track Approvals Act wouldn’t stop mining. It would impose delays, costs and complexity to mining projects for no substantive gain to sustainable management of the environment.”

Next issue December 4 so make sure we receive ads and stories by Monday December 1 at the very latest.

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Another 5200 health workers vote to strike on 28 November

More than 3 500 Mental Health Nurses and Assistants and Public Health Nurses and 1700 Policy, Advisory, Knowledge and Specialist workers have voted to strike on Friday 28 November.

The workers have voted to strike in support of their claims for a settlement that ensures safe staffing and a pay increase that keeps pace with cost-of-living increases facing these workers and their families.

“The votes for strike

action highlight the deep frustration health workers are feeling with Te Whatu Ora and the Government,” said Fleur Fitzsimons, National Secretary for the Public Service Association Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi.

“Te Whatu Ora and the Government are not listening to the real concerns of these vital health workers or responding with realistic offers that would enable us to reach a settlement,” Fitzsimons said.

The Mental Health Nurses and Assistants and Public Health Nurses voted overwhelmingly to strike for four hours from 1pm to 5pm on Friday 28 November. The vote followed a mediation with Te Whatu Ora where no settlement was reached.

The Policy, Advisory, Knowledge and Specialist Workers collective (PAKS) also voted to strike. This collective includes workers who keep IT systems working 24/7 and data

secure, who provide supplies and equipment, keep payrolls functioning and provide other vital policy support.

These two votes swell the number of health workers striking on Friday 28 November to about 16,700. On 7 November, 11,500 Allied health workers, who include physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, Māori health specialists, scientists, anaesthetic technicians, and many more health

professions, voted to strike on 28 November after their mediation failed to deliver meaningful results.

“These health workers are reluctantly taking strike action. They care deeply about their patients and their work and will ensure life preserving services continue. But they feel they have no choice when their concerns are not responded to,” Fitzsimons said.

“The pay offers for the three collectives still doesn’t keep

pace with inflation - they are effectively a pay cut. Meanwhile, there are simply not enough health workers to provide the level of care New Zealanders need.

“Overworked and undervalued health workers need to once again send a strong message to the Government: value us, listen to us, and address the staffing crisis that’s compromising patient care across the country,” Fitzsimons said.

Treasury fires yet another warning shot across Government bows

Treasury’s latest Investment Statement delivered yet another warning that the Government’s current fiscal path isn’t sustainable, says Taxpayers’ Union spokesman James Ross.

“Treasury saying the Government’s balance sheet is heading for deterioration

is not-so-subtle code for living well beyond our means. Spending will keep growing far faster than revenue, and there’s no plan to bring things back under control.”

“We’re watching the Government walk straight down the same dark path

Britain has taken. Britain’s response to a budget crisis has been to hammer taxpayers, pushing investment and high earners overseas, and trapping the economy in a downward spiral. New Zealand can’t afford to repeat that mistake.”

“Spending is still higher than

when the last Government left office, even after Labour’s spending blowout. The Finance Minister still won’t make the hard calls to right the ship. If Minister Willis won’t listen to Treasury’s warnings, the obvious question is: who is she listening to?”

Long term membership badge to Te Kiri WI woman

Te Kiri Women’s Institute members were honoured to have Federation President Bernadette Gopperth at the monthly meeting in TeKiri Hall on 13 November 2025, to present member Joy Collins with her 70 year membership badge.

Bernadette read out some of the things Joy had done over the years from first joining Pihama Country Women’s Institute as a single girl. After marriage Joy continued with Pihama for a short time travelling down with a neighbour, then joined Te Kiri in 1959. It was noted that Joy is our handcraft expert with prize winning entries in Federation competitions on behalf of our Institute for decades. Plus a win at the



national competitions in 2014. We all felt proud of Joy’s achievement.

Te Kiri WI

LEFT: Pictured from left. Bernadette Gopperth (President South Taranaki Federation Women’s Institutes), Joy Collins, Te Kiri WI President and Sue Muggeridge (right) who made the posie to go with Joy’s 70 year badge.

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Safety - the most important thing to a thriving human mind

Did you know our number one requirement for thriving in life is simply to feel safe? When we feel safe, our body and nervous system can relax, our mind opens up, and life feels steady enough to enjoy. You can't expect to grow a wonderful garden if the plant roots can't find nourishment. They need depth, warmth, nutrition, and steady care, not rocky soil and constant disturbance. People are much the same - without emotional nourishment and safety, we can never truly flourish.

For most of us, that sense of safety starts at home. It's where we take off the armour, drop the day's worries at the door, and just be ourselves. Whether it's a humble bach by the beach, a flash weatherboard villa in Rahotu, or a rental flat where the heat pump only ever works on "Arctic," home is the place we reset our nervous system and recharge.

But safety doesn't stop at the front door. It's more than door locks and smoke alarms. It's the feeling that you're okay - physically, emotionally, and socially. It's knowing that the people around you have your back,



RICHARD HALL

that your voice matters, and that you can face life's storms without being blown over.

Kiwis pride ourselves on being tough. We'll fix the fence in a gale, mow the lawn barefoot, and climb onto the roof "just for a quick look." But beneath all that Number 8 wire resilience, what we really crave is something pretty simple: to feel safe.

And not just "no broken bones" safe - we're also talking about emotional, social, and psychological safety. Whether you're milking on the farm, teaching in Hāwera, or pulling caffeine shots at one of our fine South Taranaki cafés - that deep sense of safety is what keeps your mind and body humming.

The science bit

When we feel secure - physically and emotionally

- our nervous system slips into its happy place: the parasympathetic state. That's the "rest and digest" mode where our breathing slows, our muscles relax, and the brain quietly sighs, "Ahhh... time for a cuppa."

But when we feel unsafe - whether it's a dodgy ladder, a snarky boss, or a tense conversation with a loved one - the brain slams the alarm button. Cortisol and adrenaline flood the body, preparing us to fight, flee, freeze, or fawn. Some of those responses may help if you're being chased by an angry bull, but are not so helpful when it's just an email notification or a colleague's negative tone in the staff-room."

Safety starts close to home

Feeling safe begins where we live and work. South Taranaki might be small, but we punch well above our weight in community spirit. We wave at strangers, lend each other jump-leads, and treat a good natter at Four Square like it's an Olympic sport.

But not everyone feels secure. For some, home can be unpredictable. For others, money worries, isolation, or social pressure quietly chip away at that sense of safety. The good news is that safety can be rebuilt through connection, kindness, and a bit of classic Kiwi looking-out-for-each-other.

Maybe it's checking in on a friend who's gone quiet, or noticing that the farmer down the road hasn't turned up to pool night for a while. Every small act of care adds another layer of collective calm. The funny thing about safety is that it's contagious - when one person feels grounded, others nearby start to relax too.

Emotional Safety: the unsung hero of well-being

Physical safety is obvious - helmets, seatbelts, and the timeless "don't use a fork to get the toast out." But emotional safety is sneakier and just as vital. It's the sense that you can be yourself without fear of judgment, ridicule, or rejection.

At work, it's being able to say, "Hey boss, the machine's got a missing guard," without being told to harden up. In relationships, it's being able to say, "I'm not coping," and know you'll be met with care, not criticism.

When emotional safety is high, people thrive. They innovate, connect, and recover faster from setbacks. When it's missing, we shrink. We hide mistakes, second-guess ourselves, and slowly lose confidence. It's a bit like trying to play rugby with one boot missing - technically possible, but not pretty.

How to recognise if you're not feeling emotionally safe

Sometimes, the lack of emotional safety sneaks up on you - like a slow tyre leak. You might think you're fine, but your body's been telling you otherwise for weeks.

Here are a few clues:

- You second-guess everything you say, even small talk.
- You walk on eggshells around certain people.
- You apologise constantly, even when you've done nothing wrong.
- You feel tense, drained, or anxious after certain interactions.
- You don't share your real thoughts because it never feels "safe enough."
- You act smaller - quieter, more agreeable - just to avoid conflict.

If you're shrinking instead of shining, that's a red flag.

What you can do about it

- 1. Trust your gut.** If something feels "off," it probably is. Your body is an early-warning system; listen to it before it starts sending you louder messages - like headaches, stomach tension, or sudden cravings for a one-way ticket to Stewart Island.
- 2. Set boundaries, not barriers.**

Boundaries aren't about being cold - they're about self-respect.

3. Find your people. Surround yourself with those who genuinely have your back. The ones who listen, not lecture. Whether it's a friend, whānau member, or counsellor, connection rebuilds safety faster than any self-help book.

4. Breathe and reset. When you're tense, your nervous system needs a circuit breaker. Deep breathing, mindfulness, or a walk along the beach can do wonders. The sea doesn't care about your to-do list - it just wants you to breathe.

5. Seek professional support if needed. Sometimes emotional safety has been missing for so long that you need a professional to help rebuild it. That's where therapy and counselling can make all the difference.

Remember: reclaiming your emotional safety isn't selfish - it's survival. You can't pour from an empty kettle, and here in Taranaki, we all know the kettle's the first thing that goes on when life gets wobbly.

Safety and Wairua

Traditional Māori wisdom has long recognised that true well-being is holistic - body, mind, spirit, and environment all work together. Mason-Durie's Te Whare Tapa Whā model captures this beautifully: taha tinana (physical), taha hinengaro (mental), taha whānau (social), and taha wairua (spiritual).

When one wall of the whare is shaky - say, constant stress at work or conflict at home - the whole structure trembles. Feeling safe means tending to all four walls: caring for the body, soothing the mind, staying connected, and honouring the spirit.

So what can we do?

- 1. Check in, don't check out.** If someone seems off, ask

twice: "You good?" then "No, really - are you okay?" You'd be amazed how often the second question opens the door.

2. Create calm corners. Whether it's at home, work, or in the community, make space for rest and reflection. A cuppa and a yarn can fix half the world's problems - and the other half can usually wait until after tea-break.

3. Respect boundaries and tapu. Acknowledge what's special to others - be it personal space or sacred sites. Respect builds trust, and trust builds safety.

4. Plan before you act. Before you climb that rickety ladder, drive through the storm, or send that fiery email, take a breath and look at the potential consequences. Your nervous system will thank you.

5. Celebrate safety like success. Give a nod to the small wins - wearing your ear-muffs, speaking up, asking for help. It's not "being soft"; it's being smart.

Final thought

Safety isn't about bubble-wrapping life. It's about creating enough steadiness to actually enjoy it - to laugh, love, create, and dream without fear.

When South Taranaki feels safe - from the mountain to the sea - the whole region hums like a perfectly tuned mower on a Sunday morning. So, if we can all help each other feel a little safer - our partner, our kids, our neighbours, even that grumpy guy at the dairy - we'll all thrive together.

That's real Kiwi caring: equal parts of humour, heart, compassion, and good old-fashioned common sense.

Note: If you feel unsafe at home - call or text 1737 (a free confidential NZ 24/7 help-line).

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Mayor slams NZTA’s planned closure of SH3

New Plymouth District Mayor Max Brough has labelled plans to close State Highway 3 in north Taranaki for five days in January, “unacceptable,” warning it will cause serious impact to local businesses, and disruption to visitors and locals travelling in and out of the region at a critical time of year.

New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) recently announced plans to close the road between Okau Road in Ahititi and the Uruti Community Hall from 12.01am Friday 16 January to 11.59pm Tuesday 20 January, to replace ageing bridges and culverts..

“This road is a lifeline for local businesses who are doing it tough currently and the holiday season is crucial to them,” says Mayor Max. “This planned closure on top of other closures are compounding a perennial problem, and a long-term



New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) recently announced plans to close SH3 2.01am Friday 16 January to 11.59pm Tuesday 20 January.

solution is required for the whole corridor north.

“When decisions like this are made behind closed doors, it sends a message that local voices don’t matter and treats our community like second-class citizens.”

He believes compensation should be paid by NZTA to local businesses impacted by such decisions.

“This isn’t about opposing progress — it’s about doing it the right way,” says Mayor Max.

“Upgrades and maintenance can be done by working with and listening to those affected, as well as keeping our economy moving at the same time. That’s what good partnership looks like.”

New Plymouth land values fall more than homes in latest rating revaluation

New Plymouth District property owners are receiving a Notice of Rating Valuation in the post, containing an updated rating value for their property.

The new rating valuations have been prepared for 38,635 properties on behalf of New Plymouth District Council by Quotable Value (QV). They show the total rateable value for the district is now \$36.9 billion, with the land value of those properties now \$20.1 billion.

Rating valuations are usually carried out on all New Zealand properties every three years to help local councils set rates for the following three-year period. They reflect the likely selling price of a property (excluding chattels) at the effective revaluation date, which was 1 August 2025.

The value of residential housing in New Plymouth district has decreased on average by 2.4% since the previous effective revaluation date of 1 August

2022. The average home value is now \$721,179, while the corresponding average land value has decreased by 10.2% to \$395,666.

QV Senior Consultant and Registered Valuer Andrew Jaques said, “Residential values have held relatively firm over the past three years compared with the rest of the country.”

“Demand for vacant land has cooled off, with a significant rise in the cost of building impacting the market,” he said.

“The residential land market has seen values remain steady for well-located properties however sloping sections are proving harder to sell. Vendors’ expectations are important - if the vendor is seeking an unrealistic price, sections will sit for extended periods of time.”

“The commercial market has been fairly static over the past few years. We are seeing a decline in retail leasing, particularly in the CBD. Office leasing appears to have picked back up, with sentiment shifting following

consequences of COVID and working from home.”

“Overall, commercial properties have decreased in capital value by 1.1%, and industrial properties have increased by 2%,” Mr Jaques said.

Within the rural sectors, dairy farmland generally attracts stronger demand than pastoral land, yet both have seen a decrease in value over the past three years, with dairy farm properties seeing an average capital values decrease of 7.9% and pastoral land values down 8.3%. This reflects the nationwide downturn from the peak of late 2021 to early 2022. Horticultural land, by comparison, has remained relatively stable, with the average capital value (CV) down just 0.9% since the last rating revaluation.

The New Plymouth District lifestyle property market has also remained relatively stable, experiencing a slight average capital value (CV) decrease of 0.4%.

The effective rating revaluation date of 1 August 2025 has now passed, and any changes in the market

since then will not be included in the new rating valuations. In many cases, this means a sale price achieved in the market today may differ from the new rating valuation set at 1 August 2025.

The updated rating valuations are independently audited by the Office of the Valuer-General and must meet rigorous quality standards before they are certified. They are not designed to be used as market valuations for raising finance with banks or as insurance valuations.

If owners do not agree with their rating valuation, they have the right to object by 19 December 2025.



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Titian, Orzel and Crown Lynn - are they related?

Cameron Brown Snr and his wife Dorothy established Sherwood Potteries in the Waitakere's in about 1951. In 1958 they moved to new premises in Henderson. Around this time the pottery was re-named Titian Studio. In 1966 the business moved again, this time to larger premises at Takanini. The family sold shares to fund expansion. The shares were bought up by Crown Lynn Potteries and by about 1968 Crown Lynn had taken over Titian Potteries. The Brown family remained at the Titian factory under the control of Crown Lynn for a time but then set up the beginnings of Orzel Potteries in the family garage. They then left Crown Lynn/Titian and developed a

busy and successful business of their own, selling under the brands Orzel, Aquila and Adelaar. Cameron Brown Snr was born in NZ. During the war he served in the Polish merchant navy. After returning from the war, he worked at Crown Lynn for a while. He got jobs there for his brothers Neil and Jack. After a time, Cameron left Crown Lynn to set up his own Sherwood Pottery. Neil was in charge of casting at Crown Lynn, he knew about clay bodies and how to make slip for slipcasting. He too left to work with Cameron Snr at Sherwood Potteries. Jack stayed at Crown Lynn until he died in the early 1970s. He was responsible for the machinery that made cups and saucers. The beginning of Orzel After Crown Lynn took over the Titian factory, the Brown family continued to work there. Then Paramount Trading gave the Browns a personal order for 6000 mugs and they began making them in their garage at night and weekends. Cam Snr built a kiln in the garage workshop. However Crown Lynn (at the Titian factory) was also making product for Paramount and they didn't like the fact that the Browns were moonlighting. So Crown Lynn asked the Browns to leave the Crown Lynn /Titian factory. In 1964/65, Titian was chugging along nicely, but Cam and Dorothy decided they wanted to expand. They formed a limited liability company, Titian Potteries (1965) Ltd, and sold shares. The new Titian factory was established in Takanini in mid-1966. By now Titian was making branded ware for a range of distributors, including Syliva Ware, Paramount Ware, Montrose Ware and Cambridge Ware – this is where the 'Cambridge' marked jugs come into the picture. Crown Lynn takes over the Titian factory-1968 Crown Lynn became concerned at Titian's expansion and began buying up shares. By May 1968, Crown Lynn had a majority shareholding, and the company newsletter announced a "partnership" with the Brown family - in reality a takeover. This is when the confusion arises. In the ex-Titian factory, Crown Lynn began making huge amounts of domestic ware including the honey glaze ware and the white vases. These products are marked with a four-digit shape number. In 1974 Crown Lynn

changed its corporate name to Ceramco and continued to diversify into a series of new interests, including electronics, appliance wholesaling and making acquisitions including Bendon lingerie. The pottery continued under the Crown Lynn name. Closure of NZ operations Ceramco announced the Crown Lynn factory closure on 5 May 1989, with the loss of 220 jobs.[16] Many amongst the largely female workforce believed that the Government had sabotaged the company by allowing cheap imported tableware into the country. Crown Lynn's share of New Zealand's domestic tableware market was then less than 20% in value, despite the company's successful move from the lower end of the market to a more middle ground. Ceramco blamed the closure in part on union inflexibility in a pre-Labour market reform economy. Although Crown Lynn was showing signs of recovery after years of trading losses the company could not compete with the more advanced manufacturing technologies used in Asia and Europe. In September 1989 all of Crown Lynn's assets, including plant, designs and brand name, were sold to GBH Porcelain Sdn Bhd of Malaysia.[17] Mr Phil Brown of Opunake worked at Crown.

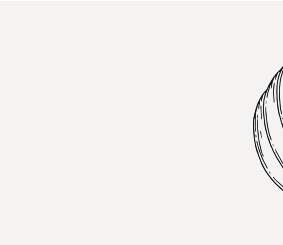


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Kaponga WI



Fun and games with Kaponga WI.

Our September meeting was held in the home of Jo Berquist who was our hostess for the day. President Dene welcomed everyone to the meeting. The thought for the month was “Let your Aspirations outshine your fears.” Discussions were held on upcoming events. Trish O’Riley was presented with the Jubilee dish for her colourful socks. Rayleen McDonald won the raffle. A delicious shared lunch was enjoyed by all.

Our October meeting was a celebration for our Birthday Month. We all gathered at the home of our President Dene Lines. Dene and Rosalie Gibson were our hostesses for the day. The thought for the month was “Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.”

Roll call was “What was your first job in leaving school.” There are a lot of various jobs from being a nanny, office work to making moccasins and chicken process worker. Discussions were had in regards to our Christmas lunch to be held at Shakee Pear in Stratford. A thanks of gratitude was given to Carolyn Nicholas for making the club sandwiches to go with slices and savouries. The slices and savouries were collected from Aromas Cafe using the donation given to us from our late member Fiona Collins via her husband Wayne. Everyone enjoyed their lunch and catch up with everyone. After lunch we were enlightened with our guest speaker Nancy Blackstock. Nancy shared her life living with Polio.

Gillian Frandsen was given the silver dish.

Our November meeting was held in the home of Trish O’Riley. Jo Ellis and Trish were our hostesses for the day. The thought of the month was “When I was younger I always thought adults were dramatic when they said ‘It’s one thing or another, but now that I’m an adult it is one thing or another.” The roll call was “One family members nickname and the story behind it.” There were alsorts of names from ‘Berk’ because of their nose shape to ‘Lord Hor Hor’ because they knew everything.

Carolyn gave a report on our Federation’s successful Fun and Friendship day held at Maata, where Jo Ellis got first placing in the cooking of muffins and second placing for her beanie for the make and model.

Discussion was held regarding which month members will be hostesses for 2026. In January we are planning to have a game of mini putt and then lunch at a café afterwards.

Margaret Arbuckle won the raffle. Gillian Frandsen forgot the silver dish so she will look after it till 2026.

Competition results were. Flower made by members. 1. Jo Berquist. 2. Jo Ellis. 3. Gillian Frandsen.

Christmas Truffles. 1. Jo Ellis. 2. Diane West.

Fridge magnet. 1 equal Dorothy Hughes and Gillian Frandsen. 2. Joy Eliason. 3. Diane West

members Jo Ellis had us all playing Categories and then a gift pinching game called Know Your Friends.

Lots of debate, laughter and most all lots of fun held by everyone.

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Manaia WI

President Phyllis Malcolm welcomed all to the November meeting of the Manaia WI. The motto for the month was “A smile is the shortest distance between two people.” The roll call was Where were you born. Five members are attending the Federation International Day lunch at Tika Cafe in Hawera celebrating Malta.

Janice Walsh demonstrated icing a Christmas cake. The cake was made by Bev Hawkes. Janice will finish icing the cake and it will be raffled to raise funds for our donation to Federation for their donation to the new Cancer Centre to purchase two chemotherapy drip stands.

Competitions. Shrub. 1. June Wallace. 2. Shirley Barr. 3. Ann Chisnall. Bloom. 1. Bev Hawkes. 2. Janice Walsh. 3. June Wallace. Home craft. Overseas Tea Towel. 1. Ann Chisnall. 2. Shirley Barr. 3. Jean Harvey. Hand craft prettiest jug. 1. Janice Walsh, 2. Raewyn Fredrickson. 3. Jean Harvey.

A social time was had over a shared lunch.

Our December meeting will be lunch at the Waimate Hotel.

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Remembrance Day commemorated in Opunake

Remembrance Day (formerly known as Armistice Day) celebrated the moment that World War I ended on the eleventh minute of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in November 1918. Fighting had finally ended on the Western Front. The allies, which included such nations as Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, France, Italy, Russia, Japan and, from 1917, the United States, had finally (after four years of war) prevailed against Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey.

In Opunake, in the vicinity of Opunake Library Plus, flags (one at either side of Tasman Street) were in a lowered position before 11am with several students from Opunake High School



From left are Rev Ian Sargent, Rodney Woods (Opunake RSA president), Major Cobus Blom MM SM JCO (Opunake RSA vice president), and Staff Sergeant Kirsty Meynell (NZ Army and Coastal Community Board).

asked to stand for the playing of The Last Post, followed by the Ode of Remembrance. After the last line We will remember them there was a minutes silence, after which The Reveille was played, after which the flags are immediately raised, by the students, to the top of their respective flagpoles.

Rev Ian continued with a Bible reading and uttered the words War is the price we pay for selfishness of people, for greed, pride and hatreds unattended to.

The Lord's Prayer was read, followed by the words, Let us go in the Spirit of Christ to honour the dead, to serve the living and to build the common good. The blessing of God, Creator Redeemer and giver of life be with you all, now and forever. Go in peace. Finally, the Sunset Hymn was played and the Retreat Call concluded the service.

standing respectfully below. The students included Erban Germino, Jamie Muggeridge, Tom Rankin, Mario Danz, Caliyah McLachlan, Aliannah Wilson, Olivia-Rose Purgaric, Ahurai Nepson and Austin Flintoff.

The official Remembrance Day party included Staff Sergeant Kirsty Meynell, (NZ Army and Coastal Community Board), Major Cobus Blom MMM SM JCO, who is vice president of Opunake RSA, Rodney Woods who is president of Opunake RSA, as well as the Reverend Ian Sargeant.

Rev Sargeant delivered the Remembrance service, and opened with a morning prayer with the words Creator God who brings one day to a close and a new day to dawn, we remember those who gave their lives

today that we might have a tomorrow. After the music of My Home Lament we were



Standing respectfully by one flagpole are participating Opunake High School students, from left, Jamie Muggeridge, Tom Rankin, Erban Germino, and Mario Danz. Largely obscured is Olivia-Rose Purgaric.

Ultra-processed foods taking over diets

Our diets are being displaced around the world by cheaper, ultra-processed foods that are in turn

increasing the rate of chronic diseases, according to a new series of papers. The three papers review the current evidence on ultra-processed foods, finding that a shift toward ultra-processed options is worsening diet

quality, with obesity, diabetes, heart disease and depression among the conditions linked to these foods. The authors argue that these foods are often sold by major global corporations with great political influence,

and policy changes such as increased food labelling, marketing restrictions and taxes are urgently needed to tackle this takeover.

The Lancet



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Remembrance tradition strong in Hawera



School students, RSA members and members of the public were among those out in support on Armistice Day.

Each year the Armistice that ended World War I is commemorated on the 11th day of the 11th month throughout the world.

The day has expanded to cover not only those who fell in World War I but those who have fallen in all conflicts.

In Hawera the day was marked with a service at the Memorial Arch in front of the town’s RSA building. As well as RSA members and their family and friends, there were students from local schools and members of the public.

“Today marks 107 years since that day-107 years since the world breathed a sigh of relief and began the long journey towards peace,” South Taranaki RSA president Danny Garrett told everyone. “Across New Zealand bells rang out, people embraced and tears flowed, for both joy and sorrow.”

“New Zealand’s contribution to that war was enormous. Out of a population of just over one million, more than 100,000 served overseas. Sixteen thousand never made it

home, and thousands more returned with wounds, both seen and unseen.

“Here in South Taranaki that loss was felt deeply. Young men from our towns and farming communities- from Hawera, Patea, Waverley, Opunake, Eltham and right across the district answered the call. Some were barely out of school. Many never returned home. Their names are carved into our local memorials, and they remain part of our story.

“When peace came, those who returned brought with them the determination to look after one another and to rebuild. They laid the foundation for the RSA- a place of support, of comradeship and remembrance. That same spirit continues in our RSA today, through our welfare work, through our community connections, and through events like this, where we come together to remember and reflect.”

Pastor Paul Cornish began and ended the ceremony with prayer. South Taranaki mayor Phil Nixon said it was a time to reflect on the importance of peace.

“We’re fairly sheltered

from war here in New Zealand but the same can’t be said for other parts of the world.” He said as Taranaki was an agricultural area many of the recruits had taken their own horses with them.

“Ten thousand horses left but only four came back to our shores,” he said.

Danny Garrett read a

message from Whanganui MP Carl Bates.

“Armistice Day is a time to remember those who served and gave so much, so that we could live in peace. Their courage and sacrifice should never be forgotten.

“The Memorial Arch in Hawera is a place where we come together to honour them. Thank you to the



Students from Te Pae Pae o Aotea were among those laying wreaths.

South Taranaki RSA for keeping this tradition going and helping us all remember the stories of those who served.”

Wreaths were laid by members of the RSA, Mayor Phil Nixon and representatives of local schools.

Armistice Day has been commemorated in Hawera for as long as anybody can

remember. Among those there were South Taranaki RSA life members Graeme Kempton and Alf Bocock.

“I’m 95 and I can remember doing this as a boy scout,” recalls Alf.

Graeme said he was pleased at the turnout.

“It’s fair to say there’s been a resurgence as far as numbers go.”

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BPW Hawera Raises Funds for Ovarian Cancer Research

BPW (Business & Professional Women) Hawera members rallied behind last month's Frocktober campaign, raising vital funds for the Ovarian Cancer Foundation New Zealand (OCFNZ). Every day, someone in New Zealand is diagnosed with ovarian cancer — the fifth most common cancer affecting women and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women. Several BPW Hawera members contributed individually by “frocking up” throughout October, and the club also hosted a vibrant Frocktober celebration at Tairoa Lodge. The event drew 50 attendees dressed in their finest, each



Frocktober celebration at Tairoa Lodge.



Supporting women's health fundraising for ovarian cancer..

bringing a dress to donate before purchasing one or two to take home. Two guest speakers shared their personal journeys with ovarian cancer, adding a powerful and emotional dimension to the evening. In total, the event raised \$2,310 for OCFNZ. With such strong community support, organisers are already planning for next year's fundraiser. Supporting women's health is central to BPW Hawera's aims and aligns closely with the organisation's guiding principle: "Women Working for Women." The club meets on the third Monday of each month. For more information or membership enquiries, contact bpw.hawera@gmail.com.

We have just two more issues left for 2025. Publication dates are December 4 and 18. Our December 18 issue is the bumper issue of the year and it is important to get your contributions for this issue to us early.

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NPDC Deputy Mayor and Committee Structure Confirmed



Gordon Brown. New Plymouth District Mayor Max Brough has confirmed Gordon Brown, Murray Chong and Moira George will rotate the position of Deputy Mayor on a six-monthly basis over the next three years.

Mayor Max says the initial choice to run three concurrent co-deputies was a well-intentioned decision that has caused confusion and is acknowledged as a step beyond what he intended.

“Apologies are offered for the confusion caused by such an innovative approach.”

The Mayor has upon reflection from community feedback and legal advice received, adopted a structure that better reflects the times of co-sharing responsibilities and workloads, while still achieving leadership development and community access to the mayor for the term.

Mayor Max says the Council sought independent legal advice which determined there was no reason more than one Deputy Mayor could not be appointed throughout the term, but that it needed to be clear when each of the people would be in that role.

Cr Chong will be in the role from 5 November this year to 30 April 2026,



Moira George. followed by Cr George (1 May-31 October 2026) and Cr Brown (1 November-20 April 2027). The cycle then repeats for the remainder of the term.

The appointment of the deputy on rotation and the committee structure have been made under Mayoral powers in accordance with S41A of the Local Government Act

The Mayor has also confirmed four standing committees for the term are as follows: Te Huinga Taumatua (co-chaired by Gordon Brown and someone to be confirmed by Iwi), Public Engagement



Murray Chong. Authority has already determined the salaries for the Mayor and Community boards so the Council will recommend pay for the other roles in line with the Authority’s requirements. The Authority will need to confirm the Council’s recommendation and gazette the final remuneration structure.

The authority sets a total pool for salaries for Councillors which much be allocated.

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Penguin family halts coastal bach project

A Taranaki family has paused work on the replacement of its coastal bach after a pair of nesting little blue penguins/ kororā took up residence beneath their floorboards.

The Vile family, who live in Waitara and have had the classic two-bedroom fibreboard bach at Urenui for about five years, are now watching as the nesting pair of birds raise a chick.

“The previous owners told us penguins nested here, and we’ve been quite used to them,” dad Scott Vile says. “The penguins have always come and gone. We’ve watched them come across the beach at night, like little drunken sailors.”

The family’s bach is about 30 metres from the beach. Before the bach replacement project started in October, Scott checked to see if there any penguins beneath the house – but saw none. But just a few days into the demolition, he checked again and discovered the penguins under another area of floor.

“I actually got a bit of a fright,” Scott says. “They had a burrow down one side of the house and had made a tunnel to their nest.”

Although there were two chicks discovered initially,



Little blue penguins/ kororā.

sadly one has not survived. However, the surviving chick seems to be doing well: “I’m not a bird person, but they’re cute,” says Scott.

“They’re really blue, a beautiful colour.”

Scott says his wife Natalie and their children Bentley and Jordan have been thrilled

The penguin family hasn’t been perturbed by the human family, and Scott says once the penguins are done, the bach project will resume.

“It’s just one of those things – we’ll still come up here sometimes. We just want to be respectful of the birds,” he says. “We’ll just see what happens and let them do their thing. They’ll get a new bach as well, hopefully.”

Anne-Maree McKay, Pou Taiao for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga, says the penguin chick has been fitted with a microchip as part of a Ngāti Mutunga- Ngā Motu Marine Reserve Society project.

The joint project allows for individual penguins to be tracked, and their movements and feeding habits better understood. Several whānau and dozens of volunteers are involved in checking and monitoring the penguins at three locations along the Taranaki coastline.

Anne-Maree says the Urenui penguins are very familiar with people, particularly given the influx of summer holidaymakers every year.

The microchipping of the Urenui chick means it could be monitored for several years – and possibly its

entire life – particularly if it takes up residence in the area, as his parents have.

“The kororā come back to the same nesting boxes, we try to get GPS trackers on at least a couple each year so we can find out how far out they’re going for foraging,” Anne-Maree says.

Anne-Maree acknowledges Scott and his family for “being such good sports and happily letting the kororā stay”.

DOC Taranaki Principal Operations Advisor Kelby Clements says the Vile family’s decision to pause their project for the penguins’ benefit is “naturing at its best”.

“This is a great example of how small acts of naturing make a difference to protecting our precious native species. By pausing their project, Scott and his family have made a real difference to this little family of kororā, and that will contribute to our understanding of the species’ local population.”

Kororā or little blue penguins are the world’s smallest penguin species. Their populations have been declining where they are not protected from predators. Threats to the birds increase where there is human development in coastal areas.

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Greenspace Sod Turning and Blessing

A ground breaking and blessing ceremony was held on Thursday 13 November for the Ōpunakē town centre greenspace project, Te Puna Manawa Ora, marking a significant milestone in the town’s revitalisation journey.

South Taranaki District Councillor, Aaron Langton who dug the first sod says the investment reflects Council’s commitment to fostering connected, vibrant communities where people feel proud to live. “Council recognised the importance of having vibrant and attractive centres in our smaller towns and allocated \$10.6 million from its Long-Term Investment Fund in the 2021–2031 Long-Term Plan to support the transformation of Pātea, Waverley, Ōpunakē, Eltham, and Manaia.”

Langton says the vision for a public space on Napier Street was first raised over a decade ago at a local meeting and later noted in the 2019 Town Masterplan. Since then, it has progressed through the Ōpunakē Town Revitalisation planning process, guided by local members of the co-design team who, over the past two years, have met monthly to shape and champion the project. The co-design

team identified the greenspace project as a community priority, one that was strongly reaffirmed through subsequent public consultation. Their work also led to the creation of a Roadmap for future projects.

The name, “Te Puna Manawa Ora”, meaning “the spring of the heart, spirit, and life; a place of health and wellbeing”, was gifted and endorsed by attendees of the Puna Manawa Ora Pou hui, which included local kaumātua. The ceremony, led by Tonga Karena, featured the laying of the mauri stone which was called Te Puna ō te Manganui and was attended by more than 30 people, including representatives from Te Kāhui o Taranaki, Ōrimupiko hapū, the Ōpunakē Town Revitalisation Co-Design Group, South Taranaki District Council elected members, staff, and the wider community.

Physical work on the project will start early in the new year. Once complete, Te Puna Manawa Ora, will provide a vibrant and central space for gatherings ad events, reflecting Ōpunakē’s identity, connection and aspiration.

Arts in the Park



On Saturday 6 December, Hāwera’s picturesque King Edward Park will come alive with the ever-popular Arts in the Park. Stalls with various homemade arts and crafts will be scattered throughout the park along with a variety of food trucks and entertainment.

With everything from handmade jewellery to garden

art, woodturning to knitting, there is sure to be something for everyone.

Music from various performers will fill the park and keep you entertained, as well as roving entertainment to keep the kids preoccupied while you shop. Have a seat, pick up something to eat and soak up the vibe. There will be a kid’s zone with free face painting and games, as well as a bouncy castle, train rides as well as an the Arts Tipi, a creative space for some fun hands-on activities for the kids.

This free event runs from 10am – 3pm on Saturday 6 December at King Edward Park, Hāwera.

Be a stallholder at Arts in the Park

There’s still time to be a stallholder at this year’s Arts in the Park! Register online for free at www.southtaranaki.com/artsinthepark

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- Calculators, Headphones, Book Bags

Donate items throughout November at your local LibraryPlus or the Hāwera Administration Building.

Te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki Te Tonga

South Taranaki District Council

Upcoming meetings

Policy and Strategy Committee

Monday 24 November, 1pm

Te Kāhui Matauraura

Wednesday 26 November, 10am

Water Services Committee

Wednesday 26 November, 1pm

Environment and Hearings Committee

Wednesday 26 November, 4pm

Risk and Assurance Committee

Monday 8 December, 11am

Ordinary Council

Wednesday 10 December, 4pm

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

Rates Reminder

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the second instalment of rates for 2025/26 without incurring a penalty will be **Wednesday 26 November 2025.**

Safe to Swim?

Check before you go swimming. Taranaki beaches, lakes and rivers will be monitored this summer, with the Can I Swim Here? programme. Every Tuesday until the end of March 2026, Taranaki Regional Council staff will take water samples from 17 beaches, 16 rivers and seven lake sites around the region to check for faecal contamination.

A general rule of thumb is to avoid swimming for three days after heavy or prolonged rain, particularly in rivers or beaches close to where rivers flow into the ocean. If the water is smellier, cloudier or greener than usual, you might want to find another swimming spot or stick to the shore that day.

Head online to www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/swimming to see the latest Can I Swim Here? results.

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Breaking down stigma in rural Australia



AgriFutures Australia Rural Women's Award National Winner Carol Mudford.

Carol Mudford (NSW/ACT State Winner) has been named the 2025 AgriFutures Australia Rural Women's Award National Winner. This milestone year marks 25 years of the Award, spotlighting women who are transforming rural and regional Australia through innovation, resilience, and leadership.

The announcement was made at a Gala Dinner in the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra, attended by over 500 guests, including industry leaders and government representatives.

New South Wales shearer, registered nurse and mental health advocate, Carol Mudford was named the 2025 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award National Winner and Western Australian fashion innovator, Isabella Thrupp, announced as National Runner Up.

Ms Carol Mudford, founder of sHedway — a national not-for-profit tackling suicide prevention and mental health in the shearing industry was named for her leadership in creating safe spaces and practical support across sheds nationwide.

Since launching sHedway in 2023, Carol has delivered

events across every mainland state, breaking down stigma and building peer networks to ensure shearers and wool handlers know they are not alone.

Western Australian finalist Isabella Thrupp was named National Runner Up for her project Prinking in Pindan, a clothing brand shaped by life on cattle stations in the Kimberley. Managing Leopold Downs Station with her partner, Isabella has fused station life with design to create clothing for outback realities. Her first release, The Pindan Jeans, drew overwhelming demand, highlighting the appetite for durable, stylish clothing designed by women on the land.

Carol and Isabella, along with their fellow national finalists, were honoured for their exceptional contributions to rural communities and industries during Tuesday's ceremony. The 2025 cohort includes: Carol Mudford, founder of sHedway (NSW / ACT), Nicole McNaughton, CEO of the Food and Agribusiness Network (FAN) (Queensland), Kelly Johnson, creator of SPhiker (South Australia), Kristy Hollis, naturopath and founder of Everlasting Health (Northern Territory),

Dr Mary Cole, soil scientist and founder of AgPath (Victoria), Sarah De Jonge, founder of 1000 Hearts (Tasmania), Isabella Thrupp, founder of Prinking in Pindan (Western Australia)

The announcement was made by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, The Hon Julie Collins MP, during a black-tie gala dinner at Canberra's Parliament House. The event brought together more than 540 guests, including government officials, industry representatives, award alumni, finalists, and their families.

Since its inception, the Award has celebrated hundreds of women transforming their industries, from food and fibre to technology, sustainability and community leadership. It has become a national platform that amplifies rural voices, fuels innovation, and inspires the next generation of leaders.

The AgriFutures Rural Women's Award is Australia's premier award recognising and supporting the vital role women play in rural and regional businesses, industries, and communities.

"With this support, we can take sHedway into more sheds and more towns,

making it okay to ask for help — and to receive it," said Ms Mudford.

"Prinking in Pindan began with the idea of creating clothing that reflects station life. To have that vision recognised nationally shows that women in remote Australia can drive meaningful change and I hope it inspires others to pursue their own ideas," said Ms Thrupp.

AgriFutures Managing Director John Harvey praised Carol for her outstanding contributions to rural wellbeing.

"In the 25th year of the AgriFutures Rural Women's Award — a program that has evolved from a kitchen-table conversation into a national movement — Carol Mudford stands as a powerful embodiment of its legacy. A registered nurse and seasoned shearer and wool handler, Carol bridges two worlds with authenticity and courage. Her exceptional work is changing the culture of the shearing industry and creating lasting impact for rural communities. She's trusted in the sheds and influential in the conversations shaping the sector," Mr Harvey said.



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Fire Callout



The Opunake, Rahotu, Okato and Oakura fire brigades were called out to a structure fire between Pungarehu and Warea on Tuesday afternoon (November 18).

Bringing heart help to the top road

A dearth of defibrillators along the coast’s “top road” has spurred concerned locals into action. After six months of fundraising, and with support from local farmers and businesses and the Okato Lions Club, the Taranaki Family 4WD Club have installed four AED defibrillators which can be accessed 24/7 at four points along the upper road between Okato and Opunake.

Callum Mahy of the 4WD Club said the subject had come up when they were putting members of their club through a First Aid course and they felt they had to do something about the lack of defibrillators between Tumahu near Okato and Mahoe east of Kaponga. “Two of us decided to have



Four of these defibrillators can now be found along the coast’s top road.

AEDs for our homes and we put it out to our local club and to the farmers whose land we use,” said Callum.

Callum is also a member of the Okato Lions Club and enlisted their help, and local farmers and businesses also

pitched in to help. Together they raised the \$16,000 needed for four AEDs. One of these was installed at Callum’s business Stone Creations at 310 Dover Road and others were placed at 287 Pitone Road, 2008 Wiremu Road and 94 Ngariki Road. Callum says the defibrillators are in cabinets and placed on shed walls. Most are visible from the road. Each one can be accessed 24/7 and anyone needing to use it can dial 111 to get the relevant security code. From there, says Callum the equipment is easy to use. “It talks to you.” The battery has a four-year lifespan and can be used multiple times. He says he would like to see



Help where you need it.

more of these placed along the “top road” and is interested in hearing from any more farmers who may be interested in having one installed at their place.



Often Sought After - Seldom Found! 103 Turu Road, Oaonui, Opunake

Tender closes 4pm Wednesday 26 November 2025 (unless sold prior)

5 2 2

Located approx. 10 minutes from Opunake on the Turu Road is this superb 130.6124 hectares (322.7432 acres) dairy farm. Currently milking approx. 350 cows through a tidy 26 bale rotary cowshed with production being around 140,000 kg milksolids. This is an extremely well set up and presented dairy farm with ample farm buildings, excellent race system, two good homes and a reliable water supply. Being all flat in contour, well subdivided and fenced and a substantial good quality metal supply this is a complete dairy farm which will surely tick all the boxes for you. Being in 5 titles also allows for various purchasing with the option of a slightly smaller dairy farm also possibly available.

Rodney Perrett
027 241 3979
rodney@fntaranaki.co.nz



Ideal Runoff/Grazing Block In Handy Location 4782 South Road, Opunake

Tender closes 4pm Wednesday 26 November 2025 (unless sold prior)

4 1

Are you wanting a well set up - easy to run property? Then this 28.323 hectares (69.9861 acres) could be the perfect block for you. Located at 4782 South Road and approx. 5 minutes from Opunake this all flat block boundaries both the Surf Highway 45 and Arawhata Roads allowing for quick and easy access. Water is supplied via the reliable Oaonui Water Scheme with the property having a tidy 3 bedroom home, large Implement Shed/Hayshed, 2x Haysheds, Loading Ramp and with the disused Cowshed converted for covered stock work this is a complete runoff/grazing/ cropping package. Ideal for grazing young stock, wintering cows and for make supplements. Alternatively capitalise on the strong beef market and rear some extra beef calves that will thrive on the warm coastal conditions. The options are endless and well worth considering.

Rodney Perrett
027 241 3979
rodney@fntaranaki.co.nz



Huge crowd for Speedway and Fireworks



Streetstocks utilised a different starting position for their first race of the night.

Stratford Speedway was packed to the brim on Saturday night (November 8) for the Hinton Contracting Fireworks Spectacular and Speedway event. Excellent weather conditions helping to draw a crowd that made an electric atmosphere throughout the evening.

Before the spectators were left in awe with the ten-minute fireworks display that saw close to \$10,000 worth of fireworks go up in sparks and smoke, there was plenty of speedway racing to get through.

Minisprints, racing at their third event on the trot, were racing for their City of New Plymouth Classic event with a field of eleven cars. Races were won by current New Zealand Champion Karl Uhlenberg, Cameron Hurley and Duane Hickman but it was Uhlenberg who was victorious overall after he added two third places to his race one win. Duane Hickman was second and Cameron Hurley third.

Superstocks also raced for their City of New Plymouth Classic. New driver to

Stratford this season, Tyler James won the event after recording a win and two third places over the three races for the title. Two points behind him in second place was Carl Shearer, who has made a return to racing this season. Carl won the first race, placed second in race two and was sixth in race three. Blair Uhlenberg was third overall.

The Modified class was boosted in numbers with three visiting drivers from Wellington. Jason Kalin regained his composure after

a fourth place finish in race one to win the next two races and the Modified King of the Mountain title by a two-point margin from Newton Gorge while Ricky Paul was third overall.

A good-sized field of twenty four Stockcars raced for their King of the Mountain Champs. Nathan Alexander ran away with the win in race one from a grid one start, Caleb Coxhead won race two for the title

and Codey Wilton won race three. Wilton's form over the three races where he also had a second and fourth place finish saw him nab the top step of the podium ahead of Coxhead and Alexander. After the first two races were a little tame, the club offered up \$500 for the best stirrer in race three. This was duly claimed by Isabella Perrett who took Kerry Stove to the wall at the race start before taking pot shots at other

competitors. Streetstocks and Adult Ministocks also raced on the night with Ron Washer winning two of the Streetstock races while Rotorua driver Blair Castleton won the other. Adult Ministock races were won by Brayden Shaw (2) and Kurt Gardner.

Jarrod Macbeth



Jason Kalin (#12) eyes up a pass on Ricky Paul during Modified racing. Kalin went on to win the King of the Mountain Champs.

Barker takes Taranaki title

Haydin Barker proved why he is considered to be one of New Zealand's top Stockcar drivers when

he won the Michielsens Transport Taranaki Champs on Saturday night (November 15), working

his way through the field in each race, dispatching his opposition with his front bumper and giving himself

a clear run to the top step of the podium.

Barker made a big push for the championship in the first race, seemingly effortlessly making his way through the field from a grid six start and passing initial leader Ryan Nolly on lap four before storming away for the win. He then went on to place third in race two after an impressive drive from a

grid seventeen start before again placing third in race three from grid ten, clearing enough total points to win the Taranaki title by a three-point margin from Nathan Alexander who had recorded fifth, first and fourth place finishes over the three races. Ricky Paul rounded out the top three and was third overall. Newcomer to the class, Ben Richardson was

eliminated from the event by Huntly driver Dave Moore who rolled him in turn two in race three with Moore then turning his attention to Ryan Nolly and knocking him out of the championship by poking him up the wall on the grandstand straight. Nolly had a better run in the twenty-lap feature through

Continued on next page.

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Our Christmas Issue will be out on the 18th of December.

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Taranaki Whio transition to new competition

New Zealand Rugby (NZR) has confirmed a new 12 team competition format for the Farah Palmer Cup (FPC) which will see the Taranaki Whio transition to the Northern Regions Development competition in 2026.

This transition to the new competition follows a NZR review of the FPC competition structure. The review identified the need for an even number of teams to streamline the competition format, reduce travel demands, and ensure competitive balance across the Farah Palmer Cup.

As part of this process, NZR undertook a structured review of women's playing numbers, population bases and past FPC performances to decide which provincial union would transition out of the competition in 2026. A promotion and relegation mechanism will give provincial unions the opportunity to re-enter the FPC in the future.

While Taranaki's junior



Taranaki Whio.

female player base has shown strong year-on-year growth, the region's number of senior players and its smaller population relative to other provincial unions, create unique challenges for sustaining FPC-level depth week to week. This has been

compounded with many young players moving away for tertiary studies.

The Northern Regions Development Women's competition will provide the Taranaki Whio with consistent and balanced matches. The competition

currently consists of five FPC Development teams. It will ensure players gain valuable experience, competing at a level that matches their stage of development.

Taranaki Rugby CEO Jimmy Fastier acknowledged there will be mixed views

regarding NZR's decision to reduce FPC team numbers but reaffirmed the Union's commitment to the women's game.

"We are naturally disappointed with the decision, but we need to move forward and ensure women's rugby continues to grow and stay strong in Taranaki. What is important is that the Central Roofing Taranaki Whio continue to play competitive rugby in 2026. The Northern Regions Development competition will provide meaningful fixtures that allow us to continue building depth. A promotion relegation opportunity keeps the path open for FPC participation in the future."

"Taranaki Rugby's women and girls' strategy is focused on increasing the number of females playing and coaching rugby and delivering a clear pathway to progress to higher honours. We are committed to ensuring the women's game continues to strengthen and

thrive in Taranaki."

With support from NZR a dedicated Taranaki female development plan is in place, including talent identification and access to academy programmes. Identified athletes will also benefit from the soon-to-be-completed Te Whare Pūngao o Ngā-Motu training facility at Stadium Taranaki.

Up and coming Taranaki female athletes will still have a clear pathway to New Zealand age grade, Ignite7 and Super Rugby Aupiki playing opportunities.

NZR Head of Women's High-Performance Hannah Porter said the competition changes reflect a long-term approach to sustaining and growing the women's game nationally. "The Farah Palmer Cup continues to evolve in step with the growth of women's rugby. Strengthening the pathway ensures players are supported at every stage so they are ready to thrive once they reach the FPC."

Barker takes Taranaki title



Haydin Barker (#84) won the Michielsens Transport Taranaki Stockcar Champs at Stratford Speedway on Saturday night.. Photos: Cookies Motorsport Photography

Continued from previous page

which he led for laps three through twenty to take the win.

Streetstocks raced for their Best Pairs with the pairing of Matt Hill and Ron Washer coming out on top after they won a race apiece with Washer also utilising his back bumper

to slow the opposition in race two and helping their points gathering cause. Chris Deveraux and Jason Dunn were second while Freesia Jeffery and Shaun Hall, who rolled himself over in race three in front of the appreciative grandstand spectators, picked up third

place.

Saloons/Super Saloons, Youth Ministocks and Adult Ministocks also raced on the night. Bradley Korff won all three Saloon races. Youth Ministock races were won by Zach Coxhead, Lucas Hurley, Taylor Dettling, Blake Luscombe, Lochlan Bound Walsh and

Riley Symes, while Adult Ministock races were won by Kurt Gardner (2) and Brayden Shaw.

Speedway now takes a break for three weeks with the next event being the Taranaki Modified

Championship on December 13.

Jarrod MacBeth

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Shaun Hall rolled himself over after running up the wall on Saturday night during Streetstock racing.

Big news for Opunake Community Pools

With lots of behind-the-scenes mahi, we're proud to share that Opunake Community Pools has received full endorsement from the Taranaki Facilities Consortium (TFC) for our proposed upgrades to strengthen the pool's long-term sustainability.

This endorsement supports our current funding applications and helps us move forward with confidence.

We're planning five upgrade phases in total — and right now, we're focused on the first two:

Phase One: New pool covers and heat pumps to move away from gas.

Phase Two: A new roof with solar panels to reduce costs and future-proof the facility.

To make it happen, we're launching local fundraising efforts — and we need your help.

Every dollar raised goes



Above left and right: Fun at the Opunake Community Pools.

Photos supplied

Tu Mai comes to Opunake

It's Iwi versus Iwi at this year's Taranaki Tū Mai, where more than 5,000 uri will come together in Opunakē from 21–23 November 2025 to celebrate the unity of our eight iwi of Taranaki, through the participation in cultural activities and 'friendly' competition.

Established in 2009 by the Taranaki Tū Mai Trust, this year's biennial event is hosted by Taranaki Iwi who have been busy organising nearly 30 events and activities across eight Ōpunakē venues. Beginning with a pōwhiri on Friday morning at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Tamarongo, this will start the three-day Taranaki Tū Mai festivities.

Cultural activities include wānanga, maara kūmara, hikoi to Te Namu Pā, kapa haka (whakataetae and ngahau), and the coveted tautohehohe (debates).



Sporting codes range from bowls, darts and pool, to rugby league 9s, netball, touch, volleyball and softball. The popular kēmu pāhake and tamariki zone return, and two new events have been added to this year's competition – surfing

and euchre.

Most activities will be held at Ōpunakē High School, and Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre, which will also include kai stalls, a hauora hub and information stalls.

Tu Mai comes to Opunake

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Continued on page 32.

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Royal A & P Show comes to Stratford



Champion All Breeds Dairy Cow – 2019 ‘Makuri Goldwyn Hazel’ exhibited by Mark Rowland.

The Royal Agricultural & Pastoral Show of New Zealand is being hosted by the Stratford A&P Association. This premier event kicks off on Saturday 29 November

with a celebration of rural excellence over a massive fun-filled two days. The Royal A & P Show is the pre-eminent event of the showing calendar and

provides the opportunity for exhibitors and competitors from across the country to compete at the national level. “From dairy and beef cattle

to sheep, pigs, dog trials and equestrian sections, to shearing, home industries and wood chopping, the Royal A & P Show of New Zealand has something

for everyone,” says Ben Burgess the President of the Royal Agricultural Society. Paul Vanner, President of the Stratford A&P Association says, “It is an honour and a privilege to work in partnership with the Royal Agricultural Society to host a Royal Show at the annual Stratford A & P Show, being held on the weekend of 28-30 November 2025.” “This is a unique opportunity to showcase the A & P movement and host competition for the 64 Breed and Kindred Societies. It is a big drawcard for exhibitors to compete with the best top-

bred animals, for the top prize and win the special ribbons and medals and achieve the royal status mantle. “And that’s just the beginning. The Show offers a unique combination of agriculture and entertainment for the town and country people. New for 2025 are our Stud Sheep sections, Civil Contractors Excavator Operator competition, Axemen Trans-Tasman ten-man team race, North Island verses Queensland, tractor pull, Taranaki Toughest Fire Fighter, Puzzle Mechanics Studios, dog match parade plus Matt Chisholm will be our VIP guest, a Rural



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STRATFORD A&P

29-30 NOVEMBER 2025

9am-4pm

Adults \$15

Children 12yrs & under FREE



Royal A & P Show comes to Stratford



Chickens at The Farm Barn.



Lacey Taylor and Fletcher Lawrence have a discussion about going to visit the pigs at the Stratford A& P show in the Boys and Girls Club Dairy Type class 2018.



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STRATFORD A&P SHOW

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Royal A & P Show comes to Stratford



Te Awhata Imps Violet owned by Barry and Deidre Tippett.

businesses with exhibits and generous sponsorship, the local groups and organisations who use the Show for promotion and fundraising that in turn support our community folk, the awesome volunteers, judges, stewards for their efforts and contribution to make the Show weekend come alive and help with the thousands of people that come through the gates. The Stratford A & P Show



SEE US AT THE
STRATFORD A & P SHOW
29TH & 30TH NOVEMBER
SITE 116 & 112

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CASE II

TARANAKI WIDE



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Support Trust Ambassador, TV personality and farmer. You won't want to miss the photo and autograph opportunity. Bigger and better will be Stratford Strongest, Home & Garden and all things Creative, along with all the favourite heritage entertainment of Kids' Zone with loads of free activities, Old McDonald Farm with pet animals, Mahon's Amusement Rides, shearing, chopping, vintage, military vehicles, Boys' and Girls' Calf and Lamb parading. The Trade and Craft space is bursting with innovative displays and yes there will be a ton of food stalls that will cater to the hungry," continues Paul. The Stratford A & P Association are proud to host the Royal A & P Show and can't say a big enough thank you to the many

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Royal A & P Show comes to Stratford



Woodchopping is popular at the show. is an institution that has created many memories and fantastic stories to tell. This year's Show aims to make more such memories and create new history for all the locals, participants and visitors. It's a great weekend and promises to be a real day in the country for families, says the President Paul Vanner.

29th and 30th November.
9:00am - 4:00pm.
Stratford Showgrounds
9 Flint Road East, Stratford. Tickets. \$15 Adult (over 12 years). Children free



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Opunake Players “Vicar of Dibley Christmas” a must see

No, no, no, no, yes! You should definitely go to the Opunake Players’ “Vicar of Dibley Christmas.” Director Lynelle Kuriger, (who also plays the dull but endearing Parish secretary, Frank Pickle) has expertly orchestrated the show to retain the essence of the much-loved TV series, while making it work for live theatre. While the audience shouldn’t expect a photostat of the original show, they aren’t cheated out of the delights that made the Vicar of Dibley a classic. The play exudes hilarity, small town charm and colourful characters that are synonymous with both the TV show and Opunake Players itself.

The Opunake Players production follows the Dibley Parish Council as it bumbles through the trials of putting on a Christmas show worthy of being televised.

While the Opunake Players are never short of talent, this show has been superbly cast and it is obvious they thoroughly enjoy themselves. Sammie Allison, who plays the Vicar Geraldine Granger, has a massive role as the title character. Sammie is impressive in the breadth of emotion she portrays. You’ll be moved by her passionate monologue reminding us of the reason for Christmas, broken hearted alongside her as “that tall git” Simon (well played by the tall non-git John McCarty) dumps her, and feel her frustration as she wrangles with the general incompetency of pretty much everyone around her.

New to Opunake’s stage is Kelsi Bailey who plays Geraldine’s dim-witted but fiercely loyal “best friend” Alice Horton (nee Tinker).



Geraldine, the Vicar of Dibley (Sammie Allison), Frank Pickle (Lynelle Kuriger) and Leticia Cropley (Michelle Julian) ask nicely for donations for their Christmas show, while Owen Newitt (Terry Simpson) insists on it. A scene from Opunake Players “Vicar of Dibley Christmas” on stage now at the Lakeside Playhouse, See ad and article for booking details.

Kelsi captures the naivety of the original Alice while bringing a strength that adds depth to the character. Alice’s equally lovable and dim-witted husband Hugo Horton is brilliantly played by Ashton Hendrix who conveys naturalness as the sweet natured character. Ashton has gone from strength to strength in recent productions and pairs marvellously with Kelsi as the innocent newlyweds.

The uptight Council chairman David Horton is played by Alistair Cook who is no stranger to playing a villain. He’s particularly hilarious as David tries to convince Geraldine that Herod has been misrepresented throughout history.

Opunake Players stalwarts, Michelle Julian and Terry Simpson play the scandalous Leticia Cropley

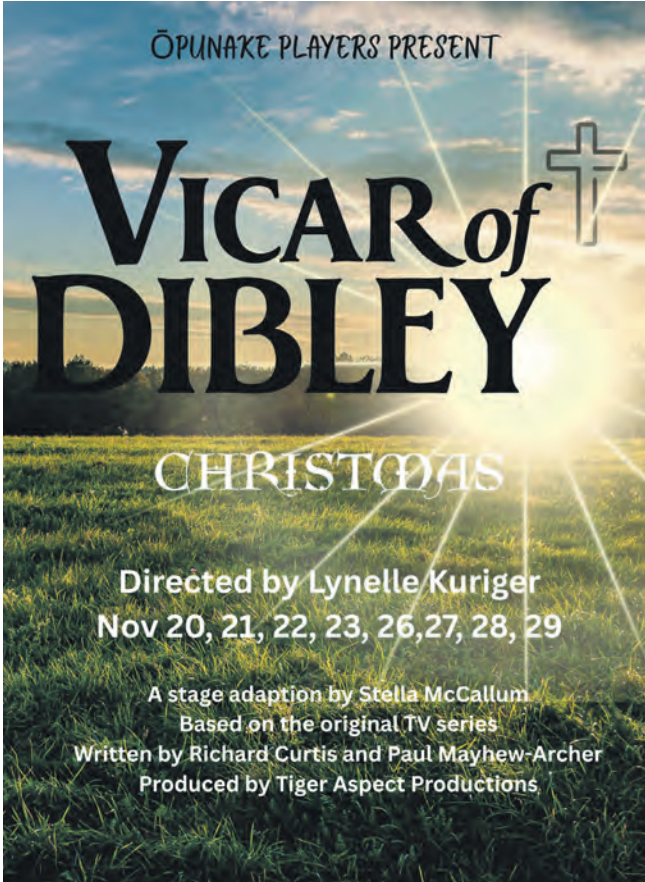
and famously unhygienic Owen Newitt. Michelle is delightful as Leticia, a Council member known for her disgusting food and bizarre creative endeavours. Terry wonderfully portrays the uncouth farmer and Council member Owen, who, in his own words, “is not a lunatic”.

Bravely taking on the iconic role of stuttering Jim Trott is Paul Andersen-Gardiner. It was essential to the integrity of the show that Paul nailed this beloved character and unsurprisingly, he does. If ever there was an actor born to play a role, this is it. Perfection!

Bringing their childish joy to the stage are Anneliese Langton, TeAio Laurence, Celeste Langton and Jock Mullin. While their singing may be less pleasant than the sound of “recently castrated cattle” they are,

nonetheless, charming. Watch out for cameos from Christine Ryan and Mlaynee Rutland. A special shout out to the unseen, but equally important, behind the scenes crew.

This is a “splendido” show and not even “The Great Storm” should keep you from seeing it. “Vicar of Dibley Christmas” will be performed at the Lakeside Playhouse and runs from 20-29 November with eight evening shows and two matinees. Tickets are \$30 and available at Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration.



Nexans Fun Run/Walk coming to Opunake

The Opunake Lions Club Fun Run/Walk again this year Sunday 23 November.



Fun Run & Walk Series
Sun 23 Nov , Opunake Beach
hosted by Opunake Lions Club
2.6 / 4.8 / 10.3km:
Start 10am (9.30am for 10km walkers)

Please note: As dogs are banned from Opunake Beach, this year's event is not a dog friendly event

We have a slight change of course due to several events taking place in Opunake this weekend. We will be starting and finishing at the Dell down at the main beach. Because of this, the event will not be dog friendly for this year. Royalz Coffee float will be available for that caffeine fix and Hawera Lions Club will be running a BBQ for after match sustenance. We will have the Lions Glob (health check) caravan on sight. This year’s event is helping promote awareness about diabetes. November is Diabetes awareness month, and diabetes is also one of Lions International’s core causes.



Feeling inspired?

.....

Come and see us at Palmer's Garden Centre

Open 7 days
680 Devon Rd,
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Pike River – a film review

The New Zealand Film Commission latest feature film Pike River, starring Melanie Lynskey (as Anna Osborne) and Robyn Malcolm (as Sonya Rockhouse) was first released on June 7, 2025 (Sydney Film Festival). On October 13 it was released at the Regent Theatre, Greymouth, in the company of the film crew. It was recently shown at Opunake's Everybodys Theatre.

After the initial methane explosion on November 19, 2010 (at 3.44pm) at the Pike River Mine, Westland the film follows the fifteen-year-fight by two bereaved women, for the mine not to be sealed before a search for bodies has been completed, as well as forensic evidence sought, possible yielding a prosecution. Only two men escaped with their lives, but 29 others died.

Anna Osborne lost her husband Milton, who was a contractor in the Pike River mine, and Sonya Rockhouse lost her son Ben.

I knew the Osborne family around the turn of the century. Anna was on the Board of Trustees at Ngahere School (where I was a teaching principal)



and her two children Alisha and Robert were students at the small school, which was on the other side of the river (east) from Pike Mine, which was about 10 kilometres further north. By car maybe a 25 minute trip would be needed to reach the other destination.

Milton was very tall, muscular and built like a heavyweight boxer. He was the deputy chairperson of the local volunteer fire brigade. He had a gruff, no-nonsense manner, but a kind heart and was a man of integrity. One day, he revealed his active interest in art and asked if he could conduct a series of art lessons (one a week for a term I think) in my classroom and the results

(which I photographed) were outstanding. He once confided to me. "That was greatest thing I've ever done in my life."

I had to laugh once, when talking to the senior class he forget protocol and referred to a "shitload" of something, then almost fell over himself apologising. The students were amused.

Anna was quiet and gentle. She had fair hair (dark in the film). Her character in the film swears a lot – I never heard her swear, but then I never saw her angry.

This is a simply superb film which has been reviewed as the best film ever made in New Zealand. The writer is Fiona Samuel and it is produced by Timothy Whiter, Robert Sarkies and

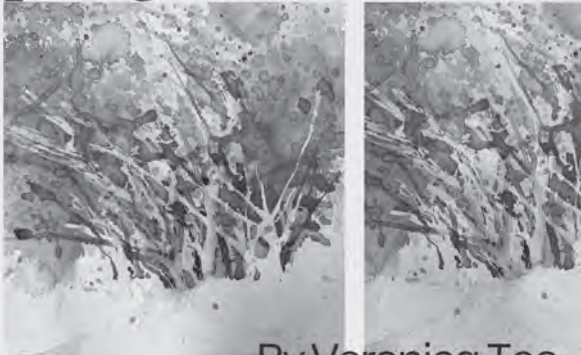
Vicky Pope.

The acting is excellent. Of the two lead actresses Vicky Pope wrote, "We are so thrilled about the powerhouse partnership (of Melanie and Robyn) two incredible actresses playing two incredible women (Anne and Sonya)." I'll certainly endorse those sentiments.

Some of the other players included Lucy Lawless (the late unionist Helen Kelly), John Leigh (as Milton), Sir Ian Mune (as Rocky Rockhouse), Tim Gordon (as Bernie Monk), Jeff Kingsford-Brown (as Neville Rockhouse), Madeleine McCarthy (as Alisha Osborne) and Ben Porter (as Robert Osborne).

Continued next page.

Spring into Summer



By Veronica Tee

25th Nov - 20 Dec

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

Upcoming Exhibition at the Village Gallery

Spring into Summer by Veronica Tee

The Village Gallery is delighted to present Spring into Summer, a vibrant new exhibition by landscape artist Veronica Tee.

This uplifting collection celebrates the joyful transition from spring into summer, a time that fills the

artist with inspiration. The sight of flowers blossoming, with their wild and colourful nature, inspires her greatly.

Veronica shares, "It is this transition period that fills me with great joy, and it is this emotion that I hope to evoke with my art."

Originally from Malaysia, Veronica studied at the Malaysia Institute of Art

and co-founded a mural company before moving to New Zealand, where she now works as an art tutor. She is a member of PANZ (Pastel Artists of New Zealand) and has exhibited widely, earning a Merit Award at the 2019 Purely Pastel National Exhibition, and has exhibited in both local and international shows.

We invite you to experience this radiant celebration of colour, movement, and the beauty of the changing seasons.

25 November - 20 December. Time: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 3pm. 166 High Street, Eltham. Free Entry

BLACK FRIDAY SALE EVENT

Open 9am – 8pm
Friday 28 November

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Hawera Repertory Celebrates 80 Years of Theatre

October 18 1945 was a special day; The Hawera Repertory Society was first registered. The first show was Charity Begins with the inaugural season in June of that year.

In celebration, the rest of 2025 and 2026 is packed with performances, auditions, and festivities; come and be part of the magic.

Next on offer are the Short & Quirky - One Act Plays, which are directed by Aileen Kowal, Kirsty Logan and Ron Scott.

Performances will from November 25 to 29 at Repertory House, 59 Collins Street, Hawera. There is just a five night season so don't miss out.

<https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2025/nov/short-quirky>

The New Year (2026) gets underway with The Pink Hammer written by Michele Amas and directed by Peter Meikle.

"This is the comedy that nails it" - A sharp and funny Kiwi comedy with a cast of four women and one man.

An information night will be held on January 5, 2026 at 7.00pm.

Auditions will be held on January 8, 2026 at 7.00pm, which will be held at Repertory House, 59 Collins Street, Hawera.

Performances will be from March 18 to 28, 2026.

The well-known comedy Sister Act, which will run from June 24 to July 4, will be directed by Shaun Campbell. He will be assisted by Alyssa Avery as musical director with choreographer, Greer Anderson.

The auditions will be held December 6 to 7, 2025 at 59 Collins Street, Hawera.

This is a divine musical comedy that'll have you dancing in the aisles.

September 2026 has a real treat in store for theatre goers. The Barbara Leydon Junior Drama Festival celebrates young talent and heralds the future of theatre in the region.

as soon as possible — stay tuned.

Watch this space for more information to be released for each of the above!

Whether you're auditioning, performing, or celebrating, there's something for everyone.

Let's honour 80 years of storytelling, creativity, and community spirit!

Hawera Repertory Society

Hawera Repertory Society presents

SHORT & QUIRKY ONE-ACT PLAYS

25 - 29 November

Repertory House

iTICKET

site

Pike River – a film review

Continued from previous page

Jacinda Arden makes a brief appearance as herself, promising action along the lines sought by Anna and Sonya.

The makers of the film have gone to considerable lengths to ensure the characters look a lot like the actual people they portray. I had to look very closely at the character playing John Key as it looked so much like him. He did not come over too well as the prime minister who gave assurances, which he failed to carry out.

I don't want to reveal too much, as readers will want to see the film, but a high point was when the concrete trucks were scheduled (under government directive) to arrive with countless loads of cement to seal the mine, before the crime scene was investigated (or any bodies recovered), but Anna and Robyn had other ideas!

Rolland McKellar

Sandfords Manaia Golf Club results

November 2. Rolling Bull. 1. Jackson. 2. Joseph. 3. Elliott. Putting. 1. Joseph. 2. Jackson. 3. Elliott.

November 9. Foursomes. Boys. 1. Harry and Liam. Romyn and Lennox. Girls. 1 equal. Brontas and Olivia, Irie and Sophie. Peewees. 1 equal. Jackson and Maeley.



Opunake And District Business Association
Presents

Opunake Christmas Parade 2025

Wednesday December 24th, gather from 6.15pm onwards for 7pm Start Tasman Street Opunake

Welcome to our celebration. Please complete and return the bottom portion of this official entry form by 20th December to guarantee your position in the parade lineup

All entries who pay the entry of \$10 will be judged this year and prizes will be awarded.

FIRST PRIZE \$2000
SECOND PRIZE \$1000
THIRD PRIZE \$500

A special thanks to our amazing sponsors
Opunake Rahotu Veterinary Trust 1st
Scott Tenbroek - Coastal Sprayers 2nd
Viv Scott and Tara Gibson - Mc Donald Real Estate 3rd

Please review the parade safety rules and guidelines on the back of this page

Keep this portion for your records

Return the bottom portion to Agrimec 38 Ihaia Rd or email – agrimecauto2022@gmail.com

Name of Entry.....

Type of vehicle.....Length of entry (mtr).....

No of adults.....No of children.....

Responsible person.....Daytime Phone.....

Email address.....

2025 PARADE ENTRY FORM

My printed name or signature below is my bond that I understand the rules and guidelines for the 2025 Opunake Santa Parade and warrant that my/our entry will fully comply.

Signature

.....

Safety Rules and Guidelines

Special Note the Parade begins at 7 pm on 24th December

1. Parade officials will inspect all entries and reserve the right to eliminate any entry that is in violation of these rules
2. The 2025 parade will start at Tasman Street and Ihaia Road corner and end again at that corner.
3. Once your entry has started along the parade route, no one may board your float.
4. Cover all open wheels for safety so marchers cannot snag clothing or be pulled under wheels
5. Your entry may not exit the parade before the end of the parade.
6. No alcohol is allowed.
7. For public safety, nothing may be thrown from your entry.
8. All motorized fleets must have wheel watchers on both sides.
9. All entries must have clear identification signage.
10. Changes in the parade line-up the day of the parade will be made at the sole discretion of the parade officials.
11. A representative of your entry must make themselves known to the officials upon arrival.

Keep this portion for your records.



Entries must be received by 20th December.

Please email your completed entry to agrimecauto2022@gmail.com
Or drop it into Agrimec Auto.



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Johnny the Grocer & Christine NEW OWNERS

Tu Mai comes to Opunake

Continued from page 24.
ngahau), and the coveted tautohehohe (debates). Sporting codes range from bowls, darts and pool, to

rugby league 9s, netball, touch, volleyball and softball. The popular kēmu pāhake and tamariki zone return, and two new events

have been added to this year's competition – surfing and euchre.
Most activities will be held at Opunakē High School,

and Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre, which will also include kai stalls, a hauora hub and information stalls.

OPEN 7 DAYS.

Ready, Set, Splash!

Summer is officially here and the Ōkato community pool is now open.

Visit npdc.govt.nz/pools for more information.



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STEAK + ONION	\$18
PORK BELLY	\$15
REUBEN	\$12

TOASTIES WITH SOURDOUGH

YOUR CHOICE OF 3 FILLINGS	\$10
---------------------------	------

KIDS MENU

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BEEF SLIDER + FRIES	\$10
CHICKEN TENDER + FRIES	\$14

Open 7 Days
11am - 7.30pm

80 TASMAN ST, OPUNAKE
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Opunake Christmas Collection

Monday 24th November
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Rain or shine

The Fire Siren will signal the start of the collection and listen for our vehicle siren when we are coming down your street for Collections. If you're not home feel free to leave at your letterbox or deliver to CoastalCare any time Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm

Not sure what to give?

We are focusing toiletries and cleaning products this year



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- Blues • Cheddars, Cheddar offcuts and more!

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PLEASE NOTE OUR CHANGE IN OPENING HOURS.
WE ARE NOW OPEN EVERY FRIDAY,
SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY: 10AM-4PM.
(Our former hours of opening 7 days a week in Dec/Jan no longer apply)



‘Above: The Ballad of One Love’, an assemblage of found objects, by Carl Fairweather of Hawera.



Above: “Chicken” by Jarrod Wickham, who lives close to our mountain, at the top end of Koru Road/Plymouth Road. He fixes cars beautifully, and in his spare time he makes these metal creatures



Write to Santa is back!

It's that magical time again, Write to Santa is back and bringing smiles! With Christmas around the corner, kids can once again write to Santa. With a handwritten letter addressed to:

Santa Claus,
c/o Santa's Workshop,
North Pole 0001.

Simply put any handwritten letters to Santa into the Santa mailbox in the foyer

Send early this Christmas.

	Economy	Courier	Express
New Zealand	Thu 18 Dec	Mon 22 Dec	—
Australia*	Wed 10 Dec	Mon 15 Dec	Wed 17 Dec
US	Mon 8 Dec	Mon 15 Dec	Wed 17 Dec
South Pacific**	Fri 5 Dec	Fri 12 Dec	Mon 15 Dec
UK, Canada, Asia and Europe	Mon 1 Dec	Mon 8 Dec	Fri 12 Dec
Rest of the world	Mon 24 Nov	Fri 5 Dec	Wed 10 Dec

* Delivery outside major cities, including to and from rural or remote areas may take longer, particularly South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territories and Tasmania.
** New Caledonia Economy cut-off date is Monday 1 December.

Sending by our Christmas cut-off dates gives you the best chance to get your item where it needs to be for Christmas and are correct as at 1 October 2025 but may change due to unforeseen service impacts. For the latest delivery information please visit nzpost.co.nz



EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

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

Wicked: For Good 30mins TBC Fri 21 Nov 7PM Sun 23 Nov 1PM Sat 29 Nov 1PM	A Paw Patrol Christmas 1hr 7mins G Sat 22 Nov 1PM
Regretting You 1hr 57mins M Sat 22 Nov 7PM	Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere 1hr 59mins M Sat 23 Nov 7PM
The Running Man 2hr 13mins R16 Fri 28 Nov 7PM Sun 30 Nov 7PM	Roofman 2hr 5mins M Sat 29 Nov 7PM
Nuremberg 2hr 28mins TBC Sun 30 Nov 1PM	Five Nights at Freddy's 2 30mins TBC Fri 05 Dec 7PM



Wicked: For Good
30mins | Rated: TBC
Fri 21 Nov 7PM



A Paw Patrol Christmas
1hr 7mins | Rated: G
Sat 22 Nov 1PM

We have just two more issues left for 2025. Publication dates are December 4 and 18. Our December 18 issue is the bumper issue of the year and it is important to get your contributions for this issue to us early. Please contact us on 06 761 7016 with your editorial and advertisements.

Nau mai haere mai to CoastalCare Opunake

Come along and get your car seat installed, checked and re fitted by one of our trained car seat technicians.

No need to book or clean the car we will ensure your all set for the Taranaki coastal roads and beyond the SH45

Thursday 27th November 10-12pm

FREE CAR SEAT CHECK



Come and get your car seat checked at one of our clinics.

For times, locations and more information, please check out Kidsafe Taranaki Trust Facebook page www.facebook.com/KidsafeTaranaki



Scan Code for Times & Locations

What’s On Listings

ONGOING
Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake:
Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.
MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning: St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman
Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm.

CHURCH NOTICES



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

Opunake Co-operating Parish Havelock Street, Opunake - St Pauls - every Sunday 9am: Coffee prior to service 9.30am: Service Rahotu - Wesley - 11am first Sunday of the month
Okato Co-operating Parish Okato – St. Paul’s – Sunday Service 1st and 2nd Sundays – Worship Service; 3rd Sunday – Communion Service and 4th Sunday at 7.00pm Oakura – St. James – Sunday Service every 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 10.00am Mid-week open church for silent reflection – Okato – St. Paul’s – Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4.30pm-5.30pm
Opunake Catholic Church St Martins, Pungarehu: Temporarily closed - no Masses Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday
Other areas Sacred Heart, Manaia - Temporarily closed - No Masses St Joseph's, Hawera - Every Sat at 5pm; Every Sun at 9am St Patrick's, Patea - 4th Sunday of month; 11.00am St Francis de Sales, Waverley - 2nd Sunday of month; 11.00am
St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga Sunday Mass 8.45am. Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).
St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly
The Wave Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake Sunday Services 10.30am Women's Group 10am Tuesday Men's Group 7pm Wednesday Come along or contact Belinda Philp 027 935 6191
St. Barnabas Anglican Church 141 Tasman St, Opunake Sunday Services 10am Communion 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday Prayer & Praise 1st Sunday Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service
Okato Community Church Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall. Everyone welcome
St John's Community Church. Kaponga Cnr West and Egmont Streets. Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea
Manaia Union Fellowship Terou St. Manaia. Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion
Friend & Fellowship Group Thursdays @ Manaia Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer and Bible study Encouraging interactive discussion and Praise All are welcome We would love it if you could come Rodney & Val 274 8550 or 0272384187
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 90 Regan St., Stratford, 9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study 10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service" Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford. Contact Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799
Methodist Church Hawera Regent Street 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm.
TUESDAYS
Opunake Walking Group: Every Tuesday 10am. Meet outside Club Hotel on Havelock St. Phone Margaret 027 477 5600 for more info if needed, or just turn up.
Pungarehu Golf Club Twilight: Tee-off between 4.30 & 6.30pm.
Opunake District RSA: Meet 1st Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm at the Opunake Fire Station. Financial Members are welcome to attend.
WEDNESDAYS
Coastal Young Farmers: Meet 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Butlers Reef Bar & Cafe, Oakura.
Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake: Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676
Okato & District Historical Society open every Wednesday: At the Okato Community Trust Hall, 47 Cumming St, Okato. phone Meg on 06 752 4566.
Opunake Embroiders Guild: Meet 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10.30am-3pm at the Opunake Business Centre, Napier St, Opunake. Just come along or phone Sheryl 06 761 8769.
Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to5 .30pm.
Free singing experience with Taranaki Harmony Chorus: Meet every Wednesday at Inglewood Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm Phone Helen 021 296 0700.
THURSDAYS
Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.
Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia: Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.
FRIDAYS
Eltham Business Association Friday Markets: 9:30am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.
Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm..
Hawera Country & Variety Music Club: Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided. Ph 021 2622 166.
OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 22
Pottery: A Memorial Exhibition for Margaret Foley: The Village Gallery, Eltham.
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 30
An exhibition by Marianne Muggeridge & Roger

Morris: Momo Toi Gallery, Carthew St, Okato.
NOVEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 3
Te Kura o Matariki Whakairo presents an exhibition of Maori Wood Carving: Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera.
NOVEMBER 20 - 23 & NOVEMBER 26-29
Opunake Players present ‘Vicar of Dibley Christmas’, Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake.
NOVEMBER 21 TO 23
Taranaki Tu Mai: Cultural activities & ‘friendly competition across eight Opunake venues. See pages 24 & 32 for more deatails.
NOVEMBER 23
Opunake Lions Nexans Walk/Run: Start at Opunake Beach, from 9.30am.
NOVEMBER 24
Foodbank NZ Opunake Christmas Collection: Opunake, from 5.30am.**Opunake Boat & Underwater Club Inc. AGM:** At the clubrooms, 7pm.
Talk by Christian photo-video journalist Cole Martin on his recent six month visit to occupied Palestine: 7-9pm, St Mary’s Peace Lounge, 41 Vivian St, New Plymouth.
NOVEMBER 25 TO 29
Short & Quirky One Act plays: Hawera Repertory House.
NOVEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 20
Spring Into Summer exhibition by Veronica Tee: Village Gallery, Eltham.
NOVEMBER 27
Free Car Seat Check: Coastal Care, Opunake, 10am-12pm.
NOVEMBER 29
South Taranaki Christmas House Tour: See article for details. 9.30am-5pm.
NOVEMBER 29 & 30
Stratford Royal A & P Show: Stratford Showgrounds, 9am-4pm.
DECEMBER 2
Ngati Tara Oaonui Sandy Bay Society Inc AGM: At the Oaonui Community Hall, 6pm.
Oaonui Water Supply Ltd AGM: Opunake Golf Club, 6pm.
DECEMBER 10
Manaia Golf Club Inc. AGM: At the clubrooms, 7pm.
DECEMBER 12
Eltham Lions Christmas Parade: 6pm, Eltham. Markets from 4pm.
DECEMBER 12
Opunake & District Business Association Christmas Parade, 2025: Opunake. From 6pm onwards. See this issue for entry forms and details.

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI

TARANAKI TŪ MAI 2025

Tui Ora will be at Taranaki Tū Mai to tautoko whānau and their hauora. Come see us to find out more about our services, participate in fun activities, enter for prizes and kōrero with our kaimahi about:

- Immunisations
- HPV self swabs
- Cervical screening
- Stop smoking support
- Te peringa wara petipeti
- Mental health support
- Kia piki te ora / suicide prevention support
- Plus so much more!

WE'LL BE THERE 22 & 23 NOVEMBER 2025
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HOSTED BY TE KAHUI O TARANAKI IWI

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Ngāti Tara Ōāonui Sandy Bay Society Incorporated
Protection - Restoration - Enhancement

We invite all interested to join us at our AGM.

Nau mai, haere mai koutou kia whakanui te kaitiakitanga ā ngā tāonga i Te Tūāhu Sandy Bay, Tai Road, Ōāonui.

Annual General Meeting:
Venue: Ōaonui Community Hall
Date: Tuesday 2nd December, 2025
Time: 6pm
Agenda:

1. Karakia
2. Whakatau
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Previous Minutes of AGM, 12th Nov, 2024
5. Matters Arising from previous AGM.
6. Financial Report.
7. Election of Officers.
8. General Business.
9. Whakakapi
10. Karakia

Ngā mihi,
The Committee

Andy Whitehead - Chairman
Debra O'Connor - Secretary
Adrienne Young - Treasurer

All inquiries: cell: 0211 532 179
email: debraoconnor@xtra.co.nz

OAONUI WATER SUPPLY LIMITED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 6.00pm

at the Opunake Golf Club
235 Namu Road, Opunake

The Taranaki Family 4X4 Club

would like to thank the following for their help towards supplying and installing life saving AED equipment in the community:

Callum & Mandy @ Stone Creations NZ
Katie Simmons @ Stepping Stones Child Care
Lloyd and Jo Morgan
Daryl Hickey
Amanda & Bryan Goble
Okato Lions Club
Jayde and Ricky @ Oakura 4 Square

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Our Christmas Issue will be out on the 18th of December.

The deadline if you would like to wish your customers and clients a Merry Christmas or feature your business in the Christmas issue is **December 4. Get in touch with us now!**
Email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
Ph: 06 761 7016

GARAGE SALES

CHRISTMAS TREES, decorations, materials for homecrafts & odds and ends, knitting wool. 25 Wilson Street, Hawera, Saturday November 22, 8am opening.

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED TO BUY. Tidy small to medium car Must be reliable. Up to \$5000. Phone 027 4437100

SITUATIONS VACANT

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ŌPUNAKĒ
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St Joseph's School Ōpunakē / Teacher Aide Position

We seek a highly motivated, practical, caring and dynamic Teacher Aide to work alongside our Tamariki and Kaiako. Applicants need to value personalised learning, be reliable and proactive as well as being a team player that displays UNITY.

This person will be required to work alongside students for 22 hours per week by supporting learning programmes.

You must be able to work Tuesday to Friday.
This position will commence on Tuesday 3rd February 2026.

Applications close on Friday 28th November at 3:00pm.

Please send your CV, covering letter and at least 3 referees to:
The Principal
St Joseph's School Ōpunakē
59 Allison Street,
Ōpunakē
Or Email: principal@stjo.school.nz

TE KURA O HATO HŌHEPA KI ŌPUNAKĒ
P. 06 761 8388 www.stjo.school.nz

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HBAS

Hawera Budget Advisory Service at the Heartlands offices in Opunake, every second Tuesday from 9am. Appointments are necessary, please phone 0800 333 048. Facebook page: Hawera Advisory Service. Email: info@hawerabudget.co.nz

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

CARPETS second hand, large selection After Disaster Ltd 223 Devon St West, NP. Phone (06) 769 9265

THE NEWSPAPER
TARANAKI
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clare.moss@hughson.co.nz

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on December 6. Get in early to get in it.
Phone us on 06 761 7016.

Call us on 06 761 7016

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2011 Suzuki SWIFT LTDA NZ NEW HATCH Driving Lights, Alloy Wheels, FWD, Topw Bar, Stability Control, 1.4, Petrol, Auto, 175kms  \$8,995	2021 Kia Picanto X-LINE LITTLE BEAUT Alloy Wheels, Driving Lights, Auto Headlights, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Tinted Windows, Parking Sensors, 1.2, Petrol, Auto, 28kms  \$17,995	2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross BLK Auto Fold Electric Mirrors, Daytime Running Lights, Nose Guard, NZ New, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Tow Bar, 1.5, Petrol, Auto, 92kms  \$22,995	2017 Toyota RAV4 GXL SUV NZ NEW 4WD Auto Headlights & Wipers, Reversing Camera, Sports Mode, Tinted Windows, Roof Rails, VVT-i, 2.5, Petrol, Auto, 162kms  \$22,995
2012 Toyota RAV4 POPULAR NZ NEW SUV Cruise Control, 4WD, NZ New, VVT-i, 2.4, Petrol, Auto, 171kms  \$11,995	THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL: 2013 Holden COMMODORE VF STUNNING VF COMMODORE SV6 Half Leather Seats, RWD, Tow Bar, Spoiler, Tinted Windows, Alloy Wheels, Daytime Running Lights, NZ New, 3.6, Petrol, Auto, 175kms  \$18,995		2012 Subaru IMPREZA Monsoons, Reversing Camera, Driving lights, 8 Seater, Tinted Windows, 2.0, Petrol, CVT, 146kms  \$9,995
2022 Kia Stonic GT Line STYLISH SPORTY HATCH Parking Sensors, Roof Rails, Turbo, Sports Mode, Tinted Windows, 1.0, Petrol, Auto, 31kms  \$24,995			2014 HYUNDAI Santa Fe DM ELITE NZ NEW 7 SEATER 4WD Auto Headlights & Wipers, Bonnett Protector, Nudge bar, Roof Rack, Tow Bar, Turbo, 2.2, Diesel, Auto, 146kms  \$21,995
2019 FORD ESCAPE TREND POPULAR LOW KM's SUV Blind Spot Monitoring, Parking Sensors, Stability Control, Auto Headlights, Turbo, NZ New, Roof Rails, Tinted Windows, Petrol, 1.5, Auto, 61kms  \$19,995	2008 Mazda 3 SP23 SPORTY NZ NEW HATCH Alloy Wheels, Driving Lights, Spoiler, Tow Bar, Cruise Control, VVT-i, 2.3, Petrol, Auto, 149kms  \$10,995	2016 HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0 CRDI ELITE WELL PRICED NZ NEW LUXURY 4X4 Electric Leather Seats, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Sunroof, Turbo, Driving Lights, Electric Tailgate, 2.0, Diesel, Auto, 230kms  \$13,995	2021 MG 3 EXCITE HANDY HATCH Daytime Running Lights, Reversing Camera, Alloy Wheels, Spoiler, Auto Headlights, NZ New, Petrol, 1.5, Auto, 56kms  \$13,995

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