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The night finished with a spectacular fireworks display.

Big rigs plus big bangs equals fun night

As the day drew to a close there was a carnival atmosphere at Kaponga Primary School. On October 31 the school held their annual Big Rigs and Big Bangs fundraiser featuring big trucks, food trucks, the usual amusements like bouncy castle and miniature train rides, face painting, haunted house and one of only three live fireworks displays happening in Taranaki.

This is the third year they have run the Big Rigs and Big Bangs, which took over from an earlier Show and Shine car event.

Taranaki Maunga provided a backdrop for a fine late spring evening, with members of the Kaponga Lions Club at the gates, as a growing crowd came through. The varied range of food trucks to choose from along the grounds' perimeter provided an amphitheatre-like atmosphere, while the Big Rigs were lined up near the Swadling Street entrance. Meanwhile there was live music playing.

Continued page 6

Make sure you cast your democratic vote

Although almost a million voters have already cast their vote in the 2026 General Election at the time of going to print the majority on the roll still need to vote on Saturday October 7. If you have your EasyVote cards (3.5 million have been issued) with you when you visit a polling booth, the process is speedier and helps the staff locate your name on the electoral roll. You can still vote without your EasyVote card if you don't have it however.

There are 2,300 voting places in the nation.

The last day to vote is election day Saturday 7 November when more than 2,300 voting places will be open from 9am to 7pm.

You can vote in your electorate, or you can cast a special vote if you are elsewhere on the day.

There is plenty of choice this time with 530 candidates representing 17 registered political parties. The lead up political polls suggest a very close election.

In Australia it is compulsory to both enrol and turn up to vote, otherwise you can be fined. Here in New Zealand there is no need to force people to vote; this time about 3,790,950 people have enrolled (93.6%). This is slightly less than at the 2023 General Election when 94.7% of eligible voters did enrol. In all General Elections since 2014 (inclusive) the enrolment rates has been over the 90% figure, which is heartening.

If you need more information you can phone 0800 36 76 56 or try vote.nz on-line.

Comments Karl Le Quesne, Chief Electoral Officer: "It's been a community effort to raise awareness on the new electoral deadline and we thank everyone who has played a part. Now the focus is on encouraging people to vote."

See pages 24 & 25 this issue for voting places in the distribution area of the Opunake & Coastal News.



Library Plus in Opunake, where you can vote. The last day to vote is election day Saturday 7 November when more than 2,300 voting places will be open from 9am to 7pm. See pages 24 and 25 for local voting places.

Letters to the Editor

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

Not responsible for high fuel prices

What an interesting mix of letters in the past paper. I appreciate hearing from the community Thank you in particular to Rob Ritchie, Mary Moore and Bruce Salisbury.

Given the date this letter will hopefully be published, I want to counter some claims by other letter writers.

Labour and Greens are not responsible for current high fuel prices. That is the work of Trump, Netanyahu and their cronies bombing Palestine, Lebanon and Iran, and NZ First and National doing nothing about it.

Labour and Greens prepared a path towards transitioning the country off harmful, dwindling, and expensive fossil fuels, but Shane Jones, Chris Bishop and other climate minimalists in their poor wisdom, dismantled those plans. Instead they keep us hooked to dirty fossil fuels and throw our money at the rich oiligarchs to keep mining our resources and building more pointless expensive roads and gas plants.

Please vote for politicians who will work towards a sustainable country built on equitable support and justice for those harmed by the state or treated unfairly. The current government just want to continue cutting social services and selling off public assets to line their mates' pockets. Voting well matters and please everyone continue the important community work you all do every other day of the year. Ngā mihinui.

Tuhi-Ao Bailey
Pungarehu, Parihaka

Neighbour issues

I'm a near 80-year-old lady living on her own and bought the bach on 25 February.

The day I shifted in my next-door neighbour approached me to find out my intentions i.e. Is the place for holidays? and I replied, "No I'm going to live in it and put in a new woodfire. He replied, "No, no ,no. Don't do that," and walked off.

On the first Wednesday I put out my red bin and came inside for a cup of tea. Then I saw the neighbour going through my bin, sorting out what he thought was not to his liking and threw it on to the ground, so I went out to ask what he thought he was doing. At first he said it was kids that did it until I said I've just been watching you. That's when he said, "You can't dump this."

The next week I planted flowers out the front gate, and by the next morning all was gone. I tried again three more times with stakes, but they were all gone by each morning, and he said, "You can't do this. It's Council land, and there's pipes and

Continued page 4.

ADELPHOS

Losing a Loved One— Part 2—Bereavement and Grief

Death is a normal part of life. Just as we are born we will all die. The way we grieve depends on our personality, age and stage, faith and life experience. It is also influenced by previous griefs and how close other griefs are to the present one. Whatever the case, it takes time and there's no set timetable. But there are some ways to help support yourself, when working through **bereavement. Avoid using alcohol, drugs, sex and gambling in order to cope with the pain. They may numb the pain for a short time, but don't teach us how to cope with grief. Stay connected with** others, but realise that not everyone knows how to support you. At times you may need to be by yourself. Patience is key: with ourselves and others (easier said than done).

Maintaining healthy sleep, diet and exercise/activity is vital. Ask yourself, "Am I getting enough sleep?" Going to bed at a regular time and turning the lights down low thirty minutes before bedtime can help increase melatonin levels. If you are short on sleep, try going to bed earlier. Keep an eye on your calorie intake and the nutrition levels in what you are eating. Some form of exercise or activity is important, but remember it is not just going to the gym, pool, jogging or walking: doing jobs inside the house or around the yard also count.

It is important to be aware of low energy and mood levels during a time of bereavement: grief uses up physical and emotional energy. If you are continuously tired ask yourself, "What do I need?" For example if you're sitting around and thinking of your loved one for hours, that's not necessarily helpful. Get up and do something. Our bodies are meant to be kept moving. Reconnect with nature, do something active or take up a new hobby or activity. Write about what is on your mind, use adult colouring activities, crosswords, dance, singing or listening to music that makes you feel better (music can work both ways). Phone a friend, family member or counselling service (Lifeline).

Faith can be challenged in times of grief. If you're able to pray it may be helpful. Other helpful practices are meditation, mindfulness and doing acts of kindness for others (and yourself). Distraction strategies such as arts and crafts, gardening, cards, woodwork and board or internet games can also be helpful. You might even think of forming a bereavement group in your neighborhood. It's been said that a burden shared is a burden halved.

For those supporting others who are grieving it can be difficult knowing how to do it. Be patient with the person and realise they are going through a big change in their life. It is vital to non-judgmentally listen to them if and when they want to talk. Try not to tell them you know how they feel. Grief can affect relationships: sometimes drawing people closer and sometimes pushing them apart.

Sometimes it's necessary to seek medical or counselling support. If you're concerned about an afterlife you might speak with a minister or priest or do your own research. Get back into the usual routines of life and take one step and day at a time. If you go backwards it doesn't matter. It's part of the grief process. Life's rose garden is not without its thorns and prickles. Hopefully these strategies will help you on the road of bereavement.

Manaakitanga.

Adelphos, M.A. Counselling, University of Auckland, M.A. Biblical Studies, M.Div.

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2.

and cables underground," so I've had to not do anything more, including the lawns outside the gate.

Every time I go out my back door and he sees me, he bullies me about what I'm doing. I feel powerless as he undermines everything I do.

I know no one in the new town I live. Health and care services are not always accessible regardless of how it's affecting me as an elderly lady living on her own. I'm feeling like I don't have a voice. I want to be independent and not ruled by my neighbour who absolutely knows he has the upper hand, slowly chipping me away and wearing me down. It's very disruptive behaviour. I phoned Elder Abuse on 0800 3268865 on 20 October and was told by Ben that someone would call me back (but to no avail).

On October 22 I was hanging out washing and he started again. This time he said I had destroyed his gardens and his trees are dead. I said we have all lost trees etc from the high winds we have all had. He said there will be repercussions from my remarks, and I wonder what's coming next. I lock my doors and gates day and night.

Name withheld
Opunake.

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Slavery or Abortion, which is worse?

Social issues and human rights tragedies can rarely be compared, yet when we think about it, if slavery and abortion could be compared, (as I wish to prove)- then there is a tremendous human rights tragedy right under our noses.

SLAVERY – excerpt of Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

A slave warehouse! Perhaps some of my readers conjure up horrible visions of such a place. They fancy some foul, obscure den … But no, innocent friend! These days men have learned the art of sinning expertly and gently, so as not to shock the eyes and senses of respectable society. Every day you may see arranged, under a sort of shed along the outside, rows of men and women, who stand there as a sign of the property sold within… Husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers and young children to be sold separately or in lots at the convenience of the purchaser; and that soul immortal– once bought with blood and anguish by the Son of God, when the earth shook, and the rocks rent, and the graves were opened– can be sold, leased and mortgaged.

ABORTION–

A hospital! My readers may expect such a place to be the centre of healing and health, certainly not of death. But every year the deaths of thousands of little ones are counselled by, provided for and sometimes performed by the place that is supposed to be a protector of life. A mother who wishes to terminate her pregnancy and thereby kill the child that shares her very own DNA is told that she never has to tell her friends and family of the blood that stains her hands. These human foetuses (foetus is just another word for baby or offspring) are cast away into trash bags and conveniently discarded, or their precious body parts barbarically used in the progression of science. My friends, if that does not serve to make you furious, you are truly inhumane.

Thank you to the people who responded to my last letter, your encouragement means a lot.

Concerned teenager
Hawera.

Haemodialysis for Hawera Hospital

As a New Plymouth Grey Power member I'd like to congratulate Grey Power South Taranaki who have come up with a brilliant idea of trying to get a haemodialysis facility for Hawera Hospital, as it would help those living in Waverley, Patea, Hawera, Eltham and Coastal Taranaki, and now their president is going to contact the Minister of Rural Health to see if it could be a good chance.

To me I can see why the Hawera Hospital couldn't have such a facility, as it would help many people who suffer with this complaint, so I do hope this idea does happen and become a reality, While this government, who keep on saying they care about all kiwis, they wouldn't know the real meaning of caring, as they only care about themselves, no one else.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.

Winston Peters

God bless Winston Peters - he has weathered many storms in life and in politics and he has far more understanding and wisdom than all the rest put together!

Understanding history does account for more wisdom in going forward to the future - it always helps to know who went before, what worked and what didn't. The NZ First party has grown into a large strong group of people who know what they are talking about. NZ First have held multitudes of meetings up and down this country over the last month or so and hundreds, even thousands of people have turned up to hear them. Many appreciate the only party that knows what a woman is - it's common sense!

NZ First have pushed through 56 bills over this last term - and that's a lot for any party, let alone a minor party. NZ First is the only party that wants to see growth and progress in this country while many others seem willing to drive us down a hole.

There's some misunderstanding thinking Winston wants to do away with the Treaty but that's not true. It's the Tribunal he's talking about. Hasn't it fulfilled its purpose? Isn't it time to move forward with better partnership? How is that accomplished?

Since Labour paid the leftist leaning public media of New Zealand bags of money with Covid, they don't seem to want to give anyone much coverage except Labor. Labor managed to push this country into a large hole of debt and only imagines more debt with no understanding it seems of how to make our country thrive healthily.

Please consider NZ First for your party vote.

Shalom,

C. Salisbury
Manaia

Vote for a better way of life

Now, when Mary Moore stated about what National, NZ First and ACT will do if ever they got back into power again as our coalition government, everything will again rise, like our cost of living, unemployment, education, health and anything else, yet like always I'm hearing the same old thing, when these three political parties stated in the last general election, as they are like a leopard that never changes its spots, and they're all two-faced to the point they're again telling us all lies.

At the moment these three political parties aren't giving anyone any confidence to stay in our country, so instead we have kiwis leaving in droves and going to Australia.

Now Mary Moore is absolutely correct in what she has stated, and I do like what she writes in her letters, which is the whole truth, so come on people, stop moaning, groaning and grizzling about this government and vote for a Labour government. Since they were put together in 1916, they've never ever once lied to all of us. Also they are great for us kiwis.

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth.

Overshoot in the cryosphere

Exceeding the 1.5°C global warming target is termed 'overshoot' and threatens large-scale melting, thawing and loss in the polar oceans and the cryosphere (the areas of the planet with snow, ice and frozen soils), with impacts on the entire planet.

A new report from the United Nations sets out the global implications of cryosphere loss with overshoot, exploring which ones are locked in and what we can still stop or slow down. It argues that, in many cases, these will be irreversible on timescales relevant to human society and may even exceed the limits of adaptation.



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Move on Orders draw Parihaka comparison

The night before legislation empowering police to move on homeless people sleeping on the streets was due to take effect, a group of Opunake opponents of the orders were bedding down for the night outside Everybodys Theatre with supporters also present.

The Summary Offences (Move on Orders) Act took effect on Saturday October 24, so the group were making a statement the night before the orders came into effect said Rob Ritchie.

On Friday October 23 they brought their sleeping bags to bed down for the night outside Everybodys after the Friday evening cinema screening had finished.

The Summary Offences (Move on Orders) Act empowers police to issue move-on orders requiring individuals engaging in disorderly or disruptive behaviour in public spaces to leave an area and stay away for a specified period (up to 24 hours). Behaviour covered includes unreasonable obstruction of business entrances, breach of the peace, begging, rough sleeping, or setting up structures indicating an intent to inhabit a public place.



From left. Annie Baigent, Tihikura Hohaia, Rob Ritchie, Catherine Cheung, Lyndon De Vantier, Tuhi-Ao Bailey prepare to bed down the night before the Move On Orders came into effect.

"We didn't vote to have wharekore (literally homeless people) moved on," said Rob. "To those living in their leafy suburbs who would say these people have homes to go to, I would say, do you have any place so terrible that you would never go back to-and what if that place is your home? What if your mates where you feel loved are on the streets? What do you do?"

He said the Treaty of Waitangi "which protects all of us" should be recognised.

Tuhi-Ao Bailey said the government has to stop selling social housing, and noted that the name of ex Social Welfare minister Paula Bennett had been linked to the sale of social houses.

"The money's not coming back," she said.

Tihikura Hohaia noted that this issue of the Opunake & Coastal News was coming out on November 5, 145 years to the day since the invasion of the peaceful village of Parihaka.

"On November 5 1881 the government invaded Parihaka and moved everyone on, and they are still moving people on," he said.

Rob voiced similar sentiments.

"Is the latest move on legislation inspired by the same colonised thinking now so easy to see when we look back on our successively aggressive 19th Century government. Does the current Coalition government operate with the same colonising mindset? If so isn't it time to move them on?"

And how did the night go?

Rob says the brightness of the lights from Everybodys eventually meant they had to move further up the street to get any sleep. They got a mixed reaction from passersby. While some tried to hassle them, others seemed interested in what they were doing. One passing motorist stopped to offer them a joint, an offer that was politely declined. A local police officer dropped by to tell them to watch out for a group of kids who were wandering around armed with water bombs.

Lyndon De Vantier said: "To paraphrase Mahatma Gandhi and other humanist thinkers, the true measure of a society is how well it treats its most disadvantaged, not the most privileged.

"Over the past four decades neo-liberalised economic thinking has eroded our former egalitarian ideals, replacing them with a less caring everyone for themselves mentality with growing inequality that is increasingly splintering society into the haves and have nots. This is neither helpful nor healthy."



Big rigs plus big bangs equals fun night

Continued from page 1.

"We've got good markets, plenty of food, nice weather, you can't ask for more," Kaponga School principal Shane Downs told the Opunake & Coastal News. He believed there were probably more trucks than there were last year.

The Big Rigs have proved popular with Taranaki trucking firms, while also attracting some rigs from outside the province. One of these, driven by Taranaki-based Anton Elliott had made the trip from Mangatainoka.

"Our boss Regan Beale does a lot of this kind of stuff," said Anton. "Most of my work is in the Wairarapa. I was working at Mangatainoka this morning so I made a mad dash to get loaded and get here as quick as I was able."



The trucks came from far and near.



Truck driver Anton Elliott had made the trip from Mangatainoka.

Mangatoki farmer Allan Marx was drawing a bit of interest demonstrating his Detroit Diesel 12V149 refrigeration recompressor. He has had it for five years and picked it up as a scrap engine in Christchurch.

"I thought it was a cheap way to turn diesel into noise," he said. "It stopped being cheap when I had to spend a lot of money to get it home to Taranaki, and then thousands getting it fixed."

He said it weighs about six tons and was probably used on a fishing boat.

Enjoying the evening were Michael and Jordan McLean and children Max(8), Cody (4) and Isla(2) from Stratford.

"It's nice to get off the farm and do something with the community," says Michael. "It's good for our two young boys. They are into their trucks. If there's anything to do with tractors, engines and trucks, they are there."

After the sun went down the lights at the ground were turned down and the lights on the trucks lit up. The lolly scramble was held and the various raffles for a wheelbarrow of groceries, firewood and a motorbike were drawn before the finale that everyone had stayed around for.

The sky was lit up with multi-coloured lights which were accompanied by the obligatory bangs.

Shane down told everyone he was pleased with how the night had gone.

"Kaponga is not a big town, and I think everybody in Kaponga is here," he said. "I thought we were going to be battling with a few other events on. I had said we were not doing this next year, but I've been shot down already. Yes we are doing this again next year."

As the big bangs finished, the big rigs blared their appreciation and everyone headed for the exit, no doubt looking forward to returning again in 2027.



Enjoying the evening were Michael and Jordan McLean and children Max(8), Cody (4) and Isla(2) from Stratford.



Right. Mangatoki farmer Allan Marx and his Detroit Diesel 12V149 refrigeration recompressor.

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Treaty of Waitangi main focus for candidates

Several political candidates comprised a panel in New Plymouth on Tuesday October 27 at Te Whare Hononga in the grounds of St Mary's Church. Present was Debbie Ngawewa-Packer MP (Te Pati Māori), David MacLeod MP (National), Amanda Clinton-Gohdes (Labour Party candidate seeking the New Plymouth seat, held by David), Sarah Lucas (Opportunity Party who is also seeking the New Plymouth seat) and Te Pūoho Kātene (Labour Party candidate seeking the Te Tai Hauāuru seat, held by Debbie).

The MC for the event was the Very Rev Jay Ruku who impressively controlled the meeting. Jay is the Dean of the Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary (Mere Tapu), a position he has held since October 2021. He is also an author, well known for the respected book Huia Come Home.

"I'm really looking forward to this meeting. It's a privilege to be here," Jay commented in his welcome. He spoke in both Te Reo and English.



The panel included, from left Debbie Ngarewa-Packer MP, David MacLeod MP, Amanda Clinton-Gohdes, Sarah Lucas and Te Puoho Katene. Standing is the Very Rev Jay Ruku.

The focus of the meeting was the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi), with notably the 200-year anniversary just 14 years hence. Jay spoke of deep-rooted prejudice which needs "deep deep education" to overcome bigotry as we look towards the celebration of the bi-cultural document. He also acknowledged the multi-cultural nature of the document in current times, as many other races are now part of our society.

Referring to the seated candidates Jay said with a smile, "And you lot have stood up to be leaders of our society."

The candidates were asked to imagine what it will be like as the 200th anniversary is reached.

Amanda Clinton-Gohdes spoke next and explained her personal emotional toll. "When I sat down to consider the Treaty and all its implications, I cried," she shared. Her address covered much ground including discrimination and racist rhetoric faced by Māori and the negative statistics which do not favour Māori. "Hard work is needed to close the gaps, between Māori and Pakeha," she declared.

Finally, she concluded with, "Honouring Tiriti o Waitangi is in all our interests." With the rider, "Our Government needs to listen before they act."

Te Pūoho Kātene expressed regret at the adverse "outcry" when Matariki was established as a public holiday to give it due respect. In shades of Dr Martin Luther King, he said the best way of getting beyond tyranny is to dream, "Picture it, feel it and work towards it." In a backward glance at his own inappropriate schooling he commented, "I learned more about Mesopotania than I did about Parihaka." He warned, "There are people who benefit from division." And he acknowledged that "wealth is not shared equally." Near the end of his address he stressed that our children are the future, "with their unbridled potential."

Sarah Lucas shared that her true passion was the Treaty and its positive implications. However, she explained that we must fully communicate, "It's easy to take a hard stance, but it is kōrero that builds communities." With respect to education she commented, "Learning Te Reo is as easy as learning English" – so she favoured such tuition in schools from the infant stage and beyond. She lamented that racism was still an issue in New Zealand. "We still have work to do," she insisted. "We must stop passing anti-Treaty laws" and make sure that "we back iwi and hapu." Sarah concluded, as regards the 200th anniversary, "Let's make it a celebration of promises kept."

David MacLeod stressed how emotionally based was the issue of the Treaty. "It's not about politics, but looking to the future." Alluding to the coalition arrangement, he shared that he needed to be careful. "I have to play the team game, which is politics." In the process, "You lose your individuality to some extent. He was pleased that there are many more Māori in positions of authority than has been the case in the past. "Social media, however, reflects that we continue to be a fragmented society. We need to listen so we can learn from each other." He shared that he had been attacked on social media. "Don't look at the comments on my page - they are disgusting." David concluded, "We beat ourselves up a lot. We do not celebrate ourselves enough." Finally, "To be united is my hope for the future."

Debbie Ngarea-Packer, who has just completed her doctorate (PhD) wondered, "What will it be like in 14 years' time?" She regretted the recent Treaty bill before parliament. She said we need to be committed to a plan, "We need to be bold." She was sad that there had been 186 years of division and hoped that 2040 would see "normalised relations between people of all races and renewed energy."

Debbie strongly urged people to consult an important working party report Matike Mai Aotearoa as it had many worthwhile ideas to instigate improvements for the way ahead, the future, including constitutional transformation. It was commissioned by the Iwi Chair Forum 2010, involving 252 hui between 2012 and 2015. The process was led by the late Professor Moana Jackson and Professor Margaret Mutu and others.

In his winding up comment Dean Jay Ruka made a plea for peace, citing Parihaka as an example when it was attacked in 1881 when the Māori inhabitants responded to violence and destruction with peace. "No matter what, you must bind yourself to peace. No matter what the Government does we will respond with peace and kindness."



The Very Rev Jay Ruku, Dean of the Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary (Mere Tapu) was MC at the meeting of candidates.



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Rusty Kane candidate will represent everybody if elected

Rusty Kane who dropped into the Opunake & Coastal News a week ago said he wasn't keen to be a candidate in next Saturday's General Election, but no one else had put their hand up who supported his political outlook. This time he is seeking election in the New Plymouth electorate The seat is currently held by David MacLeod (National). He is also up against Amanda Clinton-Gohdes (Labour) and Sarah Lucas (Opportunity).



Rusty Kane with a keen supporter - hie mother.

Rusty is standing under the Taranaki Independent banner as he seeks to be a voice for everyone – not just supporters of the political parties. "I'm the only candidate for everyone," he asserts. "Everyone else is on the right or the left," he adds.
Over the last 30 years or so he has contested many elections including the New Plymouth District Council, Taranaki Regional Council and the Stratford mayoralty.
"It was important for someone to stand against the mayor, he explains.
Elsewhere he has stood for election as a representative on the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.
Rusty hasn't always been an independent; at one stage he was involved with the Conservative Party led by Colin Craig. However, he pulled back as he did not support their stance against gay people.
If he was elected he would be happy to work with any party, with emphasis on the one which gained the most votes. He explains that it is best to be at the table with some party, rather than totally missing out.
Rusty says there are still many undecided voters and he believes it is in their interests to vote for him as he reiterates that he will represent everyone, not just a particular party. "I think that political parties are the problem," he concludes.

Asked who is likely to be the Government after the election he comments, "It depends on the Opportunity Party.

Putting primary healthcare first is crucial says the ACT Party

Healthcare has become a top-three issue in the election. Emergency departments resemble war zones, patients in corridors can't have their catheters changed because there is no privacy.
The hospitals are filled with people who should have seen their GP four weeks ago, but couldn't get an appointment. This is not about money. The Healthcare budget has nearly doubled in seven years. In 2019 it was $18 billion, now it is $34.5 billion.
Last week Free Press digs into the alarming trends in primary healthcare behind this resultless money pit.
First, some other concerns that are valid but separate from our subject today.
Yes, there is an ageing population. Yes, there is a global war for medical talent where clinicians are tempted overseas. Yes, medical companies keep inventing new treatments that extend life but cost a fortune.
Those are things the New Zealand Government can't do much to change. What it can change is its own efficiency of spending, which is woeful.
Primary care has been in free fall this century. In 2000, 40% of doctors were GPs. Now it is only 25%. Back then GPs worked 42 hours a week on average.

Continued page 11

Door knocking in Opunake

Labour candidate Amanda Clinton-Gohdes was door knocking in Opunake with supporters at the weekend.
She was also campaigning in Opunake the previous weekend.
Commenting on how busy Opunake was on Saturday morning – it being the start of the Garden Festivals – she also seemed enchanted by the Yarn Bomb in Opunake.
Around a dozen people were out, door knocking for the morning then were headed to Oakura.
With election fever gripping the country and advance voting now open people have till Saturday at 7pm to cast their vote.



Amanda Clinton-Gohdes, accompanied by a supporter, door knocking in Opunake.

Opunake Library Plus in Tasman Street, Opunake is the most central polling booth in Opunake though there are polling booths elsewhere.
A record number of people seem to have, at the time of going to print, already cast their votes and judging by this and the queues there is a lot of interest in the outcome.

See pages 24 and 25 this issue for a polling booth near you where you can cast your vote in the General Election..

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Jill Evans, Co-leader

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The Manosphere: Is it a Public Health Issue?

If you have a teenage boy in your house, there is a reasonable chance he knows considerably more about online influencers than you do. He may also know what a "red pill," an "alpha male" or "looksmaxxing" means, while you are still wondering why the Wi-Fi has stopped working and whether turning the router off and on again counts as advanced IT support.

Behind some of the jokes, gym videos, dating advice and motivational clips is something researchers are increasingly concerned about: the "manosphere." A major new report just published in the renowned medical journal The Lancet argues that it should now be regarded as a public-health issue.



RICHARD HALL

The manosphere is not one website or group. It is a loose collection of online influencers, communities, videos and forums focusing on masculinity, relationships, dating, status and what it supposedly means to be a successful man.

Some of this is perfectly harmless. There is nothing wrong with encouraging young men to exercise, work hard, develop confidence, take responsibility or become more disciplined. Most parents would probably be delighted if an internet influencer could persuade their teenage son that putting his cereal bowl in the dishwasher represents an important step towards masculine self-development.

The problem is where some of the content leads. A boy might begin by watching videos about fitness, confidence or dating. The algorithms notice what keeps his attention, and before long his feed may offer more extreme messages: men should dominate, women cannot be trusted, vulnerability is weakness, feminism is responsible for men's problems, and successful men need money, muscles, status and sexual success.

Australia's eSafety Commissioner has warned that social-media algorithms can gradually steer young men from ordinary self-improvement content towards more hostile ideas about women and masculinity.

But the Lancet researchers argue that we make a mistake if we simply dismiss boys attracted to this material as misogynistic, foolish or somehow defective. Often the attraction starts with perfectly understandable needs: belonging, confidence, identity, direction, recognition and connection.

Young adulthood has always involved trying to work out who you are. Previous generations, however, did not have an algorithm watching the process and deciding that your temporary insecurity represented an excellent commercial opportunity to make money.

The report describes the manosphere as a commercial eco-system in which grievance and outrage can be profitable. The more angry, anxious or threatened someone feels, the more likely they may be to keep watching, clicking and buying. Some influencers cultivate insecurity and then sell the solution through courses, subscriptions, products, coaching or simply more content.

There is another concern. Some manosphere messages discourage men from seeking psychological help. If a young man repeatedly hears that admitting fear, loneliness, anxiety or sadness makes him weak, he becomes less likely to talk when life becomes difficult.

He may instead turn vulnerability into anger. Psychologically, anger is sometimes easier to tolerate than hurt. "I feel rejected" is painful. "I feel lonely" is painful. "I don't think I'm good enough" is painful. "Women are the problem" can seem like a much simpler and more comfortable explanation.

It also gives the brain something it likes enormously: an explanation. Unfortunately, a simple and comfortable explanation is not necessarily an accurate one.

The Lancet authors argue that the consequences can include poorer mental health, reduced willingness to seek help, harmful ideas about masculinity and, at the extreme end, increased hostility and violence towards women and girls.

Importantly, the answer is not simply to ban everything or lecture young men about what they should not think. If we remove these communities without replacing what they provide, we may achieve very little.

Young men still need belonging, purpose, good role models and opportunities to feel competent, respected and useful. They need a version of masculinity where strength and vulnerability can exist in the same person.

Being able to lift something heavy is useful. Being able to admit you are frightened, heartbroken or struggling is also strength. Being confident is valuable. Needing to dominate everyone within a 20-metre radius, including the school teacher is not.

Parents can also remain curious about what their sons are watching rather than immediately condemning it. Ask what they like about the person they follow. What makes sense to them? What do they disagree with? How does the influencer make money? Most importantly, does watching this material leave them feeling stronger and more hopeful, or increasingly angry and suspicious of everybody else?

Those conversations require more patience than simply announcing, "That bloke's an idiot." Although occasionally that conclusion may remain available.

The challenge is not to convince boys that masculinity itself is the problem. It isn't. The challenge is helping them develop a healthy version of it: one where confidence does not require superiority, strength does not require emotional silence, and relationships are partnerships rather than power struggles.

And where a young man's worth is not determined by his bank balance, jawline, bench press or ability to describe himself as an alpha male.

Perhaps footballer Harry Kane offered a rather better example after winning this year's Ballon d'Or last month. His message was simple: "Work hard in silence. Let success be your noise."

There is something refreshingly uncomplicated about that. No need to dominate anyone. No need to tell everyone how important you are. Do the work, develop yourself, treat people well and let what you become speak for itself.

And perhaps that is the fuller version of masculinity we should be encouraging: confidence without superiority, strength without domination, and enough self-respect to also show respect for women and girls as equals rather than adversaries.

Perhaps that is a version of masculinity all of us adults have a role in passing on.

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Primary health care is crucial says ACT

Continued from page 9

Now it is 35 hours a week. Sixty% of GPs work less than 40 hours a week.

Not enough existing medical students are choosing to become GPs to fill the quota of trainees (solving that problem would be smarter than building another medical school).

The numbers who say they're 'burned out,' who are thinking of emigrating, or close to retirement are all worrying, too. We'll leave those for now, we've had enough statistics for one Free Press.

Successive Governments have neglected primary care, and now the hospitals are overloaded. We wonder if the problem is that pharmacies and GP clinics are private businesses, out of favour with the Wellington bureaucracy and most politicians.

The ACT Party's policy of increasing GP funding by $100 million above and beyond normal funding adjustments shows ACT is swimming in the right direction, even if against the tide of the last 25 years.

There's another big opportunity in primary care that the Party has seized on against the run of play. Community pharmacy dispenses more than medicines; every day the advice they give saves time and money for the entire healthcare system.

That network is at risk. Large format pharmacy chains are undercutting pharmacies' traditional revenue streams. Without that network the collapse in primary care and the pressure on hospitals will get worse still.

At the same time as this challenge, there is the opportunity. Automated dispensing robots that count pills – is freeing up pharmacists' time, and they are well-trained professionals. Already pharmacies are setting up consultation rooms to offer more services and widen their revenue streams.

ACT's Pharmacy First policy would allocate $72 million to compensate pharmacies for treating minor ailments. The list of ailments was developed with pharmacists. It includes specific skin, eye, gastro, and sexual health conditions, plus blood monitoring, minor wounds, and other minor ailments that pharmacists could assist with.

The other area that is not strictly primary care, but funds prevention, is medicine funding. Again, New Zealand is behind by a massive margin. We wonder if it is because medicines are made by private companies.

In the average country, spending on medicines is 13% of the healthcare budget. In Australia it is 12%, here it is 4.9%. That gap means clinicians are more reliant on manual procedures and less reliant on medicine – a form of technology.

Combined, GPs and medicines consume barely 10% of the healthcare budget. Most people would guess it's higher. In most developed countries it is.

ACT's primary-first approach to healthcare recognises the best healthcare is prevention. In New Zealand that is done by a network of small businesses, where funding for years has been poured into Government hospitals and their unionised workforces.

It is time not to cut, but to rebalance, and divert more of the new spending on healthcare to the primary sector. Save community pharmacy as the health provider nearest to you. Boost morale and available hours from GPs. It might be the best way to solve the hospitals.

Nicola McKee was a shining beacon of common sense says Paul Henry

I don't blame you if you didn't watch the recent TVNZ Māori issues debate. It was pretty much what you'd expect, with the notable exception of ACT's Nicole McKee, who stood out as a shining beacon of common sense and unity amid a sea of racism, with the other parties pushing separate systems for different New Zealanders.

If you think every New Zealander should be equal before the law, without separatist policies dividing us, then please party vote ACT.

Nicole stood firm in her defence of healthcare being based on need, not race. She pointed to practical ways ACT has improved lives for all New Zealanders, including Māori, and opposed people being forced to speak Māori while supporting the freedom of people to do so if they choose.

Labour, the Greens and Te Pāti Māori want separate race-based institutions, billions more of taxpayer money spent on programmes for only one group, and unelected bodies like the Waitangi Tribunal given the power to override our democratic Parliament. It would be laughable if it weren't for the prospect that, unless we lock them out, that's exactly what's on the agenda.

Here's what that looks like:

- Labour wants to bring back co-governance under a different name, and go back to awarding government contracts on the basis of race.
- The Greens want Waitangi Tribunal recommendations made binding on the Government.
- Te Pāti Māori wants an unelected Treaty Commissioner with the power to veto decisions of our elected Parliament.

Nicole made the point that ACT's policies are for all New Zealanders. If you need healthcare, you should get it based on clinical need, not who your ancestors were. Picture two families on the same street, with the same bills and the same struggles. One ticks the right box and gets the help. The other gets nothing. Go and explain to that second family how that's fair.

That's why, in Government, ACT:

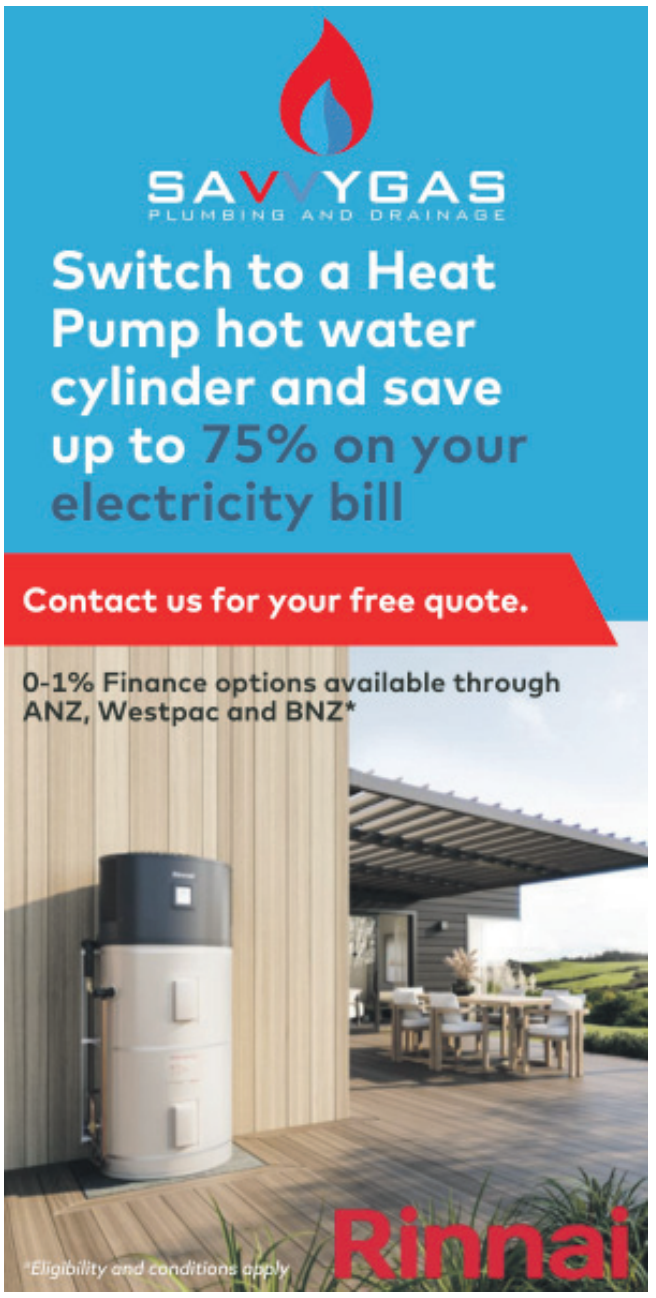
- ended race-based bowel cancer screening and lowered the age
- ended the 8 per cent target that handed out government contracts by ethnicity
- scrapped co-governed three waters and the Māori Health Authority
- repealed the law that put a child in state care's race ahead of their safety

Charter schools are another example. They may be the programme making the biggest difference for Māori children, and those from other backgrounds too, yet Labour wants to shut them down because their union mates don't like them. That's despite these schools lifting attendance and engaging children who had been let down by the state system.

Children need to be going to school. Education is the pathway from poverty to prosperity. When Labour left government, only a third of Māori children were regularly attending school. With David Seymour in charge of attendance, that's improved to half, but we still need to go much further.

None of this is safe. The Coalition hasn't gone as far as ACT would like, but

Continued on page 12.







COASTAL CURIOSITIES

A legacy of tableware elegance

Carlton Ware was a pottery manufacturer based in Stoke-on-Trent.

The company is known for its tableware, often in the form of highly decorated leaves or fruit, and the ceramic toucans it made as promotional items for Guinness. It produced hand-painted domestic pottery in high art deco styles during the 1920s and 1930s.

Carlton Ware concentrated on the decorative giftware end of the domestic pottery market throughout most of its career. Its earliest works included typical decal and hand-painted table-ware in a range of mostly floral patterns as well as items inspired by Wedgwood and other respected potters. During the early 1900s they became a supplier of "crested ware" for the tourist market.



Carlton Ware as seen at Cecilia's on Tasman in Opunake.

During the 1920s the company introduced new methods of production where the decal and hand-painting work was applied to high-glaze substrates. Amongst the first of these were a series of designs inspired by the artwork discovered in Tutankhamen's tomb, which can be fairly said to represent the beginning of the art deco pottery movement. Other popular designs included stylised dragons, birds, and a series of Oriental-inspired patterns of which New Mikado and Chinoiserie were the most popular. Mottled, mostly pale blue lustre-ware was also sold under the separate "Armand" brand. The famous script "Carlton Ware" trademark was introduced in 1928. At the more mundane end of the market, Carlton Ware introduced the first "Oven to Table."

During the late 1930s Carlton Ware introduced a new series of tableware, with boldly embossed floral and foliage patterns such as foxglove and anemone. This series continued in unbroken production into the 1960s, although later designs were progressively simplified to reduce the high cost of hand-painting.

The availability of new techniques using automated high temperature kilns allowed improved high-lustre table ware in the "Royale" brand to be introduced in 1949, and this continued to be produced into the early 1970s.

By the 1970s, the need to pass on increasing fuel and labour costs seriously affected Carlton Ware's ability to continue producing elaborate hand-painted items and changing tastes dictated the introduction of more modern shapes and patterns. The company then concentrated on novelty items such as "Walking Ware" designed by potter Roger Michell and advertising ware, especially aimed at the liquor trade, until its demise.

Carlton ware is highly collectable.



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Overshoot in the cryosphere – averting global meltdown

Exceeding the 1.5°C global warming target is termed 'overshoot' and threatens large-scale melting, thawing and loss in the polar oceans and the cryosphere (the areas of the planet with snow, ice and frozen soils), with impacts on the entire planet.

A new report from the United Nations and the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative sets out the global implications of cryosphere loss with overshoot, exploring which ones are locked in and what we can still stop or slow down. It argues that, in many cases, these will be irreversible on timescales relevant to human society and may even exceed the limits of adaptation. It also challenges the idea that overshoot to 2°C, 2.5°C, or even 3°C and above is manageable, or even preferable to the costs of urgent mitigation.

NicolaMckee is shining beacon of common sense says Paul Henry

Continued from previous page

it has gone further than it ever would have without us. We'll put equality before the law into the Constitution Act, add property rights to the Bill of Rights, end race-based hiring in the public service, keep tikanga from becoming a separate source of law, and make the Waitangi Tribunal's job finishing the remaining settlements, then wind it up. And we'll make sure that you aren't forced to say karakia or other spiritual prayers as part of public sector employment or resource consents.

But we need more ACT MPs to have the strength to get this across the line.

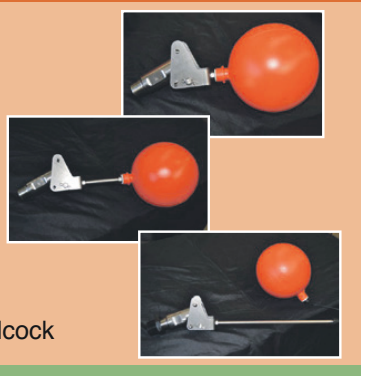
A Party Vote for ACT is just as effective at stopping Labour as a Party Vote for National, but it means more MPs who staunchly oppose racist policies and will never back down on equal rights.

Here are two things you can do today:

1. Vote now if you haven't already. You can vote at any voting place until 7pm on Saturday 7 November. Find yours at map.vote.nz/voting-places, and Party Vote ACT.
2. Ask three people to Party Vote ACT. Friends, family, workmates, neighbours. Forward them this email. A message from someone they trust counts for far more than any ad.

I want my grandchildren to grow up in a country where what they do matters more than who they are. With your Party Vote for ACT, we can ensure the Coalition is re-elected, and make it go further and faster on uniting New Zealanders under One Law for All and One Future Together.

Paul Hnry, ACT

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Student writer wins all three short story placings at literary awards

The Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards prize-giving evening was held on October 22 at Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga, 121 High Street, Hawera.

In the Short Story Secondary School section Lucy Crowley of Te Paepae o Aotea, set a historic precedent by being awarded first, second and third respectively with The Mountain That Left, Persephone Season and The Creek Did Not Care.

"You are a great writer," commented one of the judges, Dr Glenn Colquhoun.

"I just like to write," commented Lucy. "I didn't expect to win. I'm very very happy."

Lauren Kalin, also from the same school, was Highly Commended for Eurydice and My Mountain. Opunake High School's Jasmin Kemsley was also Highly Commended for Seasons.

Dr Glenn Colquhoun judged the poetry entries; Tracey Slaughter judged the short story sections and Matt Rilkoff judged the True Story section; the latter category is open only to secondary students.

The well-organised literary competition was led by Charlotte Stark (Community Outreach Cadet), who welcomed everyone. She paid tribute to the Lysaght Watt Trust as well as the Normanby District Lions Club and the Taranaki Daily News for their generous sponsorship. She was pleased that the event attracted over 180 entries.

Monetary prizes accompany the first three placings in each section: $500 (first), $300 (second) and $200 (third).

Mayor Nixon has described the event as "One of the highlights of South Taranaki's literary calendar, celebrating creativity, storytelling and the enduring legacy of one of our districts most distinctive writers." Of Ronald Hugh Morrieson he said, "His vivid portrayal of provincial New Zealand life and unique sense of humour earned him a special place in our literary history. His influence continues to inspire writers and readers alike."



Lucy Crowley of Te Paepae o Aotea reading her winning short story *The Mountain That Left.*

The Open Short Story section was won by Michaela Stoneman (Patea) with Lacey Long-Legs. "I was really surprised to have won. I am really happy. It was awesome," she said.

Second place went to The Ocean's Voice by Erana Hokopaura-Watkins (Hawera) and third place was awarded to Blinds by Maria Taylor (Stratford).

Highly Commended was The Visit by Marlene Beech (New Plymouth). Also Highly Commended was Pip Harrison (Hawera) with Customer Care. (Pip has won this section a record four times in the past).

The Open Poetry section was won by Koren Miller (Hawera) with West Coast Whitebaiter. Taking second and third place was Stuart Greenhill (Stratford) with Clay a Mouth and Chewing the Bone. Last time Stuart entered (2021) he was placed first and second in this section.

Second in 2025, Lucinda Moorby (Sacred Hearts Girls College, New Plymouth) improved a place to win the Poetry Secondary School section with Small City Boy. "I'm pretty excited. I'm just really happy," she enthused. Second was Lucy Crowley (Te Paepae o Aotea) with The Geometry of an Internal Fog. Lauren Kalin (Te Paepae o Aotea) was third with The Cow Across the Road.

Winning the True Story section was The Retellings from a Humble Sandwich Artist by Lauren Kalin (Te Paepae o Aotea). "I am really pretty excited. I really appreciate writing true stories," said Lauren. She also said she has been a finalist for the last four years.



The True Story section was won by Lauren Kalin with *The Retellings from a Humble Sandwich Artist.* She is also a student from Te Paepae o Aotea.

Cole Lobban (New Plymouth Boys High School) was second with The Cry. In third place was Kayla Malone (Sacred Heart Girls College, New Plymouth) with The Teenage Dream.

Tracey Slaughter praised the short stories she judged. "I was struck by the range and scale and energy of the work arising from your region, by the power and play, heart and humour, wisdom and intensity that fueled your words."

"It is the third time I've judged the competition and the standard only continues to rise," commented poetry judge Dr Glenn Colquhoun. "I can't think of a region in Aotearoa New Zealand with anything to compare." He concluded, "Here is the real value of your writing – you moved me. You made me smile. You made me look again at the world around me. It was a privilege to read your work."

Matt Rilkoff, who judged the True Story section said, "Each piece was refreshingly honest, raw and full of astute observations and vivid descriptions. These are stories told from the heart."

Charlotte and her team must be highly commended for the running and prize-giving conclusion of this literary competition, which ended with a delicious supper. Also, sponsors you all deserve a gold medal.

One suggestion for 2027; Five definite accolades in each section (set in concrete), namely First, Second Third, Highly Commended and Commended. This would have the positive effect of recognition (and encouragement) for a few more entrants who have put their heart and soul into writing for this superb literary event, which, as Dr Glenn pointed out, has no parallel elsewhere in New Zealand.

Rolland McKellar



Michaela Stoneman from Patea was first in the Open Short Story section with Lacey long-legs, which she is reading.

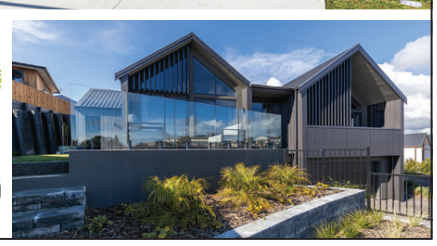
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Highway 45 Classic motorcycles big toys and a passion for Opunake

Opunake has an exciting new retail store, Highway Forty Five Classic Motorcycles, which is situated at 52 Tasman Street – the iconic art deco building on the corner of Tasman and Napier Streets. They opened for the first time on Saturday 24th October, and drew hundreds of motorcyclists and their clubs from around the country for the Grand Opening.

The first thing to notice was the impeccable engaging layout of the premises designed by the owners. Also, what was originally historic law and accounting offices, seemed so much more spacious since Murray and Bernadette purchased the building and conducted an extensive renovation. "What a great looking shop," was the online comment of one visitor, which doubtless reflects the views of many people.

Special mention must go to the eye-catching front counter, which combines polished concrete with the solid steel door salvaged from the building's historic safe, a remnant of its previous life. The couples' son Adam stepped in with the design and creation of the counter by building a railway sleeper frame around the safe door, hand-pouring the concrete top and polishing it to a solid piece of furniture now weighing approximately half a ton, so isn't going anywhere, anytime soon.

Intriguing is the huge historic photographs on display, which hark back to pre-1920 when Hector Parkes had his motorcycle shop in Opunake, and also pays tribute to Jim Hill, who is a well-remembered resident with a passion for racing classic bikes in the 1950s. "The idea was to connect the community historically with our business," comments Murray. "Opunake is a mecca for motorcycles," he says.

The range of classic and iconic motorcycles are for sale in-store, ranging from a 1917 Harley-Davidson Model F (which is for sale on behalf), a 1955 Matchless G3LS, to Suzuki GS and Honda CBF – and plenty in-between. The big names are all there from Britain, Europe, America and Japan.

Murray's passion for motorcycles goes back to his mid-teens when he got his first motorbike. Since then, he has been involved in recovery/restoration, modification, servicing, relocating (Five years with NZ Motorcycle Movers), as well as mechanical repairs and diagnosis. Also, he can prepare bikes for road legal compliance.

Staggered is the sheer range of quality merchandise on offer. And it's certainly not just about the accessories you'd expect a well-equipped motorcyclist to need, such as helmets, gloves and leather jackets. There's a whole lot more to discover, including cameras, sunglasses, belts, caps, luggage, monogrammed mugs, smoking & BBQ accessories, apparel and even remote-control cars and models. As Murray puts it, "They're big toys, for big kids!"

The couple have a wider picture in mind. "When our previous local business sold, we wanted to ensure we reinvested in the town. We're committed to the continued development of Opunake as a vibrant shopping destination and progressive business hub with a wonderfully supportive community."

The store hours are Wednesday to Friday 10am to 3pm and 9am to 4pm on both days of the weekend. "Motorcycles are out and about particularly in the weekends and it's great to be able to provide a destination," explains Murray. (The store is closed Monday and Tuesday).

Make sure you find time to call by – friendly expert attention is guaranteed, as well as a wide selection of competitively priced gift ideas - with Christmas not too far off. For the motorcycles, finance (with MTF) is also available. Facebook is updated regularly with new information. Contact can be made by phoning 029 920 3785 or emailing h45cmc@gmail.com



A huge turn-out to celebrate the opening of Highway 45 Classic Motorcycles.



Owners Murray and Bernadette.



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A classic (1917) Harley Davidson motorbike.

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Manaia issues thrashed out at board meeting

It is hoped the much-awaited Manaia Community Complex will be completed by the end of next year, South Taranaki District Council group manager community services Rob Haveswood told a meeting of the Taranaki Coastal Community Board on October 28.

Earlier that morning he had presented preliminary concept designs for the centre to a community meeting in Manaia.

The complex replaces the Manaia and District War Memorial Hall and the Manaia Sports Complex which had been demolished earlier that year after failing to meet earthquake strengthening standards.

As reported in the Opunake & Coastal News (October 8) there had been a meeting aimed at setting up a group to liaise with the Council and Taranaki Coastal Community Board on issues facing Manaia. At that meeting comments had been made that the community should have some input into the designs for the new centre.

John and Diane Meads from that group said that at a meeting the night before the one on October 28 they had decided to join with the Manaia Community Services Group in meeting with the Council.

"We had quite a few people there and three of them (Community Board chair Andy Whitehead, South Taranaki District councillor Janet Fleming and South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon) turned up which meant we could have a good open discussion," said John. "Quite a few suggestions were made. Some said that the building was around the wrong way, while others asked about the ventilation and what's going to be included."



The state of the berms and trees are among the issues in Manaia that Diane and John Meads want the STDC to address.

Rob Haveswood said he was pleased with the way the meeting had gone.

"The community were very happy and want us to get on and build it," he said. After technical elements had been worked out, they hoped to have work completed by the end of 2027.

Diane Meads said they were told that some extra tweaks could be made, and suggestions raised included having an extra shower per changing room. She said that besides the complex there are other issues around Manaia that have to be addressed, like maintaining the berms and trees around town.

Diane said in future Manaia community meetings would be notified through the Opunake & Coastal News.

After the community meeting a group from Manaia were in Opunake for the Taranaki Coastal Community Board meeting.

Diane said she was frustrated about having to keep coming back to the Council about the state of the berms and trees around Manaia.

"I started coming here about 15 years ago, and I shouldn't have to keep coming back time and time again," she said. "Last year it was the deadly nightshade, and this year the cape daisies are totally out of control. The weeds under the trees were only sprayed once last year."

One man commented on the untidy state of the town's streets.

"I was driving around town yesterday and it's just not a good image for Manaia I believe. Driving along Kauae Street, you have to drive over to the other side of the road to avoid a tree."

Mayor Phil Nixon said the Council keeps note of the number of complaints received. A complaint from a group is counted as one, so he suggested people approach the Council as individuals.

"I basically got told a few years ago to stop ringing on this issue, and that I was a nuisance," said Diane.

The issue of representation on the Community Board also came up for discussion, with there not having been anyone from Manaia on the board since Bonita Bigham.

Mayor Phil Nixon said before the local body elections they try to get people from smaller outlying centres to put their names forward.

Community Board member Kirsty Meynell said she would encourage the new Manaia community group to put somebody forward.

Mayor Nixon suggested getting behind one strong person rather than splitting their votes between several candidates.

He noted the upcoming local government changes.

"We are heading towards a change of some sort, and we don't know what change that will bring."

In other business the Taranaki Coastal Community Board voted to grant $2000 to the Opunake Bowling Club to strengthen sun shade, and $2000 to the Opunake Beach Carnival Committee for the running of the Opunake Beach Carnival.

Antarctic sea ice loss batters ocean's freshwater engine

The Antarctic Intermediate Water – a vast layer of fresh water spanning much of the Southern Hemisphere's ocean – has rapidly reversed its long-term trends in salinity and density, according to new research. The layer helps store carbon, supply oxygen and drive global ocean currents. The researchers say their findings show we may have underestimated the extent of deep-ocean warming and rising sea levels.

Nature Climate Change

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Rates Payment Reminder

The due date for the second instalment of 2026/2027 rates is Wednesday 25 November 2026. Payments received after this date may incur penalty.
For information or to pay online visit: *www.southtaranaki.com/our-council/rates*

Annual Report Highlights Strong Progress and High Community Satisfaction

South Taranaki District Council adopted its 2025/26 Annual Report at last week's extraordinary Council meeting, with the report receiving a clean audit opinion.

The report outlines the Council's financial and non-financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2026, including progress on commitments made in year two of its 2024–2034 Long Term Plan.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says the report reflects a year of solid progress despite ongoing cost pressures and significant change across the local government sector.

"While it has been a challenging operating environment, we have remained focused on affordability, maintaining reliable services and investing in the infrastructure and facilities our communities need," Mayor Nixon says.

"We reduced the average rates increase from the 8.66% forecast in the Long Term Plan to 5.46%, while maintaining planned service levels. Receiving a clean audit opinion provides assurance that our financial and performance reporting fairly reflects where we are and what we have achieved."

Highlights included Plan Change 4 becoming operative, implementation of the Water Services Delivery Plan, progress toward an in-house water services business unit, ongoing town revitalisation projects, continued development at the South Taranaki Business Park, and the start of demolition work to make way for a new purpose-built facility in Manaia.

Chief Executive Fiona Aitken says the results show the Council continues to provide services residents value highly.

"The independent annual residents' survey found that 91% of respondents were satisfied with Council services overall. Satisfaction was particularly high for libraries at 96%, cemeteries at 95% and wastewater services at 95%," Ms Aitken says.

"While these results are encouraging, the Annual Report also identifies areas where we need to improve. We will continue working to lift satisfaction with roading, animal management and solid waste collection while maintaining strong results across our other services."

Ms Aitken says the Council remains in a sound financial position and continues to balance delivery of its capital programme with careful financial management.

"The year brought considerable change, but we continued making progress on the services, infrastructure and projects that matter to our communities. The clean audit opinion provides confidence in the quality and transparency of the Council's reporting."

The adopted 2025/26 Annual Report will be available on the Council's website. An audited summary is expected to be available online by 28 November 2026.

Upcoming Meetings

Waste Services Joint Committee
Monday 9 November, 10.30am

Policy and Strategy Committee
Monday 9 November, 1pm

Water Services Committee
Monday 16 November, 9am

Risk and Assurance Committee
(MERCER) Monday 16 November, 11am

Ordinary Council
Wednesday 2 December, 4pm

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

Winners Announced at Lysaght-Watt RHM Literary Awards 2026

Taranaki's literary talent was celebrated as the winners of the 2026 Lysaght-Watt Trust Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards were announced at a ceremony held at Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga on 22 October.

This year's judges, Tracey Slaughter, Glenn Colquhoun and Matt Rilkoff, praised the high calibre of entries received, noting that many of the standout works were deeply rooted in the South Taranaki landscape and reflected a strong sense of place.

One of the evening's most remarkable achievements came from Lucy Crowley, who made competition history by becoming the first entrant to secure first, second and third place within the same category.

Congratulations to all winners and entrants whose creativity, storytelling and passion for writing continue to enrich Taranaki's literary community. Among the major winners were Michaela Stoneman (Pātea), who took out the Open Short Story section, Lucy Crowley (Te Paepae o Aotea), who dominated the Secondary School Short Story category, Koren Miller (Hāwera), winner of the Open Poetry section, Lucinda Moorby (Sacred Heart Girls' College), who claimed first place in Secondary School Poetry, and Lauren Kalin (Te Paepae o Aotea), who won the True Story category.



For the full list of award winners and commendations visit: ***www.southtaranaki.com.***

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Arts in the Park Returns to King Edward Park this December 2026

On Saturday 5 December, Hāwera's picturesque King Edward Park will once again 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.

If you are looking for that perfect Christmas gift or a new piece of art, then this is just the day for you. With everything from handmade jewellery to garden art, woodturning to knitting, there is sure to be something for everyone.

Music will fill the Park throughout the day from various performers 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 and train rides. South Taranaki District Council Arts Coordinator Michaela Stoneman will be on hand in the Arts Tipi, a creative space for some fun hands-on activities for the kids.

Artists, crafters and food vendors wanting to hold a stall on the day must register with the council Events Coordinator.

Registrations can be made online at ***www.southtaranaki.com/artsinthepark***

This free event runs from 10am – 3pm on Saturday 5 December at King Edward Park, Hāwera.

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2021 Toyota RAV4 GZ
2.5, Leather, Sunroof, 42kms, 2 to choose



2018 Toyota Hilux SR5 PreRunner
Auto, Every option, Stunning, 76kms



2015-17 Toyota Aqua
3 to choose, great colour selection



2015 Mercedes-Benz GL & GLS 350
Formatic, 3.0, DSL/T, 3 to choose, Black/White, 47 & 54kms



2026 Daihatsu Hijet 4WD TIPPER
Both Brand New



2017/18/22 Nissan Leaf
9 to choose, 40KW & 60KW, Great range of colours



2010 Ford Falcon XR6 FG Ute
4.0, Hard to find, Great condition, 25kms



2021 BMW X5 M50d M-SPORT
3l Turbo, Only 33kms, Stunning car!



2019 Toyota Camry G SPEC
Immaculate cars, 2 to choose, Champagne or Silver



2007/14/15 Audi TT S LINE
Performance Pack,Alloys, Black /Charcoal/Silver, Low kms



2026 Toyota Hiace GL 2.8 DSL
6 Seater, 4WD, Ready for work



2023 MINI Cooper S
NZ New, One owner, Leather, 10kms



2007/14/17 Audi Q7 S LINE
3.0 Petrol or 4.2 Diesel, Sunroof, Black, White or Blue



2018/19 Mazda CX-3 SPORT
Leather, Top Spec, Immaculate, Both low kms



2014 Ford Focus S
2.0, Auto, Stunning car, Only 9000kms, Must be seen



2014 Land Rover Defender 110 Model
2.2, Turbo Diesel, Ready to go offroad, 19kms



2015 MINI COOPER S, 5 Door
1.6 Turbo, 2 to choose, Amazing car, 15kms



2020/23 Toyota Yaris X
1.5, Hybrid, White or Pink, 2 to choose, low kms



2019 BMW X6 50I M SPORT
4.4L Twin-Turbo V8, Like new, Leather, Sunroof, 40kms



2013 Toyota Vellfire 7 SEATER
2.4, Dual sliding doors, Auto, 10kms



2013 Toyota Prius
Spacious, Drives exceptionally well, 127kms



2017 Land Rover Discovery
3.0L, T/DSL, 7 Seater, 77kms



2006 BMW 650i Convertible
Mint car, Ready for summer, Auto



2008 BMW X5
One Owner, Roof Rails, 3.0L M57 Turbo Diesel



2017 Audi SQ5
New model, Leather, Sunroof, Immaculate, 66kms



2019 Audi Q8 S LINE
Leather, Tinted Glass, As new, 77kms



2017 Jeep WranglerUNLIMITED 4WD
3.6, Spacious, 20" Wheels, Highly sought after



2023 Kia Stonic LX T
Auto, As new, 27kms,



2017/19 Mercedes-Benz GLA 220 4MATIC
2..0, Sunroof, Leather, Blue or Black



2011 Mitsubishi Delica
4WD, Tow Bar, Flaps, Great condition, 130kms



2016 BMW i3 SE Extender
Plug in, Electric, Great little car, 57kms



2018 Honda Civic SX
1.8, NZ New, 65kms



2017 Ford Escape LTD Titanium
NZ New, Sunroof, Leather, Lovely condition



2018 Porsche Macan GTS
Twin Turbo V6, Sunroof, AWD, 68kms



2022 Mitsubishi Pajero Sport
NZ New, 7 Seater, 2.5 Diesel, Leather, 68kms



2026 Toyota Hiace GRADCABIN 4WD
Brand new, 2.7 Petrol, 10 Seater



2018 Toyota Prius Z
Plug in Hybrid, 2 owners, Stunning car, 68kms



2019 Toyota Corolla GX
NZ New, 2.0, Great little car, 92kms

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David Deacon 1948 - 2016

The Stratford community has lost a Stratford business owner with the passing of David Deacon from Scarpas Shoe Repairs, aged 78.

A regular advertiser in the Opunake & Coastal News he initially set up a shoe shop and shoe repair business in Opunake on a short term basis. He subsequently moved the business to Stratford.

His association with the paper continued when he moved the business to Stratford and, as a regular advertiser, he featured in a number of articles in the Opunake & Coastal News over the years the last as recently as September.

Born in Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire, England, David grew up with two older brothers, Gordon and Neville. He often spoke fondly of his childhood, remembering adventures on motorbikes and in cars. Family members recall his enthusiasm for taking nieces and nephews on spirited drives around the village, something they enjoyed far more than their parents did.

Following the death of his father, Frank, David emigrated to New Zealand with his mother, Alice. They settled in Blenheim, where his brother Gordon and family were already living. New Zealand would become the country where David built his future and spent the rest of his life.

David joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force as a firefighter. After being diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, he moved into a role as a Publications Librarian. During his years of service, he earned the nickname "Arch", that remained with him for many years.

It was through the Air Force that David met Teresa Maynard. The couple married at Ohakea Air Base in 1976 and later welcomed two children, Jason and Amanda. David completed 20 years of service with the RNZAF.



David Deacon who will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

After leaving the Air Force, David and Teresa purchased a fish and chip shop and moved to Hunterville. Never afraid of hard work or change, he later bought a shoe repair business in Whanganui. What began as a new venture became a trade he would practise for the remainder of his working life.

David and Teresa later relocated to Stratford, closer to Teresa's family roots in Eltham. David moved his shoe repair business, Scarpas, with them. The business first operated from a small shop near New World before moving to larger premises on Broadway. Over time, Scarpas became a well-known local shop, attracting customers from across Taranaki and beyond.

David was known not only for his craftsmanship but also for his generosity. He often carried out small repairs, shared surplus vegetables from his garden, and rarely missed an opportunity for a friendly conversation. Many customers called in as much for a chat as they did for shoe repairs. David was a proud member of the local RSA and Rotary Club. David was known for attending many ANZAC day parades – especially ones that included a free lunch!

His willingness to help others made him a well-known figure in Stratford. He enjoyed seeing his work and business featured in local newspapers and took pride in sharing newspaper clippings online with family and friends around New Zealand and England. Through social media he maintained strong connections with relatives across the world.

Family remained central to David's life. He was especially proud of his grandsons, Josh and Oli, and loved hearing about their activities and achievements.

David also loved to travel, undeterred by unfamiliar cultures, languages or long-distance travel, he embraced the experience wholeheartedly and visited many places in Asia as well as Australia.

The loss of Teresa from ovarian cancer in 2013 was deeply felt. In later years David found companionship again after meeting Maria online. He travelled to the Philippines to meet her, Maria later joined him in New Zealand, they married and together they built a happy life in Stratford. David and Maria were often seen out on morning walks with their neighbours.

David's sudden passing leaves a significant gap in the community he served for many years. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend, and a generous member of the Stratford community whose kindness and willingness to help others left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

He will also be affectionately remembered at the Opunake & Coastal News for his lovely sense of humour, his forthright opinions – particularly on politics - and his periodic refusal to repair shoes from a particular staff member on the Opunake & Coastal News, which he would insist were unrepairable. It became a standing joke and David loved a bit of a tease. He also enjoyed a challenge and would invariably do a wonderful job on the "irreparable" shoes.

He was authentic, one of a kind, called a spade a spade and honest. And great fun. He will be much missed by us at the paper and by all privileged to know him.

David is survived by his wife Maria, children Jason and Amanda, grandsons Josh and Oli, brother Neville and his extended family in New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Bernice McKellar

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A blooming marvellous ownership opportunity

A lovingly restored 130-year-old historic villa with a long history in provincial rural New Zealand and set amidst one of the country's foremost botanical showpiece gardens has been placed on the market for sale.

Known as Riverlea, the unique property on the northern suburban outskirts of New Plymouth features a 280-square metre four-bedroom/two-bathroom home which has been lovingly restored by avid professional gardeners Ann and Vince Naus who have spent years tending gardens on the 4.5-hectare block.

Such are Ann and Vince's gardening skills that Riverlea has regularly been one of the headline venues in the annual Taranaki Garden Festival which showcases the best homes and gardens in and around New Plymouth – and takes place from October 30 through to November 8 this year.

Located in the rural enclave of Paraite just north of New Plymouth, Riverlea is named after the small farming settlement of Riverlea in Southern Taranaki where Ann was born and raised.

Ann and Vince Naus purchased the 4.5-hectare property in 2003. Their imposing single-storey villa had been moved onto the site some four years earlier, and while a new roof, plumbing and electrical wiring works were undertaken over the intervening period, the dwelling ultimately delivered the couple an enticing 'blank canvas' opportunity to expand and further enhance on the residence's solid colonial 'bones' while remaining true to its colonial architectural character, influences and styles.



Riverlea.

Over ensuing years, while simultaneously creating a rambling maze of stunning English manor style gardens, the couple also lovingly added a new kitchen to the homestead, along with a master bedroom with ensuite, office, and laundry, along with a substantial two-car garage with a loft at the top which was originally designed to feature Ann's 'woman cave' hobby room but instead ended up being used as a bunk house for the grandchildren.

During the renovation expansions, Ann and Vince uncovered a faded newspaper from 1897 within the scrim filling behind the wallpaper – giving verification of the home's heritage.

Now downsizing and taking on a new smaller lifestyle development project just five-minute's drive down the road, Ann and Vince have placed Riverlea colonial homestead and gardens at 367 Corbett Road on the market for sale by negotiation over $1,595,000 through Bayleys New Plymouth.

Bayleys salespeople Neale Parkinson and Rachel Williams said Riverlea was a special opportunity which would suit either buyers looking for a lifestyle block-sized property underpinned by an executive quality heritage home, or buyers looking for hectares of carefully curated show standard flora and shrub gardens along with an authentically renovated dwelling which paid homage to Taranaki's rural history.

"The outstanding gardens and nursery amenities occupy about a third of Riverlea's greater grounds, with much of the property perfectly suited for raising family livestock, or for a pony or two," said Parkinson and Williams.

Reflecting the historical core of the Riverlea villa, ornate ceiling plaster fretwork and architraves adorn the home's airy 18-metre long high-stud central hallway which leads from the front door with its leadlight panelling into the heart of the dwelling.

A substantial kitchen with large central island workbench makes for easy foodservice to the adjoining family dining room area

Continued page 21.

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A blooming marvellous ownership opportunity

Continued from page 20.

before veering into an L-shaped nook-style living room with banquette seating under bay windows. The communal areas all feature natural polished timber flooring.

Full height sashed windows along the length of the home's lounge and formal dining room open up onto the covered deck and in-built spa pool, before spreading out onto the lawn and mature gardens vista. A wood burner is used for heating the area in winter – with an ample supply of fire logs sourced from across Riverlea's stock-grazed paddocks.

A stepped wooden walkway meanders off the back of the garden down into a sub-tropical palm plantation… ultimately ending in a secluded al-fresco dining timber-clad deck or relaxation spot sitting immediately beside the banks of the placid Mangaoraka Stream which provides a cooling swimming spot in summer.

With tui, wood pigeon and morepork heard in the trees above, Vince also confides that their secluded patch of the river is also home to multiple trout and some 10 freshwater eels – all regularly seen from the deck while sipping on a cold beer or glass of wine under the shade after a hard day's work in the adjacent gardens.

Meanwhile, what was once a grassed tennis court beside the home has been converted into a croquet lawn where numerous weddings have been hosted by the pair… but with the future option of the area containing a golf putting green, or a swimming pool and outdoor entertaining area.



Riverlea set amidst a beautiful garden.

Fertile soiled multi-tiered vegetable planter beds are just a short walk from the home – delivery near year-round domestic produce and crops. Sustaining Riverlea's lifestyle block ambience is a variety of rural infrastructure buildings including a concrete-floored three-bay implement and gardening equipment storage shed four fenced poultry huts and shelters which all housed Vince's prized chicken broods, and a domed hothouse with a net-covered seedling nursery. With a nod to eco' efficiency, chicken by-product is utilised on a weekly basis to fertilise Riverleas' vast garden network.

The Victorian manor-like gravelled driveway leading to Riverlea homestead and expansive car parking and turning circle is flanked by mature plane and birch trees – adding to the property's grandeur and elegance.

The northern New Plymouth suburb of Bell Block Beach is just a short drive from Riverlea, while the renowned Coastal Walkway path gives convenient flat topography cycle access to New Plymouth's central business district some eight kilometres to the south. New Plymouth was awarded the title of 'Most Liveable City for populations between 75,000 – 150,000' by the International Awards for Liveable Communities in 2021.

Pussy back with owner



Greyie back home with its happy owner.

The cat that went missing from Bell Block which we reported on in the October 8 issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is back home with its owner.

The cat that had recently moved with its owner from Oaonui to New Plymouth strolled into a house in Nobs Line Fitzroy several days after we published the article asking if anyone had seen the cat.

The female owner of the property who has two daughters said she was quite prepared to give the tired looking cat a home but thought she'd better get it checked to see if it didn't have an owner. She took it into a local vet and found the grey cat which had been microchipped did have an owner.

Kathy was delighted to get her cat back and the cat likewise "couldn't stop purring" when they were reunited, she said.

It had been surmised that the cat, as cats sometimes do, was possibly trying to return to its former home in Oaonui and the vet commented that this may have been the case. It had travelled 6 kilometres from its new home in Bell Block.

The successful return of a cat to its owner featured in a story in the Opunake & Coastal News some time ago. The big fluffy cat called Heathcliffe, a permanent and popular fixture at a local Opunake Hotel, had disappeared. Contacted by the owners, the Opunake & Coastal News did a story on the missing moggy in the hope of finding the cat.

Shortly after reading the article and photo in the paper an Okato resident, a cat resembling the photo in the article strolled into their kitchen. It was Heathcliff. Whether the cat had made its way there under its own steam or somehow hitched a lift in a trailer or some vehicle was never established.

There was also another cat that returned to Oaonui after its owners had shifted to New Plymouth.

Meanwhile Greyie has been consigned to the second small room in Kathy's new residence while it acclimatises to its new abode and Kathy noted was beginning to adjust.

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Seven out of 10 sunscreens tested by Consumer NZ failed to meet their SPF label claims

. While six still offered high protection, one of the most expensive products promised SPF50, but delivered just SPF14.

Coola Zinc Oxide Sunscreen Lotion 50 tested at just SPF14. This product offers low protection, and is way off the factor 50 promised on its label. At $69 per 100ml, it was one of the priciest products Consumer tested.

"If a sunscreen label says SPF50, New Zealanders should be able to trust it," says Belinda Castles, researcher at Consumer NZ.

"New Zealand has one of the highest skin cancer and melanoma rates in the world. Skin cancer is largely preventable, and we rely on sunscreens to protect us from the sun's harsh rays."

Consumer tested 10 widely available sunscreens, priced from $4 to $76 per 100ml, to check whether their SPF and broad-spectrum claims stacked up.

SPF measures protection against UVB rays, the main cause of sunburn. Broad-spectrum sunscreens also protect against UVA rays, which penetrate deep into the skin and can cause wrinkles and age spots. Both UVA and UVB rays can cause skin cancer.

The good news: every product tested met the requirements for broad-spectrum protection based on the tested SPF. The bad news: only 3 out of 10 met their SPF claims.

Consumer's test found that a higher price did not guarantee premium protection.

"The cheapest product we tested met its label claims. Smart365 Sun Sunscreen Lotion SPF50+ costs $4 per 100ml," says Castles.

Similarly, the Cancer Society Everyday Protection SPF50 met its claims and costs $9 per 100ml.

"The other six sunscreens that did not meet label claims still offered high protection of SPF 30 or higher – they just didn't deliver the SPF promised on the label," says Castles.

Last year, testing undertaken by Australian advocacy organisation Choice found similarly woeful results.

"Choice's test found 16 out of 20 tested sunscreens didn't meet their SPF claims. Eleven of those products were sold in New Zealand too," says Belinda Castles.

Sunscreen regulation

The Sunscreen (Product Safety Standard) Act 2022 requires sunscreens to comply with the Australian and New Zealand sunscreen standard, which requires independent testing. There's no rule on how often sunscreens must be tested. Previous Consumer investigations have found some companies rely on test reports that are several years old.

"Our latest test results show why regular sunscreen testing is essential. Consumers should be able to trust what's printed on a product label," says Castles.

Consumer has shared its latest findings with the Commerce Commission.

Shop with confidence

With support from Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora, New Zealand's most comprehensive database of sunscreens is hosted on Consumer NZ's website for all New Zealanders.

The sunscreen database allows users to filter products by price, SPF, water resistance and the last time a sunscreen was tested.

"The database has been designed to help people to make the best possible decision about sun protection for themselves and their households," says Belinda Castles.



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Coastguard supports search for missing kayaker near Waihi Beach

Coastguard volunteers from three units are helping with a search for a kayaker reported missing off Waihi Beach.

Coastguard National Operations Centre was alerted after the man was reported overdue from a fishing trip.

Coastguard Waihi Beach launched its rescue vessel, Gallagher Rescue, with seven volunteer crew just before 10pm on Tuesday. Until about 11.40pm, they searched the area where wind and currents were most likely to have carried him, then stopped for the night. Conditions were good and visibility was clear, but no sign of the man was found.

The search started again this morning, and three Coastguard rescue vessels are now on the water: Gallagher Rescue from Coastguard Waihi Beach, TECT Rescue from Coastguard Tauranga and GJ Gardner from Coastguard Whangamatā. The vessels are working together to search open water between Waihi Beach and Tūhua (Mayor Island).

Around midday today an empty kayak east of Waihi Beach was recovered. It was inside the area already being searched. Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand updated its drift modelling to include where the kayak was found.

Sadly, at about 2.45pm a Coastguard Whangamatā crew on board GJ Gardener found a body in the search area.

Coastguard Waihi Beach's building is being used as the base for the Incident Management Team, where Coastguard staff and volunteers are working with search and rescue partners on planning and operations.

Coastguard's thoughts are with the man's family at this difficult time.

As Police are leading this search, please direct further questions to them



Kaponga WI celebrate 95 years

On October 12, Kaponga WI held a small celebration for their 95th Birthday at the Midhirst Tavern. Kyla Ellis, the granddaughter of secretary Jo Ellis made and iced the cake which included the pansy which is the Kaponga WI flower.

The cake was cut by the two longest standing members of Kaponga, Raylene McDonald and Joy Eliason. Each member received a small gift to celebrate the day. Rosalie Gibson won the raffle.

The September meeting was held at the home of Jo Berquist. The thought for the month was " The more you sweat in practice the least you bleed in battle." The roll call was "Have you or do you play a musical instrument?" The recorder, violin and clarinet were mentioned along with the piano. Joy Eliason told us how she started to play the piano at the age of four and still play today. Sharyn Hurley said that it was Joy who taught her to play the piano. Carolyn Nicholas won the raffle and Trish O'Riley was presented the silver dish. The competition was an ornament of any size and the story behind it : 1. Carolyn Nicholas. 2. Jo Berquist and Rayleen McDonald. 3. Diane West.



Joy Eliason and Raylene McDonald cut the birthday cake.

After a delicious shared lunch we sat around and watched a photo slide of 90 years of South Taranaki Federation of W I. Lots of laughter of the fashion back then, and heaps of memories came flooding back.

Our August meeting was held at the home of Gillian Frandsen. The thought of the month was " strength is the ability to break a chocolate bar into four pieces and only eating one of the pieces." The raffle was won by Raylene McDonald.

Competition results were : A hand crafted item made by yourself – 1. Dorothy Hughes. 2. Jo Ellis and Rosalie Gibson. 3. Dene Lines and Gillian. Three choc chippie biscuits. 1. Jo Ellis. 2. Dene Lines. 3. Diane West. Prettiest Cake Plate. 1. Jo Ellis. 2. Diane West. 3. Dene Lines.

Lunch was supplied by members and once again enjoyed.

After lunch Gillian our host had organise a general knowledge quiz and a memory game. Lots of fun was had and we all got small chocolate bars for our efforts.

Jo Ellis

Rau Te Tai Ākina
Celebrating 50 years of Parininihi ki Waitōtara

The celebration of 50 years of Parininihi ki Waitōtara continued with the recent opening of Rau Te Tai Ākina, a public exhibition at Puke Ariki exploring the history of raupatu, perpetual leasing and the enduring struggle to retain Māori land in Taranaki.

Te Rau Titikura shareholder whānau, alongside iwi, hapū and the wider community, attended the opening. The exhibition brings together historical records, artworks, film, oral histories and taonga that trace the experiences of Taranaki Māori across generations.

Parininihi ki Waitōtara Te Rau Matomato, Chief Executive Officer Aisha Ross (Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui, Taranaki, Te Ātiawa, Whakatōhea) says the 50th anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Incorporation while acknowledging the history that led to its establishment.

"While we celebrate 50 years of Parininihi ki Waitōtara, the story of our whenua and how our people extend well beyond the establishment of the Incorporation. Raupatu and perpetual leasing have shaped the lives of generations of Taranaki Māori, and their consequences remain with us today," says Aisha.

"This exhibition is an opportunity to share that history, honour the resilience of those who came before us and recognise our collective responsibility to understand what happened, why it matters and what it means for the generations who follow," says Aisha.

Among the displays is a large digital map illustrating the extent of land confiscated across Taranaki following the New Zealand Wars. By 1880, more than one million acres of Taranaki Māori land had been confiscated, fundamentally altering the relationship between whānau, hapū, iwi and their whenua.

Alongside these historical accounts, the exhibition features works by artists with strong connections to Taranaki, brought together by artist and exhibition curator Bonita Bigham (Ngāruahine, Te Ātiawa).

"We are grateful to have on display paintings from Darcy Nicholas, whale tooth and bone carvings from Rangi Kipa, and unique whale baleen pieces by Ngahina Hohaia," says Bonita.

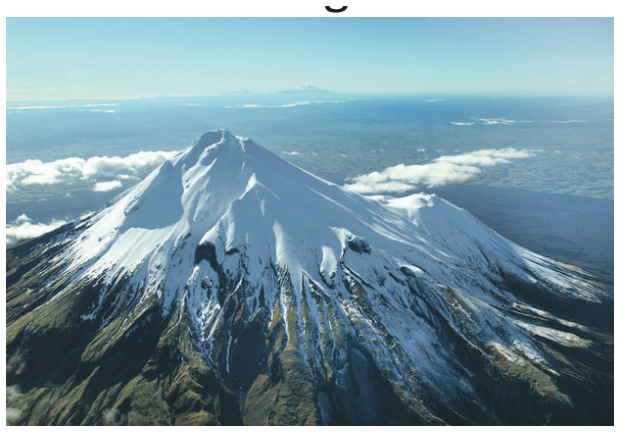
Works by Reeve Hokopaura, Kim Kahu, Angela Kerehoma, Hemi Sundgren, and Dion Tuuta also feature in the exhibition, bringing together a range of artistic expressions that contribute to the wider kōrero of the whenua, its history, and its people.

"Our story, told by our own voices, reflects the resistance of our tūpuna. The mahi of our ringatoi, our storytellers, is an act of reconciliation through which Taranaki Māori continue to extend a hand of generosity, despite all we have endured," says Bonita.

Rau Te Tai Ākina is open to the public at Puke Ariki until early April 2027.

Exhibition enquiries: Bonita Bigham - bonita.bigham@npdc.govt.nz

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Sky, a male domestic cat who had previously lived as a stray before being adopted by the author.

Credit: Madoka

Some scaredy-cats are just shy like human babies

Some scaredy-cats are just shy like human babies

Shy cats come in different types, say Japanese researchers, including curious cats that approach people despite their fear. The team adapted surveys designed to understand human babies and used these to ask cat owners about their pets' traits, like how quickly the kitties warmed up to people or how they responded to loud noises and new places. Of the fearful cats, most also avoided new people and objects - but some, mostly males or born stray, felt the fear and approached it anyway. This is similar to shyness in babies, the researchers say, noting that understanding cats' complex personalities could help people improve their welfare.



FOUND A LUMP ON YOUR PET? HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Finding a new lump or bump on your cat or dog can be worrying. The good news is that many lumps are harmless, but unfortunately, you can't tell what a lump is simply by looking at or feeling it.

Lumps can be caused by anything from fatty growths, cysts and warts to infections, benign tumours or cancer. Even a small, painless lump can sometimes be something that needs treatment.

Keep an eye out for lumps that:

- Appear suddenly or grow quickly
- Change in size, shape or texture
- Feel firm or become painful
- Bleed or become ulcerated
- Interfere with movement, eating or normal activities

Regularly checking your pet while grooming, playing or cuddling them is a great way to spot changes early.

If you find a lump, don't wait for it to become a problem – get it checked by your vet. We may recommend a fine needle aspirate (FNA), where cells are collected from the lump using a small needle and examined to help determine what it is.

The earlier a concerning lump is identified, the more treatment options your pet may have.

If you've noticed a new or changing lump on your pet, get in touch with the team at Taranaki Vet Centre. We're here to help keep your pets happy and healthy!

TARANAKI VETERINARY CENTRE

Where to vote

All Saints Church Hall
88 King Edward Street, Eltham
Opening hours

Wed, 28 Oct	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Thu, 29 Oct	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Fri, 30 Oct	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sat, 31 Oct	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Mon, 2 Nov	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Tue, 3 Nov	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Wed, 4 Nov	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Thu, 5 Nov	10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Fri, 6 Nov	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Hawera Presbyterian Centre
35 Argyle Street, Hāwera
Opening hours

Mon, 26 Oct	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tue, 27 Oct	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Wed, 28 Oct	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Thu, 29 Oct	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Fri, 30 Oct	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sat, 31 Oct	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Mon, 2 Nov	9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Tue, 3 Nov	9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Wed, 4 Nov	9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Thu, 5 Nov	10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Fri, 6 Nov	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Kaponga War Memorial Hall
57 Victoria Street, Kaponga
Opening hours

Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Manaia School Library
36 Karaka Street, Manaia
Opening hours

Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Matapu Hall
592 Skeet Road, Matapu
Opening hours

Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Midhirst Primary School Library
8 Erin Street, Midhirst
Opening hours

Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Mokoia School
969A South Road, Mokoia
Opening hours

Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Ngaere School
4355 Mountain Road, Ngaere
Opening hours

Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Normanby Primary School Hall
3 Hunter Street, Normanby
Opening hours

Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Oakura Community Hall
Manin South Road
Sat 31 Oct 9am-5pm
Sun 1 Nov 9am-3pm
Sat 7 Nov 9am-7pm

Okato Playcentre
37 Carthew Street
Sat Nov 7 9am-7pm

Omata Community Hall
Holloway Road
Sat Nov 7 9am-7pm

Ōpunake High School Hall
149-151 Tasman Street, Ōpunake
Opening hours

Mon, 26 Oct	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat, 31 Oct	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sun, 1 Nov	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Ōpunake Library Plus
43 Tasman Street, Ōpunake
Opening hours

Mon, 2 Nov	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tue, 3 Nov	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wed, 4 Nov	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thu, 5 Nov	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Fri, 6 Nov	9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Pātea Old Folks Association Hall
139 Egmont Street, Pātea
Opening hours

Sat, 31 Oct	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Mon, 2 Nov	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Tue, 3 Nov	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Wed, 4 Nov	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Thu, 5 Nov	11:00 am - 7:00 pm
Fri, 6 Nov	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat, 7 Nov	9:00 am - 7:00 pm



Having babies back-to-back may affect how the body ages

An international review of studies covering millions of pregnancies found when pregnancies happen too close to each other, the body may not have enough time to recover, causing changes related to biological aging, such as changes in DNA and blood tests. The review also shows some signs of biological ageing could ease after birth, but some changes may persist. The researchers say a space of 18 to 23 months between pregnancies could offer the best health outcomes for mothers.

Where to vote

Pembroke School
486 Pembroke Road West, Stratford
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Pukengahu Hall
1 Waihapa Road, Pukengahu
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Pungarehu Old Post Office
Main South Road
Sat 7 Nov 9am-7pm

Rahotu School Hall
Surf Highway 45
Sat 7 Nov 9am-7pm

Ramanui School Hall
85 Fairfield Road, Hāwera
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Rawhitiroa Community Hall
4 Horoi Road, Eltham
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Stratford High School
90A Swansea Road, Stratford
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Stratford War Memorial Centre
55 Miranda Street, Stratford
Opening hours
Mon, 26 Oct 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tue, 27 Oct 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Wed, 28 Oct 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Thu, 29 Oct 10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Fri, 30 Oct 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sat, 31 Oct 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Mon, 2 Nov 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Tue, 3 Nov 10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Wed, 4 Nov 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Thu, 5 Nov 10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Fri, 6 Nov 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Tawhiti School Hall
16 Galt Street, Hāwera
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Te Kiri Hall
Eltham Road, Te Kiri
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Ruanui
245 South Road, Hāwera
Opening hours
Sat, 31 Oct 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sun, 1 Nov 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Languages spoken
Te reo Māori

Turuturu School Hall
194 Glover Road, Hāwera
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Waverley Primary School Hall
1 Gloag Street, Waverley
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Whakaahurangi Marae Wharekai
130 Celia Street, Stratford
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Whenuakura School Hall
52 Kaharoa Road, Pātea
Opening hours
Sat, 7 Nov 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Around a third of people may be lying about symptoms to get antibiotics, including for their kids:

Inappropriate use of antibiotics contributes to the development of superbugs, and two US studies have looked into people misrepresenting their symptoms to doctors so they can get the drugs. The first study surveyed around 1,000 adults, finding nearly a third said they'd misrepresented symptoms, mostly cold-like symptoms.

Reasons given included feeling really unwell, believing antibiotics would help, a desire for control over treatment, and wanting to recover quickly.

The second study surveyed around 250 caregivers about whether they'd misrepresented a child's symptoms to get antibiotics. Around a quarter admitted to exaggerating or fabricating symptoms, while around one-in-five said they'd done both. The findings highlight the need for improved public education around appropriate antibiotic use and better communication between patients or caregivers and their doctors, the authors conclude.

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Lower parking charges proposed and dogs in New Plymouth's CBD approved

A proposal to reduce parking charges in New Plymouth's CBD from $3 to $2 an hour is likely to be included in NPDC's draft Long-Term Plan for public consultation next year.

Elected Council members have debated a range of options for metered and time-restricted parking in the CBD, including indicative costs and revenue impacts.

As well as the reduced parking rate, the Council is proposing to: allow SuperGold holders to park free for two hours at any time of day, retain the two-hour parking limit on Devon Street, and consider a capital project to secure the Downtown Carpark through managed entry and to retain one level for casual parking and reverting the remaining levels to leased parking.

Councillors are due to make interim decisions on the draft 2027-2037 Long-term Plan in December.

The Council also approved a range of changes to parking controls across New Plymouth including mobility parking, loading zones, time-restricted parking at various locations.

It also asked staff for a district-wide review of mobility parking to identify gaps and develop a prioritised programme to ensure every school has access to at least one appropriately located mobility parking space. Staff will report back to Council on findings and costs.

An amendment to the Dog Control Bylaw 2020 was approved, which means dogs will be allowed leash and under control in New Plymouth's central business area.

Currently only those who live in the city centre and people with disability dogs can walk their dog through the area, but all other dogs are prohibited.

From November 7, dogs, with the exception of those classified as dangerous or menacing , will be allowed on leash and under control in: Ariki Street and Gill Street between Egmont Street and Gover Street, Devon Street between Robe Street and Gover Street, Egmont Street from Ariki Street to Devon Street, and Puke Ariki Landing.

The Council also adopted NPDC's Procurement Policy, which includes a stronger focus on supporting local economic development. The Policy outlines how the organisation will consider opportunities to support local businesses and economic growth through its procurement processes, while continuing to meet its obligations for fair, transparent and value-for-money purchasing. The Policy was last updated in 2019 and will support the Procurement Strategy that was approved in 2025.

Elected members have approved internal debt funding to pay for $4.3m of costs on projects that no longer qualify as Council-owned capital assets. The decision means these costs will be covered by rates but spread across the 2027-2037 Long-term Plan.

SAFE slams proposed rodeo code

Animal rights organisation SAFE says the revised Rodeo Code of Welfare demonstrates the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee's (NAWAC's) reluctance to confront the fundamental cruelty of rodeo or acknowledge that an industry built on exploiting animals for entertainment has no place in modern society.

SAFE maintains that the code of welfare review process presented NAWAC with a crucial opportunity to protect animals. Rather than refining the rules for how animals can continue to be used in these events, the advisory committee should have formally advised the Minister responsible for animal welfare that an industry built on inflicting fear and distress on animals for entertainment is fundamentally incapable of protecting their welfare.

SAFE Campaign Manager Emily Hall says genuine animal welfare protections cannot coexist with an industry that terrorises animals for entertainment.

"New Zealand's animal welfare system should be focused on more than reducing the level of harm these events are allowed to continue, the risk of inflicted on animals in rodeo. It should be working to end it."

SAFE says while the proposed code includes some measures intended to reduce harm, it fails to address the fundamental problem with rodeo itself.

"Animals will continue to be subjected to fear, pain and distress for the sake of entertainment. As long as injury and death can't be eliminated" says Hall.

SAFE highlights the serious injury risks faced by animals used in rodeo, including ripped tendons, broken bones, horns torn off, severe bruising, and organ damage.

"Rather than refining the rules for how rodeo events can continue, the Government and NAWAC should recognise that it's unacceptable to subject animals to suffering for the sake of entertainment and finally put an end rodeo" Hall says.

SAFE is now calling on people to have their say on the revised code of welfare and submit through the public consultation process, which is open until 9 December.

"This is an opportunity for Kiwis to speak out against rodeo cruelty in New Zealan

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Council votes for more time for water charging structure and mock bills

NPDC has revoked the previous Council's August 2025 decision to introduce fully volumetric water pricing in favour of Wai Hononga Water Services Limited's request for more time to develop and consult the community on a new water charging structure and indicative pricing.

As a result, it was also decided to hit pause on sending out mock water bills to residential properties until early next year.

At a recent extraordinary Council meeting, elected members decided that NPDC and Wai Hononga should work together confirming the charging structure for water by mid-January 2027 and the indicative pricing for water by mid-March, for Wai Hononga to consult on with the public. NPDC would distribute mock water bills to residential property owners in April/May and again in July/August, showing the previous three-months water use and the indicative cost, which will be agreed with Wai Hononga.

New Plymouth District Mayor Max Brough says he is pleased to see the thinking the water entity board and management are bringing to council.

"Wai Hononga are looking at a broad range of billing options that reflect the true cost of water service delivery, that is fair for users and protects future capability and assets."

The decision to delay the rollout of the mock bills will help ensure the indicative structure and costs shown are as close as possible to the actual charges to make the mock water bills as meaningful as possible.

Wai Hononga will confirm those charges by 1 July 2027 when it assumes responsibility for delivering water and wastewater services, including water charging.

The mock billing phase will help homeowners understand their actual water use and what their charges could be once actual billing starts from July next year, with the first bill likely to be delivered in October for the previous three-month period (July- September).



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Opunake Lions Club



Farmers paying the price for mobile blackspots

Mobile phone coverage and reliability is going backwards fast in rural areas - and farming families are paying the price, a Federated Farmers survey shows.

Since the 3G network was switched off in March this year, farmers have been even more frustrated with black spots and poor reception.

"Our Rural Connectivity Survey a year ago found service levels were already hit and miss," Federated Farmers telecommunications spokesperson Mark Hooper says.

"This year's survey of nearly 650 farmers paints an even bleaker picture.

"Half of farms now have mobile coverage on less than half of the property.

"A third of farmers told us they have a place on their farm that previously worked on 3G but no longer does.

"For most, these holes in service aren't just on one part of the farm."

Patchy or non-existent coverage creates obvious risks when there's an accident or emergency, especially when people are working alone.

"Nearly two in three farmers told us they can't rely on reaching 111 from most of their farm, and 8% said connecting to emergency services wasn't possible anywhere on the property," Hooper says.



Federated Farmers spokesperson Mark Hooper.

As one survey respondent from Southland commented: "Our main yard by the road had perfect coverage, now you need to stand on one leg and hold your tongue a certain way to have any chance of making a call."

There's a very real financial cost as well, survey responses show.

With 3G coverage gone, one in seven farms had to replace equipment that relied on that network - irrigation and pivot controls, cow collars and other farm systems rather than phones.

Some had to spend many thousands of dollars, and the vast majority were replacing gear that was still working.

Two in three farmers paid for workarounds such as satellite broadband.

Only 15% regard satellite-to-mobile as an adequate substitute for a cell tower.

"Earlier talk from telcos that rural residents don't have to worry about the shutdown of 3G networks has proved hollow," Hooper says.

"The assurances were that the vast majority of areas previously covered by 3G now have 4G and 5G.

"Our survey shows how different wireless frequencies travel across the landscape, and whatever other factors might be at play, have left too many farming families and businesses with significantly lower standards of service and reliability.

"It's of considerable concern to hear feedback that reporting problems to providers often doesn't result in a fix - with some providers pretty much denying there's an issue."

The survey, carried out in late August/early September, shows of 126 farms that reported coverage and reliability problems, just two had the problem resolved.

"That's very frustrating and indicates their concerns aren't being taken seriously."

Hooper says Federated Farmers is holding urgent meetings with telcos to get a better understanding of what scope they have within existing infrastructure, or planned investment, to improve the situation.

"We have some sympathy for the argument that further extensive investment in 'old technology', such as new towers, when satellite calling/call support and the like is on the way, may not the best use of resources.

"But we're also interested in the here and now, and what fine-tuning of existing infrastructure might be possible.

"At the very least, surely we can get more farmers hooked back up to the service standards they had with 3G."

Farmers and other people travelling on rural roads are experiencing call drop-out.

Four in five farmers know a stretch of their regular roads where mobile service fails, and only 4% say they don't experience drop-outs on their journeys.

Eight times as many say highway coverage has worsened over the past year as say it has improved.

While most farmers can reach emergency services from somewhere on the property, for some it's only if they get to the right spot.

More than 40 farmers said they had nowhere on their property where they can reliably reach 111.

One farmer said they'd failed a WorkSafe audit because patchy coverage on their property meant they couldn't check on their staff every two hours.

"While the telcos have an agreement that if a 111 call fails on one network, the call will be redistributed across whichever networks reach that spot, it cannot create coverage where none reaches."

Hooper says a South Island arable farmer summed it up for many with the comment "It's not good enough that our service has gone backwards, when businesses rely on it more than ever".

Farming is the engine room of New Zealand's economy and exports.

"For farmers, sub-par telecommunications is like trying to drive with half the cylinders misfiring."

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Cross party support for sharemilking law reform

Federated Farmers' call for changes to the Sharemilking Agreements Act is gathering momentum, with the National Party now committing to a review of the legislation.

National's agriculture spokesman Todd McClay has announced that, if re-elected, his party will review the Act to reflect the growth of contract milking, protect young entrants and reduce disputes.

The commitment is exactly what Federated Farmers has been advocating for on behalf of its members, the organisation's dairy chair Karl Dean says.

"Last month, Labour said it would review the sharemilking laws if elected to government, and we challenged other parties to make the same commitment.

"It's incredibly promising that National has today also thrown its support behind bringing the legislation into line with modern dairy farming.

"Both major parties have now committed to this, so that's a big win. It means it's definitely going to happen during the next term of Parliament."



Karl Dean.

Dean says contract milking has become a common step on the dairy progression pathway, but contract milkers lack the same legal protections as sharemilkers.

"The legislation was written way back in 1937, when contract milking didn't even exist. We need the law updated to reflect what the sector actually looks like today.

"Contract milkers perform much the same role as variable-order sharemilkers, but they sit outside the Act because they're paid a negotiated rate rather than a share of returns.

"We know some contract milkers have struggled because they don't have the same protections, and that's simply not good enough.

"It's time those protections were extended to cover contract milking too."

There were 1,367 dairy herds operated by contract milkers in the 2024/25 season, representing 13.2% of all dairy herds.

Unlike variable-order sharemilkers, contract milkers aren't guaranteed the minimum terms and dispute-resolution processes provided by the Act and Sharemilking Agreements Order 2011.

Instead, they rely on their individual agreements and general contract law, even where there's a significant imbalance in bargaining power.

Dean says farm owners are also affected by the current legislation's shortcomings.

"Sharemilking and contract milking are hugely important to our sector, giving the next generation a way to build their skills, experience and capital.

"These arrangements also give many farm owners a way to gradually transition out of the business.

"We need the legislation to reflect how farming businesses actually operate today, while retaining the flexibility that makes these progression pathways work so well.

"That's good for everyone - both farm owners and sharefarmers."

Dean says Federated Farmers sharefarmer chair Sam Ebbett and sharefarm owner chair Brendan Attrill have been instrumental in pushing for the review.

"They will also be instrumental when it comes to the actual review.

"Sam represents sharemilkers and contract milkers, and Brendan represents farm owners, so they bring both sides of the equation to the table.

"Having them both involved will be crucial to making sure any changes work for everyone."

Federated Farmers wants a review to consider how the framework can provide appropriate and consistent minimum protections for comparable dairy operating arrangements, without turning independent operators into employees.

It also wants the law to recognise the nature of the work being done, rather than relying solely on how an operator is paid.

The organisation also wants the legislation to provide greater clarity around new revenue and incentive payments, and establish clearer, more accessible and proportionate dispute-resolution processes.

Federated Farmers wrote to the major political parties last month asking them to commit to reviewing the Sharemilking Agreements Act 1937 and Sharemilking Agreements Order 2011.

"We're very pleased to have National and Labour on board, and we invite the other major parties to make the same commitment," Dean says.

"Our dairy sector has been an absolute pillar of the New Zealand economy.

"Updating these laws will help protect the next generation of dairy farmers and ensure the sector goes from strength to strength."

Karl Dean.



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Diverse pastures during drought.March 27th 2025.

What can we learn when farmers and researchers come together, share their experiences and explore what's possible for our farms and communities?

On Tuesday 17 November, Taranaki ReGen and our collaborative network, warmly invite farmers, growers, rural professionals and our wider community to Future-Proof Farming: Research, Resilience & Wellbeing, our Spring Event at TSB Hub in Hāwera.

It's going to be an inspiring, informative and engaging day of fresh farming insights and research findings, where you can also hear about local projects, and opportunities that support farmers keen to improve the resilience, wellbeing and potential of their farm - through evidence backed approaches.

One of the highlights will be emerging findings from Massey University's Whenua Haumanu research programme, a seven-year project exploring regenerative and conventional farming practices across dairy, sheep and beef systems. This is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest pastoral research project. Currently in year 4 of 7.



Dr Sam Wilson.

Dr Samuel Wilson, Pastoral Research Lead and Massey Lecturer, will share insights into pasture diversity, soil health and impact on taste and texture of milk. Some of the encouraging early findings are showing around 80 % less nitrate leaching from diverse pastures under regenerative management, compared to conventional management. Along with enhanced pasture resilience and more.

We'll also hear from local farmers involved in a PhD research project exploring the impact of regenerative farming on farmer wellbeing. Their stories and experiences bring an important perspective to the conversation, connecting scientific research with what's happening on farm, for farmers. We'll also have an interactive session with farmers sharing what they've learnt and found most helpful with their changes in management.

There'll be plenty of opportunities to ask questions, exchange ideas and connect with others. And, as always, we'll enjoy a delicious, nourishing lunch featuring ingredients from our wonderful local growers and producers.

Whether you're interested in drought resilience, soil health, diverse pastures, adaptive grazing, exploring new approaches, well along your regenerative journey, or simply curious about the latest research and keen to get amongst a network of people focused on positive solutions, you're warmly welcome.

Come along, bring a farming friend and be part of the conversation about a more resilient future for pastoral farming in Taranaki.

Event details. Tuesday 17 November. 10:30 am – 2:30 pm (doors open 10 am). TSB Hub, Hāwera, South Taranaki

Event information and tickets can be found through our qr code on our event advert in this paper, via www.taranakiregen.nz, our social media or by looking online for the 'future proof farming- spring event, with tickets hosted on Humanatix. Or, simply write to us at team@taranakiregen.nz.

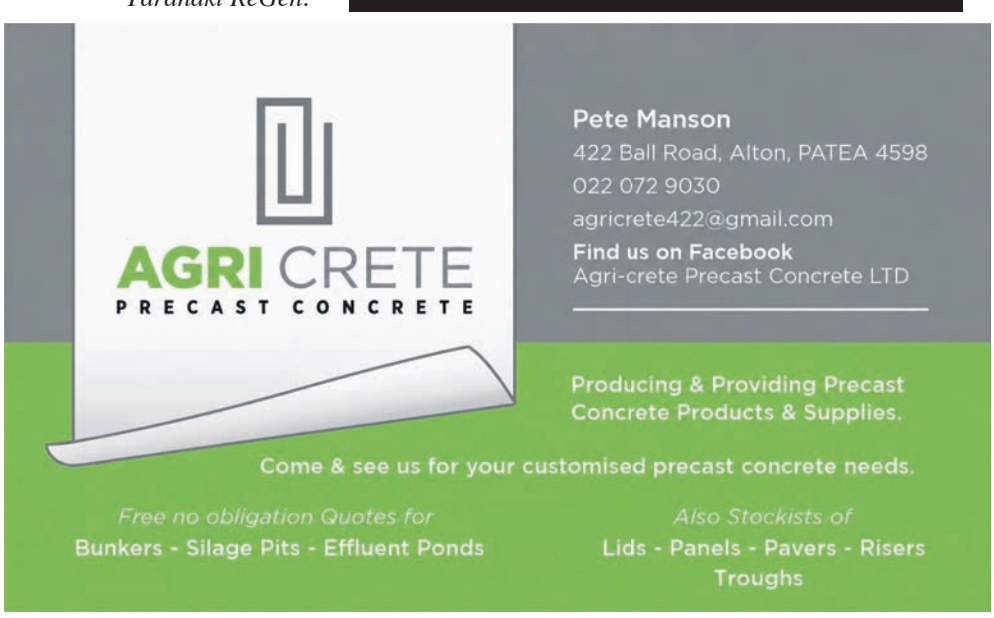
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Got lower back pain?

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Australian and UK researchers say non-drug and non-surgical treatments for low back pain, such as exercise, psychological support and self-management strategies, are cost-effective means of dealing with the pain. The researchers reviewed 20 past studies with almost 15,000 participants, looking at interventions such as acupuncture, spinal manipulation, exercise and diet plans against first-contact care or no treatment at all. The team say six therapies - yoga, cognitive behavioural therapy, self-management support, fear reduction education and mindfulness stress reduction - could reduce health care costs and improve outcomes compared with usual care. Additionally, the team found combinations of activity plus advice, or diet plus activity, ended up being more cost-effective than usual care.

PLOS Medicine

Melanoma vaccine reduces death or cancer recurrence by 42%

An mRNA-based cancer vaccine has been shown to reduce the risk of death or of the cancer coming back by 42%. The trial, led by the 2024 Australian of the Year, Professor Georgina Long, included over 1000 patients whose melanoma had been surgically removed and who were at very high risk of it returning. The trial compared treatment using the vaccine - personalised to target each patient's specific cancer - alongside immunotherapy, versus immunotherapy alone.

The cancer vaccine helps the immune system find and kill melanoma cancer cells, so the cancer is less likely to return or to spread to an advanced stage. The results are being presented at the ESMO (European Society for Medical Oncology) Congress in Spain in the near future.

European Society for Medical Oncology Congress 2026

The reason our brains work in opposites date back to our most ancient ancestors

The origins of how our brain controls our movement - with the right side of our brain controlling our left side movement and vice versa - could date back before mammals even evolved, according to a new hypothesis from international researchers. These researchers investigated the various species that feature this quirk, including most mammals as well as some birds, reptiles and fish. They say looking at our ancient ancestors before mammals evolved, it's likely the way vision developed in these species required their nervous systems to be cross-wired the way ours are, and mammals may have mostly kept this feature as they evolved because evolution tends to build on existing features rather than re-inventing them entirely.

Frontiers in Neuroanatomy

Drier year continues through September

September has continued the trend we've had all year for less rainfall than normal with an average of 136.7mm for the month - that's 24% less than usual, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

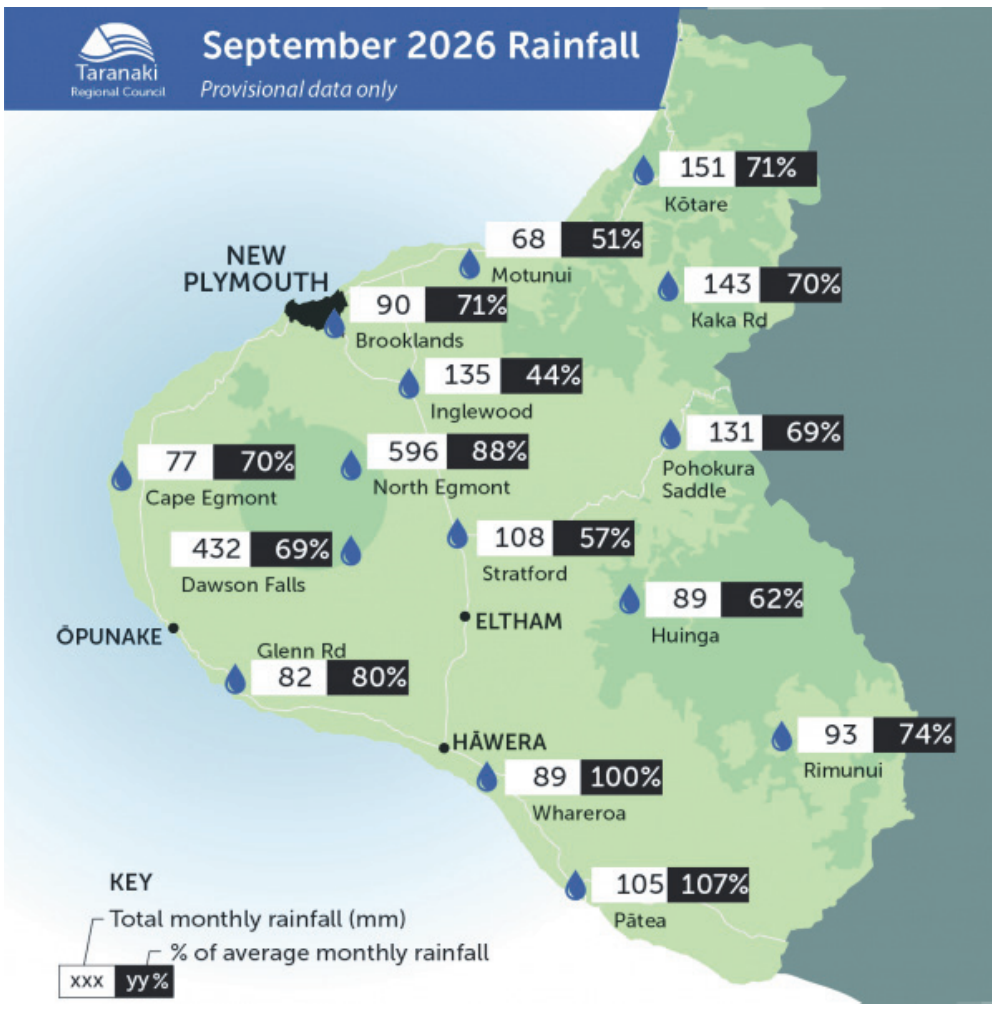
On average there has been 18.8% less rainfall than normal across all rain gauges with year-to-date rainfall lowest at Waiwhakaiho at Hillsborough (31.1%). In September, there was 49.1% less rainfall than usual at Motunui M39 at Weston W3 and 7% more rainfall than usual at Pātea at Bore 3.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te Maunga sites) was 11°C, which is the same as long-term September averages, and the maximum air temperature recorded in the month was 18.5°C at Weraweraonga at Mangawhio Rd on September 3.

The maximum wind gust recorded in September was 112.7km/hr at Waitōtara at Ngutuwera on September 27.

Average wind speeds were 15.7km/hr, with average gust strength of 52km/hr, these were 0.8km/hr stronger, and 6.4km/hr gustier than the long-term average.

Mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 11.6°C, an average of 0.1°C warmer than long-term September values while mean river flows were 32.3% lower than typical values, low flows were 10.2% greater and high flows 34.6% lower than typical values.



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Sports Hub looks to the future

It is now 12 months since the opening of the multi-sports courts at the Goodin Ag Rahotu Sports Hub. The courts took 18 months in the planning and six months to build. The major work was done by Goodin Ag, whose staff cut the ribbon.

It was a mighty community effort with many local firms sponsoring or lending a hand, as well as major legacy sponsorships from families who have been part of the community for many years, although many no longer live here.

The project was completed on time and with no debt. Sports currently being played are Summer League netball, and at weekends 3x3 basketball. Social tennis is about to start. The courts can also cater for hockey training, 5x5 soccer, pickleball and volleyball. The courts have excellent lighting courtesy of Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration.

The large crowd of sponsors and supporters at the opening heard speeches from South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon, chair Donald Anderson, Mark Goodin and John Washer, whose mother Beryl coached and played tennis at Rahotu for 50 years.

It was a fantastic team effort from the committee with everyone committed until the job was done.

The next project currently underway is the new playground which it is hoped will be finished before the rugby season.

For large group bookings contact Jacquie 027 375 1065.



Mark Goodin and Neil Boyd cut ribbon.



John Washer and Rahotu Tennis Club president Jane Fleming.



Courts in action.

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Action-packed opening night at Stratford Speedway

A great crowd turned out for the opening night at Stratford Speedway on Saturday, October 24, with competitive racing, impressive performances and plenty of entertainment to kick off the 2026/2027 season.

Stockcars attracted a strong field of 24 competitors for the City of New Plymouth Classic. Ricky Paul was the standout performer, recording a fourth, second and first across the three heats to claim overall honours ahead of Chloe Ingram and Mason Woods.

Saloons saw ten drivers contest their City of New Plymouth Classic, including visitors Rodney McIndoe from Gisborne, Tim De Graf from Kihikihi and Dan Weston from Huntly. Thomas Korff was in outstanding form, securing two race wins and a fourth placing to take the title ahead of Bradley Korff and Weston. Andrew Tippet was looking good for a podium finish but a bolt failure in race three saw his car turn to the wall and roll over, while an additional feature race provided plenty of excitement, with McIndoe emerging victorious following a race-long battle with Jarrod MacBeth.

Modifieds also battled for City of New Plymouth Classic honours, with consistency proving the key for Newton Gordge. A fourth placing and two seconds earned him the overall victory ahead of Carl Hinton and Auckland's current New Zealand number three, Cody Hata. Blenheim-contracted Sheldon Arapere demonstrated impressive pace to claim the feature race victory.

Streetstocks produced another entertaining contest, with thirteen drivers competing for their Classic title. Brett Barron, returning to racing after a twelve-year absence, claimed a remarkable victory with a third and two second placings. As part of the mentor programme, Barron was required to start all three races from the rear of the field, making his achievement even more impressive. Blair Ladd finished runner-up, with Rotorua's Alex Schrader Curran third. Dylan Smith took out the additional feature race.

Double Decker Derby action provided plenty of entertainment across two races. Veteran derby competitor Steve Reed won a relatively incident-free opening race before stealing the show in race two. Reed completed a spectacular self-induced barrel roll, barely hesitating before continuing on to take the chequered flag and his second victory of the night.



Andrew Tippet was looking to be inline for a podium finish before he rolled his car in race three.

Adult Ministocks rounded out the programme, with visiting competitors dominating the results. Lincon Wilson, Stephan Mann and Jono Mouldey each claimed a race victory.

Jarrod MacBeth.



Thomas Korff won two races to win the Saloon City of New Plymouth Classic. *Loaded Glass Photography*



The Halloween kids took a trip around the track during the grand parade. *Cookies Motorsport Photography*



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Second night at Stratford Speedway

Five Star Liquor Stratford Speedway hosted its second meeting of the season on Saturday, October 31, with Eltham Timber & Supplies sponsoring another entertaining night of racing.

Five classes were in action, with Superstocks, Minisprints and Youth Ministocks making their first appearances of the season. Adding to the atmosphere was the Halloween costume competition, which attracted approximately 10 children in each age group. Dressed in their Halloween outfits, the youngsters enjoyed a ride around the track on the back of a truck during the grand parade.

The Minisprint City of New Plymouth Classic saw New Zealand's top three ranked drivers dominate proceedings. Current NZ #3 Daniel Nickel claimed overall honours with a third, first and third across the three heats. NZ #1 Karl Uhlenberg finished second overall, with NZ #2 Regan Ogle third. The trio featured prominently throughout the night, although Palmerston North's Jayden Clark interrupted their dominance with two third-place finishes.

The Modified Rusty Kay Memorial produced a thrilling finish. Heat victories went to Newton Gordge, Sheldon Arapere and Shaun Bloemen, but it was Gordge and Carl Hinton who finished tied on points. A four-lap run-off was needed to decide the winner, with Hinton grabbing the early lead and steadily extending his advantage to claim the memorial. Bloemen completed the podium in third.

In the Stockcars, Ricky Paul, Mason Woods and Haydin Barker shared the victories in the opening three races. Woods then returned to victory lane in the 12-lap feature, completing a successful night.

The Superstocks welcomed several visiting drivers, including Tauranga's Stefan Roigard, Rotorua's Dion Henderson and Jessie Wilson-Henderson, Christchurch-contracted Scott Tennant and Whanganui's Ethan Linklater. Wayne Moss led much of the opening race before Blair Uhlenberg worked his way past in the closing laps to take the win. Roigard dominated race two, while Henderson claimed race three. Roigard then secured the feature victory, holding off a determined Uhlenberg, who closed the gap in the latter stages but couldn't find a way past.

The Youth Ministocks were split into two groups, with mentor drivers gaining valuable experience while the more established competitors battled in their own races. Quinn Turner claimed two wins in the experienced group, with Jake Read taking the other. Taylor Dettling provided one of the night's more dramatic moments when he rolled his car in race two, but was back on track for the following race. In the mentor group, Max Joblin enjoyed a clean sweep, winning all three races.

Next up is the Hinton Contracting Fireworks Spectacular on Saturday, November 7, featuring the Repco Taranaki Superstock Championship. With plenty of action promised both on the track and in the sky, it's another night not to be missed.

Jarrod MacBeth



Newton Gordge (#121) and Carl Hinton battle for position during Modified race. Hinton went on to win the Rusty Kay Memorial.

Opunake High finish fifth in New Zealand after gutsy Nationals campaign

Opunake High School's senior boys basketball team has capped off an outstanding season by finishing fifth in New Zealand at the Secondary Schools 'A' Basketball Nationals, ending their campaign with a hard-fought victory over regional rivals Te Kura o Te Koutu.

The result was an impressive step forward for the small-town side, who qualified for Nationals after finishing fourth at the Regional Championships in Rotorua. Significantly, Opunake went on to finish ahead of both St Peter's, who placed second at Regionals, and Te Kura o Te Koutu, who finished third.

Opunake opened Nationals strongly against Māruawai College, the second seed from the South Island, recording an impressive 102–87 victory. They backed that up with another convincing performance in Game Two, defeating Ngā Taiātea 89–65.

Their third game brought one of the surprises of the tournament. Opunake went into the match against Geraldine, the fifth-ranked South Island qualifier, as favourites but were caught out by a side that grew stronger with every game. Geraldine took the win 87–75 and continued their remarkable tournament to eventually finish fourth in New Zealand.

Game Four brought a familiar opponent in Hato Paora College, the team that had narrowly denied Opunake third place at the 2025 Nationals. Once again, there was almost nothing between the two sides. In a fiercely contested battle, Hato Paora edged Opunake 68–67, a heartbreaking one-point result.

Opunake's final pool game was their toughest assignment yet, facing an unbeaten Te Aroha College side that would go on to win the national title. The final score of 95–71 did not reflect how competitive the contest was for much of the game. Opunake pushed the eventual champions hard and kept them under pressure before Te Aroha pulled away in the final quarter.

Finishing fourth in their pool meant Opunake faced an extremely difficult crossover against St Kevin's College, the top South Island seed.

Again, Opunake showed they belonged among the country's best teams. The boys worked relentlessly and kept St Kevin's under pressure for long periods before their opponents pulled away in the final quarter to win 95–71. St Kevin's would go on to claim the silver medal, showing the quality of opposition Opunake had faced.

Coach Aarun Langton was a passionate presence on the sideline throughout the tournament, fiercely protective of his players and never afraid to advocate for their safety when games became physical.

Missing out on the medal games was heartbreaking, particularly for the team's five Year 13 players – captains Joshua Ramos and Kianu Wallace, along with Jahrese Tamatea, Toby Smith and Hadlee Marsh – who knew their remaining games would be the final time they represented Opunake High School on the basketball court. But the boys were determined that fifth place was now theirs to fight for.

Their first challenge was Garin College in the playoff to reach the fifth-place game. In a thrilling high-scoring contest, Opunake prevailed 100–97, with Kobe Lark producing one of the individual highlights of the tournament by knocking down an impressive eight three-pointers.

That set up the perfect finale.

Waiting for Opunake was Te Kura o Te Koutu – one of their biggest rivals of the season and a team that had beaten Opunake twice at the Regional Championships. This time, Opunake was determined the result would be different. In an emotional final game, the Year 13 players took the court together for much of the final five minutes and helped drag Opunake back into a tight contest. In fitting Kianu Wallace style, the captain finished his final game for the school with five fouls. His departure welcomed Lark back onto the floor to help finish the game alongside the senior players – almost symbolically marking the farewell of one group of leaders and the beginning of the next.

When the final whistle sounded, Opunake had secured a memorable 79–77 victory and, with it, fifth place in New Zealand.

But the tournament became about far more than results. Over the course of Nationals, the group grew into a team of brothers. Their camaraderie, determination and willingness to fight for one another represented not only their school but the wider Opunake community with pride.

It is also what makes this Opunake team unusual. For many of the players, basketball is not even their first sport – rugby is. Yet they have committed themselves wholeheartedly to basketball and shown that a small-town school can compete with some of the strongest basketball programmes in the country.

The fifth-place national finish capped an already successful season. Opunake also won the local OBA League, with Jahrese Tamatea named MVP, before finishing second in the Taranaki Secondary Schools competition, where they were beaten by Francis Douglas Memorial College, with Brycen Rangiwananga named in the Secondary Schools All Star Five.

There will now be a big farewell to Ramos, Wallace, Tamatea, Smith and Marsh as they finish their time in the Opunake High School basketball programme. They will surely be missed by all the remaining players.

Special recognition also goes to coach Aarun Langton, who has worked with this group of players in various capacities over a number of years. His coaching relationship with Ramos stretches all the way back to primary school. David Tapiki has also been a pivotal part of this team's year. David was unable to make Nationals due to personal commitments and he was immensely missed. David's contribution to the team's defensive play and his quiet presence behind the scenes was so appreciated this season.

The team was also supported throughout the season by manager Linley Lark, co-manager Nikita Katene, and Trish McKenzie, who assisted with fitness, strength and conditioning, along with the many other community members who have contributed their time and support throughout the year.

For a group that arrived at Nationals as the fourth qualifier from their region, they leave as the fifth-ranked 'A' school team in New Zealand. More importantly, they leave behind a team culture and brotherhood for the next generation to carry forward.

For the five Year 13s, it was their final game in an Opunake High School singlet. For those coming behind them, it may just be the beginning.

Stadium Taranaki to host new national junior football tournament

The next generation of All Whites and Football Ferns will take centre stage at NPDC's Stadium Taranaki from 2027, after the venue secured a three-year agreement with Sports Group Management to host the Taranaki Cup.

The inaugural tournament runs from 16-18 April 2027, bringing players aged 8 to 17, and their families to Taranaki for three days of football alongside local teams.

It's the first time a national youth football tournament has been hosted at the 21,000-capacity stadium and for many of the players, the chance to play on a pitch and soak up the atmosphere at a venue where professional athletes have performed.

NPDC's Stadium Taranaki Lead Jonnie Orrell says the team is thrilled to welcome the next generation of footballers and their whānau to Taranaki for the inaugural Taranaki Cup.

"Stadium Taranaki has hosted international fixtures, professional athletes and major sporting events, so we're incredibly proud to now open those same gates to the next generation of footballers. Giving young players the opportunity to compete in a stadium environment is exactly the kind of experience that can inspire a lifelong love of sport."

"While we're well known for hosting elite and professional sport, opportunities like this tournament creates memorable experiences for athletes of all ages and showcases the diversity of events we want to bring to the region," he adds.

Rolando Navas, SGM Director, said Stadium Taranaki was the ideal venue to bring the tournament vision to life.

"We wanted to create something special for young players and their families, and Stadium Taranaki provides the perfect setting. The venue offers an experience unlike anything else available for junior football in New Zealand, and Taranaki has a strong reputation for hosting major events."

Beyond the football, the tournament represents an opportunity to showcase Taranaki to visitors from across New Zealand and is expected to deliver significant economic benefits to the region. It is expected to generate increased demand for local accommodation, hospitality and visitor attractions while highlighting the region as a destination capable of hosting major national sporting events.

Planning is now underway for the inaugural event, with organisers aiming to establish the Taranaki Cup as a marquee fixture on New Zealand's junior football calendar.

Stadium Taranaki is owned by Taranaki Regional Council and operated by New Plymouth District Council.





STRATFORD SCARECROW TRAIL 2026

30 OCTOBER – 30 NOVEMBER

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL



Location of Scarecrows

8 Cloten Road, Stratford Playcentre 1
2 Avon Street, Avon Kindergarten (down the driveway beside the kindergarten in our play space) 2
19 Cloten Road, The Nest 3
40 Orlando Street, Community Childcare Centre 4
159 Orlando Street, GR8KIDZ 5
Pembroke School, cnr of Monmouth, Pembroke and Cardiff Roads 6
Stratford Primary School, Regan Street 7-14
St Joseph's School, Miranda Street 15-16
58 Swansea Road 17
21 Miranda Street 18
202 Broadway, Stratford Knit and Sew 19
213 Broadway, TET Kings Emporium 20
237 Broadway, Dimock's 100% 21
War Memorial Carpark grass (council side) 22
197 Broadway, Z Stratford & Naki Mowing 23
145 Broadway, Little Steps ECE 24
101 Broadway, FieldTorque Taranaki Ltd 25
76 Juliet Street, Dairymaster Milking Systems 26
59 Brecon Road, Age Care Central Ltd (down driveway by main entrance) 27
269 Broadway, Collective First National 28
3912 Mountain Road, Pioneer Village 29
406 Broadway South, Guthrie Bowron 30
9 Flint Road East, A & P Showgrounds 31
82 Broadway, Idea Services 32
42 Cardiff Road 33
53 Brecon Road 34
29 Hamlet Street 35
8 Pembroke Road East 36
562 East Road, RD22, Stratford 37
King Edward Park (walkway to Rhododendron Dell), SDYC 38
43 Pembroke Road West 39
Stratford High School, 90A Swansea Road (front veranda of Teen Parent Unit) 40
47 Achilles Street 41
Hollard Gardens, 1686 Upper Manaia Road, Kaponga 42
95 Swansea Road 43
Stratford High School, 90A Swansea Road 44
115 Swansea Road 45
108 Swansea Road 46
14 Beaconsfield Road, Midhirst Scout Group 47
50 Pembroke Road East 48
Prospero Place (by the Library Main Entrance) 49
63 Miranda Street (outside the Council front door) 50
52 Juliet Street, Stratford Community House 51

Note: All scarecrows can be easily accessed & viewed from a wheelchair or mobility scooter.



Thanks to our category sponsors & funding partner

New World Stratford · Fulton Hogan · Stratford Business Association Heart of Taranaki · CMK Accountants · TET

Arts alive and well at Art Awards

Often the best camera you have is the one you have in your hand at the time. In the case of Michelle Wilson from New Plymouth who won the Photography Award at the Taranaki National Art Awards (TNAA) it was a cellphone which later broke.

"I went back again with my working camera on a similar rainy day and I couldn't get the atmosphere," she said of her entry Feather which was taken at The Gables in New Plymouth, when accepting her award at the Awards' opening night on Friday (October 30) at the Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Centre in Opunake.

Greg Donson, who with Maree Mills was one of the judges for the night said the awards were unique in representing not just the artists of this area, but from all around Aotearoa.

"Everyone who entered into these awards is a winner, as to enter it takes a lot of courage."

Among the winners was Raven Clotworthy from Eltham who took first prize in the Painting category with Church on Cypress Hill.

"I'm stoked. I'm happy. I've only entered once before," she said. She has been painting for 6-7 years and describes herself as a "self-taught artist."

"Lots of canvases have been tossed out," she says.

The judge's comments said "an adverse or uncomfortable response to a work is just as meaningful as a positive response."

"There's a quiet vibrating response to it, unsettling, brave and memorable."

A popular winner with the audience was Opunake artist Marianne Muggeridge with Te Mounga ki to Moana.

"The technical expertise of this screenprint is mind boggling and a clear winner for both judges," according to the judges' comments.

Monica Willson welcomed a near capacity audience to the 24th Taranaki National Art Awards.

"This year we have over 260 entries in seven categories from all over Aotearoa," she said.

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon said this is the 19th year that the Council has been involved with the Awards.

"Whether you are an experienced exhibitor or showing for the first time, thank you, thank you."

He noted the various other events going on around Opunake including the garden festivals, arts trails and the Yarn Bomb.

"The Yarn Bomb is a reminder that creativity

Continued page 36.

A Year in Pātea by Marianne Coady at The Village Gallery

Marianne moved to Pātea just over three years ago from tropical North Queensland. Over the past twelve months, she's been creating artworks inspired by her new hometown, its beautiful surroundings, famous winds and colourful characters.

And she's certainly brought plenty of imagination and humour into it.

Pātea's strong winds have inspired "flying nuns" and "ample swimmers," because on a particularly windy day, you never know what might end up in the air.



Pātea's strong winds have inspired "flying nuns" and "ample swimmers" in this exhibition.

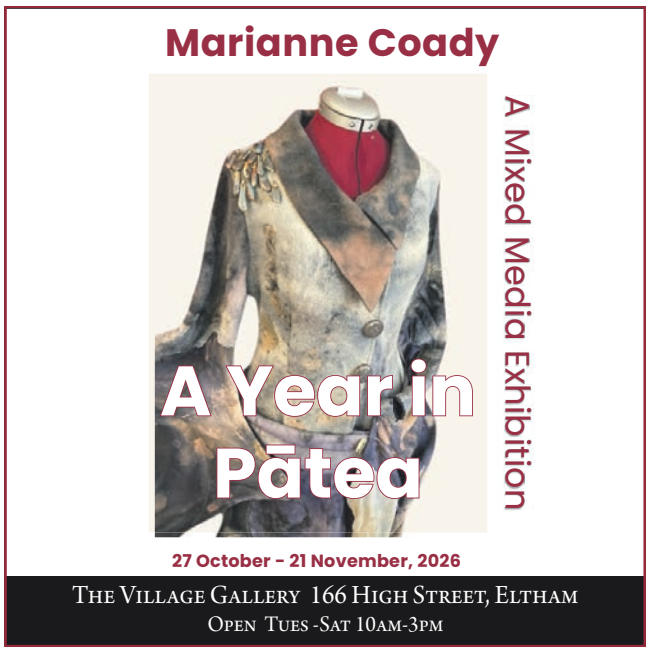
Her love of bats has led to some delightful ceramic creations, including a Gothic Christmas tree decorated with bats.

You'll also discover ceramic KiwiSaver and fish tank money boxes, beautiful eco-dyed silk, and a stunning handmade textile dress inspired by the spirit of Taranaki's midwinter nights.

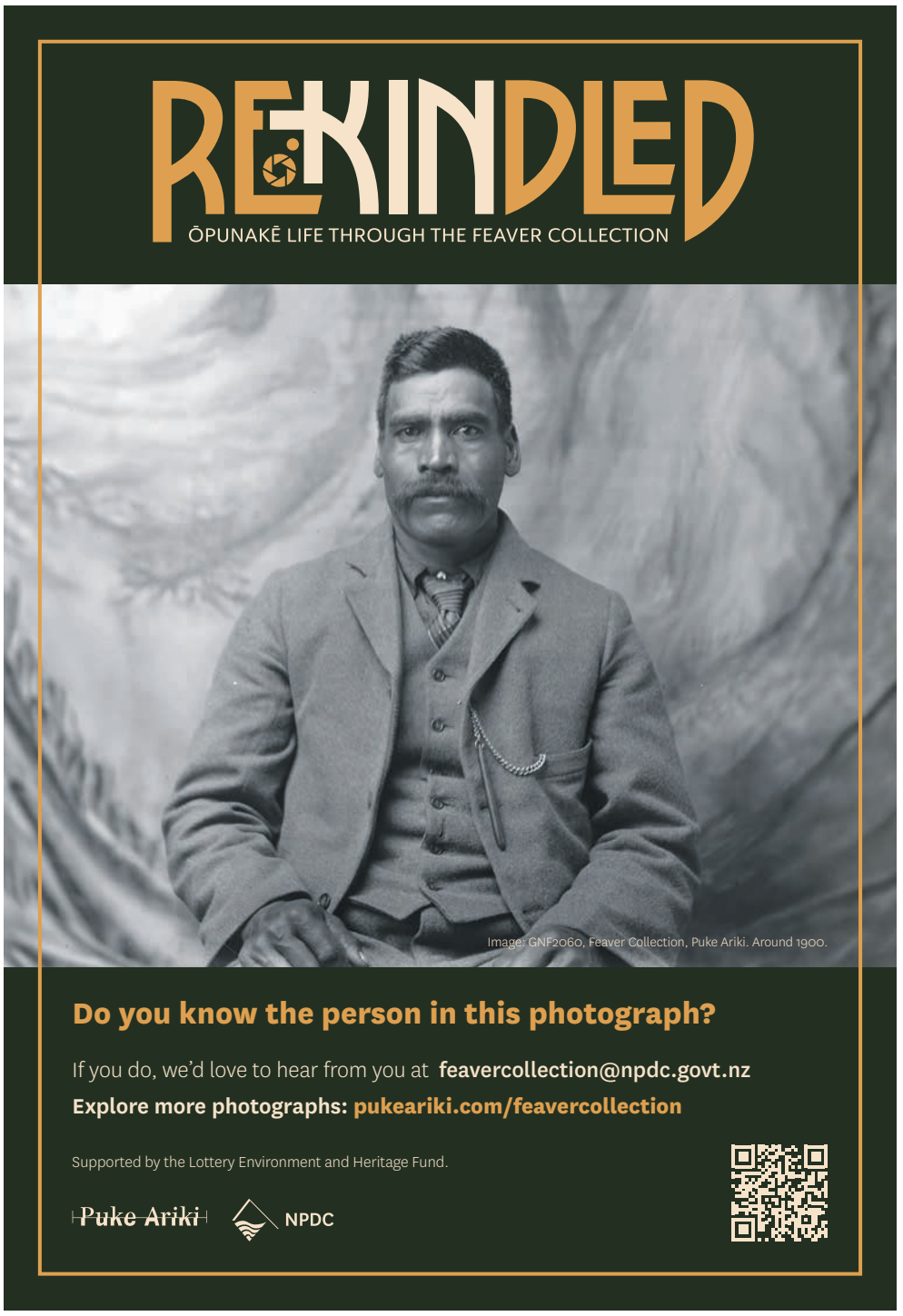
With ceramics, eco-printed textiles and encaustic artworks, there's so much to explore. Each piece tells a little story about Pātea and the wider Taranaki region, seen through the eyes of someone who has fallen in love with the place.

As Marianne puts it, "Patea is a beautiful little town peopled by some fabulously unconventional folk. I love living in Patea."

Come along and discover A Year in Pātea. 27 October – 21 November 2026. The Village Gallery | 166 High Street, Eltham. Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–3pm.







Arts alive and well at Art Awards

Continued from page 35.

can pop up in the most unexpected places," he said.

South Taranaki District Council arts co-ordinator Michaela Stoneman said she feels privileged to have been involved with the Awards for the last 19 years.

"It's really awesome that we can attract high calibre judges to support our awards. The arts are alive and well in South Taranaki," she said.

"If you see something you like, pick it up, buy it and take it home. Art is the gift that keeps on giving."



Photography category winner Michelle Wilson and Feather.

Taranaki National Art Awards chair Megan Symons paid tribute to those who had put the event together.

"What I love most about the Taranaki National Art Awards is the human connection," she said. "The entire committee have worked with great mahi to put this event together."

She paid tribute to the more than 30 volunteers who put the exhibition together in a 10-day period, and to the contribution of the Opunake Floral Art Group.

"Every year we do not feel the exhibition is complete until the floral artists come in."

This is not the first time that this year's judges have been to the Taranaki National Awards. Greg Donson who is senior curator and programmes manager at Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery in Whanganui, and Maree Mills, curator at Te Whare Taonga Waikato, Hamilton. They also judged here together at the 2016 Awards.

While in Taranaki Maree

Continued page 37.



Marianne Muggeridge won the Taranaki Artist category with Te Mounga ki te Moana.



Painting category winner Raven Clotworthy and Church on Cypress Hill.

What does the fox say?

That is the question and it is also the title of Opunake Players's latest production

Written and directed by Chrissy Ryan, rehearsals are well underway. The show features Minstrel's, talking mirrors (who can't help but tell the truth), an evil queen who can disguise herself (or does she have a split personality?), as well as dwarfs who look after Snow White. Is this a bed time story that becomes a dream or is it real? The real humans on the stage will find that out. Goldilocks features and the bears, as well as Mr Fox himself (who thrives on fear and surprise, ruthless efficiency and an unwavering devotion to the evil queen).

Prepare to be entertained from beginning to end as some of Opunake's finest children, young adults and (slightly older) adults take to the stage to bring this show to life.



Rehearsals are underway for What does the Fox Say?

Chrissy came up with the ideas for this show while driving, with a little influence from her grandchild as well as some references to old movies.

With a cast of over 20 people Chrissy says her 13 years of primary school teaching has helped her steer the children in a direction that allows them to develop and improve their theatre skills.

Add in some impressive set design/sound and lighting and the ingredients are all there for an adventure that will be well worth the price of admission.

What does the fox say? You will need a ticket to find the answer.

The season runs from November 26th to December 5th.

JANES GALLERY
Where Picture Framing is an Art
WE HAVE MOVED TO 33 GOVER STREET,
NEW PLYMOUTH PHONE 06 758 8746

What Does The Fox Say?
A home-grown pantomime
Nov 26
-Dec 5
$20 Adult
$10 child
Preschoolers free on a knee!
Tickets at Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration
Opunake Players Inc



Monday to Saturday 8.30am - 4pm
Mi & Jin Sushi
55 Tasman St, Opunake
Ph 021 180 2645 or 06 928 3116

Arts alive and well at Art Awards

Continued from page 36.

says she has been catching up on the Coastal Arts Trail, and noted many of these artists had works on show at the awards.

"It's a great opportunity to look at artists I've never heard of and get to enter their studio," she said.

She says she has noticed a growth in the number of entries in the Fibre Art category, compared to 10 years ago when there were only three works. She cites the influence of Viv Davey in the community and a residency being among the prizes.

Greg says he didn't think the Te Taranakitanga category which enables artists who whakapapa to Taranaki to explore their identity in their work was available 10 years ago.

"This is a remarkable community, and this event takes place without a hosting gallery and in a sports stadium. That's great," he said.

Among the members of the public there that night, Jerome Grey said he was getting a good feeling looking at the various artworks.

"I like taking photos of nature like the mountain and the ocean. I'm a farmer, but I feel I'm a new generation farmer who wants to work with nature, not against it."

2026 TNAA Award winners. Painting. Winner Raven Clotworthy (Eltham) Church on Cypress Hill. Highly Commended. Hayley Elliott-Kernot (New Plymouth). Emma and Olivia-Times of Transition.



Judges Maree Mills and Greg Donson.



Richard Hall peruses Kara Smith's *Echoes of the Shore.*

Taranaki Artists. Winner Marianne Muggeridge (Kaponga). Te Mounga ki te Moana. Highly Commended. Volker Hawighorst (New Plymouth) Six Pack #1.

3D. Winner. Bianca Marriott (Whanganui). Pine Needles Basket. Red Spines. Highly Commended. Claire Jensen (Opunake). Carbon Form 1.

Works on Paper. Winner. Mikaela Nyman (New Plymouth) The Deep Sweep (Towards the Light). Highly Commended. Josef Kieninger (Waitarere Beach). Equality II.

Fibre Art. Winner Mary Jane Snyde (Whangarei). Fragmented Memories. Highly Commended. Anne Garvey (Opunake) At the Beach.

To Taranakitanga. Winner. Luanna Sheridan (Waitara) Ka rere ki roto to aroha o to tupuna. Highly Commended. Sapphire Csik (Picton) Oia.

Photography. Winner. Michelle Wilson (New Plymouth). Feather. Highly Commended. Rosie Moyes (Oakura). Tuhononga.

Committee Choice. Pauline Allomes (Whanganui). Man's Truest Friend

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on 19 November 2026.

Ph(06) 761-7016 to advertise.

NW NEW WORLD
NEW PLYMOUTH
78 Courtney Street | 06 759 9052
• Online - Deliveries /Click & Collect
• Gold Card Discounts - on Groc's Tuesday!
• Instore Cafe!
• Fresh, Fresh, Fresh
• Fuel station on-site
SuperGold
We're here to help make your shopping experience a great one!
COME IN & SAY HELLO!

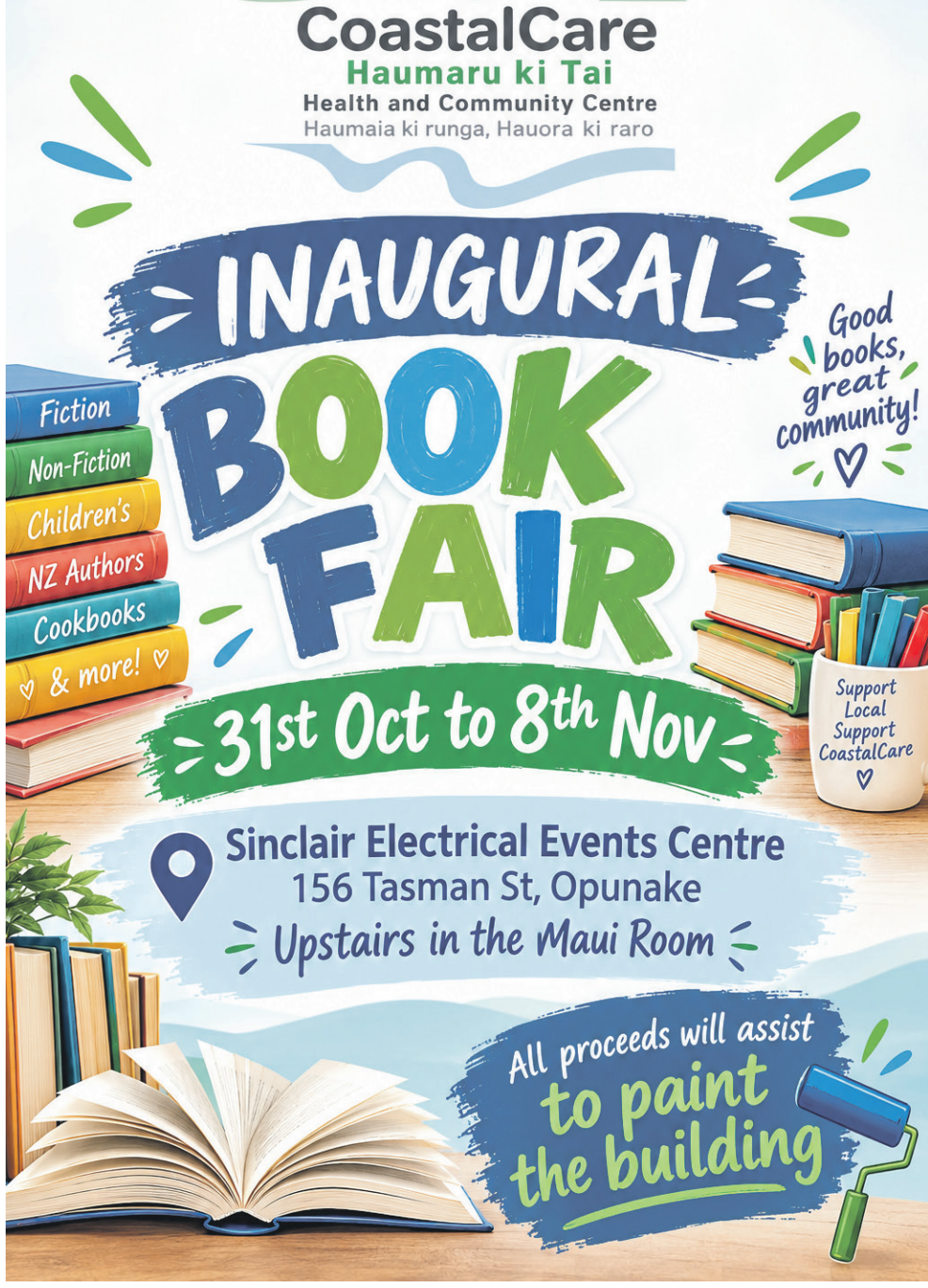
Johnny the Grocer & Christine

OPUNAKE FOODBANK
FOOD DRIVE

- Wednesday 18th November
- All volunteers to meet at the Opunake Fire Station at 6:00pm for a safety briefing
- Leaving the Opunake Fire Station at 6:15pm
- Listen for the Fire Truck sirens
- Please have all donations ready by your letterbox

YES PLEASE	NO THANK YOU
- Tins: baked beans, spaghetti, fruit, tomatoes, pasta sauce - Packets: pasta, rice, cereal, biscuits, crackers, tea, coffee, milo - Toiletries: toilet paper, paper towels, sunscreen, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant - Treats: chocolate, lollies, raro sachets	- Opened food - Expired food - Damaged tin - No gifts/clothing

THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR COMMUNITY ♥



What's On Listings

SUNDAYS:

Opunake Crop Swap: First Sunday of each month. 2-3pm at Opunake Town Hall.

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
St. James, Oakura – Sunday Service every Sunday, 10.00am
St. Paul's, Okato – 1st and 2nd Sundays –Worship Service; 3rd Sunday – Communion Service and 4th Sunday at 7.00pm
4th Sunday at 2pm - Cake & Debate
Open church for silent reflection, Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4-5pm

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 9am
Communion 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday
Prayer & Praise 4th Sunday
Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service

Okato Community Church
Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
Everyone welcome

St John's Community Church. Kaponga
Cnr West and Egmont Streets.
Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea

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

Friend & Fellowhip Group
Thursdays @ Manaia
Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer and Bible study
Encouraging interactive discussion and Praise
All are welcome
We would love it if you could come
Rodney & Val 274 8550 or 0272384187

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
90 Regan St., Stratford,
9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study
10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service"
Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford.
Contact: Ben (Dingo) Smith 027 2535526 or
Wendy Tolland 022 617 9413

Methodist Church Hawera
Regent Street 10am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

Manaia Community Church part of the Global Anglicans
Robert Gibson Hall , Manaia
1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays at 10 am
3rd Sunday Family Service at 4pm with shared meal to follow
Contact: Rev Phil Woodmass 027 424 8318

MONDAYS:

The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning: St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake**:** Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. 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.

Wayoutwest Jiu Jitsu: Juniors 6pm, Adults 7pm. Sinclair Events Centre, Opunake..

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.

Toi Foundation drop-in sessions: Opunake Library, 11am-3pm.

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

Naumai Toastmasters: Every first and third Wednesday of the month. 6.30pm sharp start. St Mary's Anglican Church, 206 Princes Street, Hawera. Find us on Facebook. Guests always welcome. Contact Steve 021538101.

Sober and Drug Support Group: Coastal Care Meeting Room, 7pm

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.

NOW UNTIL NOVEMBER 15

Economies of Deferral: At the Govett Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth.

SEPTEMBER 24 TO NOVEMBER 9

Liminal Fibres: An exhibition by Suzan Kostanich. At the from out of the blue gallery, Halse Place, Opunake

OCTOBER 27 TO NOVEMBER 8

A Year in Patea: An exhibition by Marianne Coady at The Village Gallery, Eltham

NOVEMBER 7

South Taranaki Boys and Girls Calf Champs: Kaponga Primary School, 11am

OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 8

Coastal Care Inaugural Book Fair: Sinclair Electrical Events Centre, Opunake.

OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 8

Taranaki National Art Awards: Sinclair Electrical Events Centre, Opunake.

OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 30

Stfd Scarecrow Trail, Stratford

NOVEMBER 9

Opunake Business Association Meeting, 25 Napier Street, Opunake 5:50pm

NOVEMBER 10

Opunake Foodbank Food Drive, Opunake

NOVEMBER 14

Rally for Palestine, Sentiments of 'deep concern' will not stop the genocidal onslaught against the Palestinian people. Let's send a message to our government to ACT NOW: 1pm, The Landing, Ariki Street,
Ngāmotu-NewPlymouth. (Check FB for changes).,

NOVEMBER 17

Waverley A & P Show 2026 Kids Ag Club: Waverley, 9.15am.

Future Proof Farming event, TSB Hub, Hawera, 10:30am - 2:30pm

NOVEMBER 19

Sentiments Flowers, 40 years celebration, St Aubyn Street, Moturoa, New Plymouth

NOVEMBER 26 TO DECEMBER 5

What does the fox say?
A production by the Opunake Players

NOVEMBER 29

Stratford A & P Show 2026 Calf & Lamb Champs: Waverley, 9.15am.

DECEMBER 2

Manaia Golf Club AGM: At the Clubrooms, 7:30 pm

PUBLIC NOTICES

Opunake Lions Club November Battery Collection

CAR•TRACTOR•TRUCK BATTERIES

Donate your old batteries and support local community projects! Throughout November, the Opunake Lions Club is collecting car, tractor, and truck batteries. Funds raised will go directly toward community projects in Opunake and the wider district.

Drop off location

Elite Farm Solutions 23 Tasman Street, Opunake

Need them collected?

We can pick them up. Ring or text: Tracey Crawford 021 272 6422 or Keith Crawford 0274252101

Opunake Lions Club



OKATO COMMUNITY MARKET

Every Wednesday
4 - 5.30pm
Hempton Hall
Veges, Baking, Op Shop, Chocolate, Crafts, Books, and more

OPUNAKE & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Next Meeting is on
Monday November 9, 2026
at 5.30pm
Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake
(opposite the Coastal Care Medical Centre)

J.E. PRESTIDGE TRUST

The J.E. Prestidge Trust has bursaries available to people who may be undertaking tertiary studies in agriculture or horticulture or in allied courses. To qualify, applicants must have attended at some stage
during their secondary schooling a High School in Taranaki.
Application forms and full details of the bursaries are available from
Sharyn Boshier
Till Henderson
NEW PLYMOUTH
Ph 06 757 5795.
Email newplymouthreception@thlaw.co.nz
Applications close on Friday 13th November 2026 at 4pm.

PUBLIC NOTICES

SANDFORDS RURAL CARRIERS

MANAIA GOLF CLUB INCORPORATED

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 2nd December 2026
at 7.00pm
To be held at the Clubrooms
Bennett Drive, Manaia.

All members welcome

THANKS NOTICE

Arthur Muggeridge: Thank you everyone that helped with Arthur's funeral. Thank you for the cards and flowers. Thank you from Shirley.

FLATMATE WANTED

FLATMATE WANTED. No pets, share expenses. Suit mature working person. 06 761 8858. $300 per week.

WANTED TO RENT

GARAGE wanted to rent for storing old car. Opunake or nearby. Ph Tim 027 723 503

SITUATIONS VACANT

LAWNMOWING. Somebody wanted to mow lawns, Domett St, Opunake. Excellent mower supplied. Possibly suit High School student. Must be reliable and honest. Ph 027 455 7987.

FOR SALE

DRY FIREWOOD. $80 per metre plus cartage. Ph 021 068 3700.

AB & DM SYBRANDY CONTRACTING LTD - Available Now - Firewood , Screened Topsoil & BRANDY'S BOTANICALS BARN- Indoor Plants, Home & Giftware, Seeds & More. October Special 6m3 Split Pine $420.00, 6m3 Split Mac $620.00 supplied & delivered Hawera, Normanby, Manaia areas - other areas may incur small delivery fee. Orders and Payment can be made by phoning Andy 0274456464 or calling into Brandy's Botanicals Barn- 15 Livingston Rd Hawera.- WINZ Quotes, Afterpay & Eft-pos available at the Barn.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News will be published on November 15 2026

TRADES & SERVICES

Stevenson Calf Rearing

MILK & COLOSTRUM WANTED

Picking up 24/7
Our tanker handles large volumes
Phone or txt:
Mark 027 495 2897 E: markstevo@xtra.co.nz
Troy 027 469 7636 E: troystevo@gmail.com
0800 350 340

KANE BARRETT LIVESTOCK

CALF MILK WANTED
Any volumes - 24/7
027 4036469 | kanebarrettlivestock@outlook.com

HAWERA LAWN & RECYCLING

- Lawns
- Chimney
- Gutter Cleaning
- Waterblasting

FREE QUOTES
Phone Craig McGill
021 031 2411
16 Cambria St, Hawera
craig.mcgill65@gmail.com

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

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

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2014 Toyota CAMRY GL
POPULAR NZ NEW SEDAN
Traction Control, VVT-i, Cruise Control, Auto Headlights, 2.5, Petrol, Auto, 257kms



$8,995

2012 Toyota COROLLA GX
POPULAR SPORTY HATCH
NZ New, Sports Mode, Alloy Wheels, VVT-i, Cruise Controol, 1.8, Petrol, CVT, 169kms



$12,995

2018 Holden BARINA LS
Daytime Running Lights, NZ New, Alloy Wheels, Parking Sensors, Spoiler, 1.6, Petrol, Auto, 142kms



$12,995

2012 Kia Picanto LX
FUEL SAVER!
2WD, 5 Door Hatch, Alloy Wheels, NZ New, Stability Control, 1.2, Petrol, Auto, 104kms



$8,995

2015 Toyota HIGHLANDER LIMITED ZR
TOP OF THE LINE HIGHLANDER ZR
4WD, Auto High Beam, Descent Mode, 6 Cylinder, Sun Roof, Tow Bar, Auto Headlights, NZ New, 3.5, Petrol, Auto, 227kms



$21,995

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:

2006 Ford FALCON BF FAIRMONT GHIA
V8 ATTENTION SEEKER
Electric Leather Seats, Auto Headlights, NZ New, Spoiler, Tinted Windows, Tow Bar, 5.0, Petrol, Auto, 221kms



$17,995

2016 Nissan X-Trail ST-L
NZ NEW 4WD
Keyless Entry & Ignition, Daytime Running Lights, Driving Lights, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Tinted Windows, 2.5, Petrol, CVT, 240kms



$12,995

2023 Honda Jazz E:HEV LUXE SPORT
NZ NEW HYBRID
Collision Avoidance, Monsoons, Tinted Windows, Half Leather Seats, Keyless Entry & Ignition, Heated Seats, 1.5, Hybrid, CVT, 33kms



NOW
$26,995

2014 Kia Sportage URBAN EX
Daytime Running Lights, Alloy Wheels, Descent Mode, Auto Headlights & Wipers, NZ New, Tinted Windows, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 82kms



$14,995

2018 Suzuki Vitara JLXF
NZ NEW 5 SPD MANUAL
Daytime Running Lights, Tow Bar, 5 Door Hatch, Alloy Wheels, Tinted Windows, 1.6, Petrol. Manual 176kms



$14,995

2017 Subaru Outback PREMIUM
ONE OWNER, NZ NEW
Driving Lights, EyeSight, Tinted Windows, AWD, Heated Elevctric Leather Seats, Tow Bar, 2.5, Petrol, CVT, 90kms



$23,995

2015 Mazda Cx-5 GSX
NZ NEW LOW KMs 4WD
i-Stop, Trsaction Control, Driving Lights, Keyless Start, Alloy Wheels, Tow Bar, 2.5, Petrol, Auto, 122kms



$18,995

2011 Suzuki KIZASHI LTDC
Alloy Wheels, Front & rear Parking Sensors, NZ New, Heated Electric Leather Seats, Headlight Washers, Sunroof, 2.4, Petrol, CVT, 100kms



$11,995

VEHICLES ARRIVING DAILY - SEE ONSITE SPECIALS
VISIT MERITCARS.CO.NZ

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

Ph 06 281 1925 • Dave Erasmus 027 934 1842
Ph 06 757 3585 • Jamie Henry 021 556 223