

# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz accounts@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz Phone: 06 761 7016 23 Napier St, Opunake OPUNAKE & COASTAL NECVSS

# Multi-purpose centre opens in Hawera

On Monday South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon cut the ribbon to open Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga , Hawera's new library, I-site Visitor Information Centre and art gallery.

He said discussions had already started when he was first elected as a South Taranaki District councillor. The mayor back then was Ross Dunlop who was also at the opening ceremony.

"It took quite a while to find the right site," Mr Dunlop recalls. "There were a number of options in town before we decided on this site."

He believes the current site on the corner of High Street and Regent Street has turned out to be the right one.

"I think it's great to be here and to have the information centre, library and gallery all in one building."

In opening the building Mayor Nixon said that in December 2014 the Council, working with BizLink Hawera had developed and adopted the Hawera Town Centre Strategy.

"Since then, we've seen the completion of Campbell Lane, extension of carparks on Victoria Street, opening up of Nelson Street carpark with Korimako Lane, the massive Countdown (now Woolworths) development in the Nelson/Victoria/ Union St precinct, the Foundry-Te Wanake coworking space and enterprise hub on High Street and restoration work is currently being undertaken on the old heritage building directly opposite Te Ramanui," he said.

"One of the key goals underpinning Council's Town Centre strategy was that it would be a catalyst to drive change



South Taranaki mayor Phil Nixon cutting the ribbon at the opening of the new Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, Hawera's new library, I-site Visitor Information Centre and art gallery building.

and to encourage private investment in the town centre – and that is what we have seen and are continuing to see happen today. So, thank you to all the officials, elected members, private investors, Bizlink and members of the community, past and present, who had the foresight to embark on this bold plan and see it through."

Mayor Nixon also thanked former mayor Mary Bourke who he said had the foresight to set up the Long Term Investment Fund which meant projects like this could be funded without having to dip into rates.

The project had received funding from the Toi Foundation and the government's regional development fund. Toi Foundation chief executive Maria Ramsay was among the speakers at the opening ceremony. Mayor Nixon said regional development minister Shane Jones had not been able to make it to the opening, but he had spoken to him and asked him if there was a message he would like to pass on.

"He responded with delivery, delivery, delivery. Deliver for our community."

Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga takes its name from the beacon or signal fire which Taranaki ancestress Ruaputahanga would light for Iwi to meet so they could talk and share ideas and knowledge. One factor behind having the new library was a feeling that the current library building, which was purpose-built as a library 128 years ago had outlived its usefulness.

"I think we do deserve a new one after 128 years," said Mayor Nixon. "I don't think there would be many towns that would have had a library purpose-built as a library 128 years ago and still going."

South Taranaki District Council head librarian Cath Sheard said the new library has double the space of the previous building and they are looking forward to holding more events and programmes here

The building also hosts the

Lysaght Watt Gallery which was previously based on Union Street.

Lysaght -Watt Gallery secretary Jan Wairua welcomes the shift.

"The relocation of the Lysaght Watt art gallery to Te Ramanui o Te Ruapūtahanga (High Street Hawera) marks the end of an era and the exciting dawn of a new chapter.

"After 17 years of enriching the local cultural landscape in its beloved, familiar space in Union Street, the gallery bids farewell to its historic location, where countless exhibitions and artistic milestones have unfolded.

Continued page 5



An artist's impression of the new Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, Hawera's new library, I-site Visitor Information Centre and art gallery building which though not fully completed is now open to the public.





Send your your views to:Letters to the Editor 23 Napier Street, Opunake. email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.

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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.

### **Balfour Declaration** and Gaza

For any who have not read the 'Balfour Agreement,' as it applies to the present genocidal state of Israel; this is it: "Foreign Office. November 2nd, 1917. Dear Lord Rothschild, I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Government, Majesty's the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet. His Majesty's Government with favour view the

**ADELPHOS** 

Many eminent thinkers

today ask us to choose

between God and science.

It's a bit like asking you to

choose between the alphabet

and the author to explain

the meaning of words in

a book. Science's job is

to explain and discover

God's wondrous creation.

Countless Christians like

Galileo, Sir Isaac Newton,

Pasteur did just that in

search of understanding

By the late 19th and early

20th century a strong a theistic

bias in scientific research

emerged, supported by a

wave of anti-supernatural

German biblical criticism.

Combined, they reignited the

false Science vs. God split

(or Faith vs. Reason). This

article will address some

of today's non-scientific

and philosophically biased

conclusions, made in the

about

and Louis

knowledge

new

Copernicus

God's creation.

#### Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country. I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation. Yours, Arthur James Balfour." This brief agreement;

establishment in Palestine

of a national home for the

between the Lloyd George English and Rothschild Zionists, against promises

## **Science and God**

name of Science. Einstein in his 1954 essay "Science and Religion" writes, "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind." Today prominent scientists deny the biblical account of Creation. Why? Because supernatural/miraculous events are scientifically However. untestable. testable without and empirical evidence almost all evolutionary-based scientists, like renowned cosmologist Lawrence Krauss, have "scientifically" concluded that nothing created something and eventually everything (A Universe From Nothing, Mathematically, 2012). nothing + nothing = nothing. biblical Christianity In nothing + God = everything. In 1953 Nobel Prize winning molecular biologists Francis Crick and James Watson, both outspoken of Palestinian self-rule by MacMahon, Allenby, Lawrence and others, ('The Iron Curtain over America', John Beaty); was made without regard to the Palestinian people most affected by it. And it is the door of perfidy opened onto the road of utter desolation and horror that is modern Palestine. A road paved with the crushed bodies of hundreds of thousands of the dead in Palestine and whatever moral code the West thought it lived by; murdered over a one hundred year frenzy of zionist criminal terror and broken promises, culminating the genocide in Gaza. A genocide armed and protected by western hegemonic power, keeping contradictions and the double standards just far enough ahead of our abilities to do anything about it.

The Balfour intention "...it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine," lost in the howling freak show that is modern Israel.

> Roger Morris. 0eo

Continued on page 3.

atheists and critics of intelligent creation by God deciphered the structure of the DNA molecule. Crick said it's so complex and precisely designed that, "An honest man...could only state that in some sense, the origin of human life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have to be satisfied to get it going." (Life Itself, 1981, page 88).

Dr. Crick further explained the possible scenario that highly evolved aliens used panspermia—The Greek pan meaning all and sperma meaning seed- to spread the primordial seeds of life on earth: "Alien life was shipped to earth billions of years ago in spaceships by more evolved human beings" (Life Itself, 1981). Dr. Richard Dawkins (The God Delusion, 2006) is an evolutionary biologist and

fierce advocate of atheism who agrees with Crick that intelligent alien panspermia is another "possible" origin of human life. Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, an astrophysicist and lighthearted YouTube Science Superstar, also hypothesises for intelligent alien creators, possibly from Mars. These high-profile Science media personalities exclude God as a "possible" designer and intelligent Creator. This any possibility but God approach highlights "Science's" non-scientific, philosophical and atheistic biases.

Dr. Dawkins leaves us with the reality of evolutionary theory, "The universe has no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference" (River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life, 1995). Humans exist as soulless molecules ever evolving until death.

This Christmas we're reminded of God's greatest gift to His Creation: Jesus, His only Son, who came from Heaven to Earth offering us purpose, meaning, hope and eternal life.

Meri Kirihimete Rangimarie a Taranaki, Adelphos

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Letters to the ] Edition

*Continued from page 2.* 

### Words contradict actions

David MacLeod, MP for New Plymouth boasted November 14, 2024 about the great achievements of this current government.

He talks about rebuilding the economy and easing the cost of living. On the same page and the facing page of the paper are articles titled "Unemployment rising shows the need for a plan' and "Soul kitchen closing after losing school lunches" and finally "Science cuts take NZ even further backward".

Relief from the cost of living, David MacLeod? Ask the 29,000 people whose jobs this government cancelled if they're doing better. Ask the 367,000 job hunters if they're doing better. How is the economy improved when people are not spending?

Recent changes to the government's school lunches program will cost up to 2,000 local jobs since the \$200,000 contract has been awarded to Compass Group, a multinational company. According to one school, the food supplied was "mouldy" and "foul." How is that helping Kiwis, David MacLeod?

Science programs were hit with funding cuts including nearly \$500 million from

#### Apology

In the Opunake and Coastal News the (October 31), the caption to the photo on page 9 inadvertently promoted South Taranaki District deputy mayor Rob Northcott to mayor. The Opunake and Coastal News apologises for the error.

investment in research, science, innovation and technology and \$30 million from key research funds. About 350 jobs have so far been eliminated. We are moving backward not

forward in this domain. David MacLeod's words contradict this government actions. These and other cuts to programs and services are paying for "tax relief measures" for landlords, the tobacco companies, and the wealthy. Reversing the ban on offshore gas and oil exploration and mining in conservation areas will devastate our environment. Privatization and sell-off of Kiwi assets to overseas investors means Kiwis will become tenants in their own

David MacLeod is not working for us.

> Mary Moore Manaia

## basket

Regional Council has listed Pest Management/ Weedbuster noxious weeds and plants to be removed from all properties by 2050, but it needs action now.

example of this remove identified weeds and plants from the Taranaki Council's Parks and Reserves and the Department of Conservation land areas first before

land.

# **Too hard**

Interestingly, the Taranaki

It seems to me, the first

but cutting speed limit might help Being able to hear traffic noise situation and then played them they put people in a stressful reduce anxiety.

Sound of traffic increases stress

may reduce the enjoyment we one of the soundscapes. the get from listening to a dawn natural sounds of the bird chorus of birds and could song were linked to the lowest increase our stress and anxiety. levels of anxiety and stress Researchers recorded the but adding in the traffic noise natural sounds of birds at dawn increased stress levels. The and then overlaid the recording researchers say that hybrid and with traffic noise from roads electric vehicles and reducing with speed limits of around traffic speeds could lower 30 km/hr and 65 km/hr. When levels of noise pollution and

tackled. The question I ask is

why the New Plymouth District Council mayor and councillors are always juggling their budget funds from one project to another.

Why when a volunteer at no cost to the council or the ratepayers, why when a volunteer offers his time has been told that his volunteer work is not required. Yet



Wild Giant Ginger.



#### **Giant Bear's breeches**

the reserve between Rossiter Cres and Conset Street and the Pukekura Park has a huge tangle of undesirable noxious and untidy ground cover.

Our iconic Pukekura Park is getting overgrown ground cover of Tradescantia Willie) (Wandering and other undesirable weeds and the Conset Reserve has huge amounts of noxious weeds

Hedychium (ginger), Woolly nightshade and huge amounts Montbretia and Acanthus mollis (bear's breeches).

I have shown interest to the parks and reserve staff with the New Plymouth District Council to help remove and tidy them up voluntarily and help supervise volunteer groups of people and school students carry out weed control work but so far it seems to be in their too hard basket.

> Ian McAlpine New Plymouth.

### The Treaty

This is a reply to David Hancock, Eltham. (October 31).

The Treaty is an agreement for a relationship between Māori, the indigenous people of this land, and the newcomers, the Pakeha; by this agreement each group could live by their own values and laws. We all know the Treaty has since been breached again and again. Seymour now plans to dismantle all rights and protections agreed to in the Treaty.

What if the tables were reversed? What if the proposed changes to the Treaty planned to remove the rights of the Pakeha? Would you feel cheated? dishonoured? Would you agree that it is anachronistic have your rights to dismantled? Would you agree to Māori dominance? Would you agree to having your culture suppressed? Your language stifled? Your children stolen? Could you live with racist systems and institutions? That would change the terms agreed to by both parties, would it not?

country has a This responsibility to honour

the partnership formed by the Treaty. Māori made terrific strides to correct the imbalances of the past. We must have Māori Wards; we must respect and accept the culture and traditions of our indigenous people as agreed. Māori should not have to fight and fight and fight some more to recover the terms of the original agreement in their own country.

**NEWS AND VIEWS** 

Mary Moore Manaia







# A year in review for Eltham-Kaponga

**COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT** 

It's amazing to me that we are at the end of the year. It goes so fast. I've been attending the last meetings of the year in the groups that I'm involved in. Our family is sorting out when everyone is going to be home, arranging Christmas events, including Secret Santa, and the very important Christmas Lunch menu.

#### The year in review

The Eltham-Kaponga Community Board has worked to actively engage with residents to address local issues and promote community wellbeing. Meetings were held around the district



#### KAREN CAVE

at Auroa, Rawhitiroa, Mangamingi, Kaponga and Eltham to discuss various topics, including infrastructure improvements and community events. Our most recent meeting took place on November 6, 2024, at the Taumata Recreation Centre in Eltham, where we considered three funding applications. Through the Local Discretionary Fund we are able to support nonprofit and charitable groups, assisting with projects that enhance community services, facilities, amenities, or programmes.

This year we have given funds to a variety of groups for a wide variety of projects that the Board felt benefit a wide range of our residents. Some of these are Eltham Community Development Group funding new seating in Bridger Park entrance, The Taranaki Safe Trust Installation of the for outdoor AED cabinet for the Kaponga community, Heritage Taranaki and for Heritage month. Plus we funded some of our own projects including signage for the Soldiers Park walkway, a new tap installation for dog owners at Taylor Park in Eltham. We also funded the Eltham Civic Anzac Service.

Part of our role is to give feedback on the Council's Long Term Plan which sets priorities and budgets for the next 10 years. This helps ensure the LTP reflects the specific needs and priorities of our communities, and our input helps in shaping plans that balance regional and local interests. So, back in May, I stood in front of the Council and spoke on behalf of our Board and our communities.

We've worked alongside the Rawhitiroa Women's Institute with their Anzac

Resurgence project which initially began with the idea of placing a plaque with the Pool's name and referencing its Anzac history on the existing gate pillars at the bottom of the Pool driveway entrance. Anzac crosses were reintroduced along with a new flagpole, which the Community Board funded. By helping complete the Anzac Resurgence Project, we've contributed to enhancing the area, providing a space for commemorating Anzac Day and improved the parking by the Hall.

As the year comes to a close, it's incredible to reflect on all that we've accomplished. From funding projects that enhance our parks and community spaces

to supporting events that honour our shared history, 2024 has been a year of connection and growth. These efforts wouldn't be possible without the collaboration and passion of everyone involved, from our community groups to the Board members who dedicate their time to listening and acting on residents' needs. As we look forward to the new year, we remain committed to ensuring that our district continues to thrive as a vibrant and welcoming place for everyone. Here's to a bright 2025.

> Karen Cave Chair Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

# Beach carnival may not be here in five years

A shortage of volunteers is threatening the future of Opunake's iconic beach carnival.

"There's a high risk of it not being here in another five years if we don't find new blood," says Opunake Beach Carnival committee chair Andy Whitehead.

The Opunake Beach Carnival has been part of the Opunake summer scene for over 50 years. It even featured in the 1990s Heartland TV series with Kerre Woodham fronting an episode looking at how life in Opunake revolved around the beach carnival. Other Taranaki coastal

centres like Oakura and Kaupokonui have had their beach carnivals which are no

of the Opunake summer longer held, but Opunake's

carnival has kept going. Now Andy says they are down to a team of six dedicated committee members. He says the feedback from the community and local businesses is that the carnival should keep going, so he is asking for their help. He says younger volunteers can bring skill sets that others may lack.

"New blood brings new ideas and excitement. It only takes one person with passion and excitement to make new ideas become reality.

"It's been a tough few years, especially after COVID. The cost of everything has gone up and finding volunteers to do the work is just getting harder. That's why we need new ideas."

Andy says the carnival continues to be a popular event and still draws crowds of about 1500. The iconic events like the Big Dig, the raffles and the talent quests continue to be popular. There have been people who have used the talent quests as springboards for bigger things says Andy.

"It's such a great event and the kids just love it. There's something for everyone. The grandparents seem to love bringing their grandchildren along.

"I don't think there would be anybody in Opunake who doesn't remember attending as a child. So let's bring back something of that excitement to make sure it continues. It would just be a shame for it not to continue to the next generation."



George States and Stat

10 am start: On Dell Stage - Babies 0-2

**10.30am:** Opunake Lions BIG DIG. Please register from 9.30am at the Lions tent stage left - 3 sections: Everyone gets a prize. 3 major prizes sponsored by Campbell Contracting.

Then: Tots (3-5), Children (6-9 and 10-13) Muscles (Under 7, 8-11, 12+)

**Opunake Beach Carnival Talent Contest** - Open to all ages. Pre register: opunaketalentcontest@gmail.com, or see us on the day

**Great activities:** Tik Tok Challenge, Bottle Flip, Pie Eating Contest, Lollies or the Bag

2pm: MISS OPUNAKE

All day fun for all ages activities Tinka the Train, Kids Cars, Laughing Clowns, Shooting gallery. Bouncy Castle, Zorb Balls on the Clifftop

Carnival-goers will be spoilt for choice with food trucks including Kebabs, German Sausage, Thai Delight, Pit Laynz BBQ, Japanese curry, Ice-cream, coffee, hot dogs and chips.

The Beach Road will be closed. The Pickering Shuttle will be available - \$2 or Koha donation.



The large crowd at the 2024 Opunake Beach Carnival.



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# Multi-purpose centre opens in Hawera

Continued from page 1

With change comes opportunity.

"The gallery's move to a fresh, dynamic site alongside the Library heralds a new beginning one that promises to breathe new life into its mission of connecting art with diverse audiences."

The first exhibition at the new site is Tuata'i-First which features works by 20 individual South Taranaki artists. Exhibition curator Michaela Stoneman says they range in age from 16 to 80 and include both emerging and established artists working in a wide range of media.

She also likes the new space.

"I really like that it engages people as soon as they walk in the building. It's an open environment for people to engage with and enjoy arts in our district."

As well as a library, gallery and information centre, there is also a café and a children's space with a structure drawing inspiration from the maunga and the local springs in the region.

Among the members of the public enjoying the day was Ali Butt.

"I've been here for 20 years. New Plymouth has some good amenities, but to have a facility like this here in Hawera is great," he said. During the opening

ceremony it was commented that the architect, Daniel Thompson, who now works

Sheard in the new library.

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for Warren and Mahoney had grown up in Hawera. The use of solar panels was among the examples of a focus on sustainability. A tanker donated by Fonterra was also being used to collect rainwater to be used for flushing toilets in the building.

Whanganui MP Carl Bates said he was pleased to see that the Council had a focus on meeting the ongoing operational costs of the building. He looked forward to the building adding to future events such as the Christmas Parade and Americarna.



Among those who turned up to see the official opening of the new facility.



Exhibition curator Michaela Stoneman at the Lysaght Watt Gallery's new home.



Our final issue of the Opunake & Coastal News will be on December 12.

It's usually a bonus issue with things to do and carries us over the holiday season.

Some businesses like to put in Christmas messages and advise of their hours over the holiday season.

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## **OKATO COPPER** Local man takes sole charge role in Okato

Stacey Lamb has been community constable in Okato for the last three months but has lived in the town for much longer. He admits to some apprehension when he applied for the job of community constable in the town which has been home for the last 20 years. "I was initially apprehensive



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"Some wise people gave me some good advice. When you take on a role as a sole charge community constable it's great for your personal development in the police as you learn a whole new set of skills when problem solving and decision making.

I spoke to two colleagues who had previously been in this role, they said it was a great job and both had really enjoyed their time policing in this role.'

Originally from South Auckland he was attracted to Taranaki and then to Okato by the surf.

"It was one of the initial attractions of living in this township with all this worldclass surf in your backyard," he says.

"I've lived here for 20 years with my wife, we've raised our family here." He has a son aged 15, and daughters aged 13 and 9.

Another of Stacey's passions is rugby league. He played for both the Waitara Bears and the Marist Dragons, picking up a "handful" of Premier titles along the way. After he finished playing, he took up coaching.

## Accident at Pihama



**Constable Stacey Lamb of Okato.** 

Stacey was owner operator of the iconic night club 55 in New Plymouth for 12 years. In that time, he built a relationship with local police and eventually found himself interested in policing as a career.

He has been in the police for the past nine years, and until becoming sole charge at Okato, all that time had been spent on the front line in New Plymouth.

Early into his new role he has identified two new challenges in the areas of road policing and rural crime. He says driving issues

range from predominantly young men doing burnouts, careless and reckless driving on the highways, through to drivers being impatient with the local school buses and farm machinery.

"There's a lot of stuff on the road that needs working on," he says.

Stacey would also like to take this opportunity to encourage people to think about installing home surveillance cameras.

"They are a good deterrent. I know that for some of these opportunistic burglars, if they see signage and then the cameras, they will move on." "

There are some very good systems that are reasonably priced, easy to instal and user-friendly for people who aren't device-savvy. He says even when somebody commits a crime despite the presence of cameras, they can still be useful for lines of inquiry and evidential material.

With his friendly personality it is Stacey's aim to always be visible approachable and to anyone and everyone.



Friday November 15th at 4.30 pm A car failed to take a bend at Pihama but fortunately there were no serious injuries.



**Dorothy Collett** Decorator Consultant

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Thursday, November 28, 2024

# Tree charred in suspicious fire



A pohutukawa tree was the worse for wear following a fire during the weekend.

Pohutukawa tree at Goodson Dell in Hawera was charred in a blaze on Sunday afternoon.

police spokesperson says police were called about 4.15pm to assist Fire and Emergency NZ at the scene of a tree fire at the intersection of Cameron

and High Streets. The fire is being treated as suspicious, and police are making enquiries.

Goodson Dell is a reserve near Naumai Park in Hawera maintained by the South Taranaki District Council. Maureen King who lives near the reserve said she had

been freezing broad beans when her husband came in and said a tree was on fire.

"I went outside and said, gosh what a lot of smoke," said Maureen. "There was a westerly wind so it was drifting that way. It's fortunate it didn't go any further. There were people

there looking and the fire brigade were there till quite late."

She says she has lived there for many years and enjoyed having the reserve close by. "It's lovely to live near to. There's a lovely team of girls who are always keeping it tidy."

# EXCEEDING THE STANDARD SINCE 1914 **OPUNAKE & COASTAL Our Christmas Issue** will be out on the

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## Sound of traffic increases stress but cutting speed limit might help

Being able to hear traffic noise may reduce the enjoyment we get from listening to a dawn chorus of birds and could increase our stress and anxiety. Researchers recorded the natural sounds of birds at

dawn and then overlaid the recording with traffic noise from roads with speed limits of around 30 km/hr and 65 km/hr. When they put people in a stressful situation and then played them one of the soundscapes, the natural

sounds of the bird song were linked to the lowest levels of anxiety and stress but adding in the traffic noise increased stress levels. The researchers say that hybrid and electric vehicles and reducing traffic speeds could lower levels of

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**NEWS** 

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# Kaponga WI knits and crafts

For the November meeting Kaponga WI met at the home of Dene Lines in New Plymouth who was also hostess.

The roll call was "Memories of going to balls." Not too many members had actually gone to a ball in their younger days but agreed that the dances and cabarets of yesteryear were memorable.

Thought for the month was 'of all the things you wear your expression is the most important.'

Two of our members -Joy Eliason and Rayleen McDonald recently received their 60-year badges which are richly deserved. These two ladies are an important part of our WI and we are

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very proud of them both. Thank you and we wish you both many more years in WI. Christmas were

plans finalised for December 9 at the Shakee Pear in Stratford with partners.

International Day with the theme being Mexico.

re the Arts in the Park in December and Founders Day in February.

January celebrations in Inglewood on the 27th.

AGM coming up in the new year re positions, and this has been sorted.

Our members have been knitting for SANDS, which

Some members are to attend Information was given

Members will attend the

Discussion was had on the

0



From left: Jo Ellis, Wendy from SANDS, and Joy Eliason. Jo, Joy and Rosalie Gibson (not pictured) knitted 80 items.

is a very valuable service provided to families of babies born sleeping, and a SANDS member, Wendy came to the meeting to receive the

knitting which included 80 items of knitting. The tiny singlets, capes, booties, hats etc are important to these families while they grieve

their loss.

After the delicious shared lunch, we made decorated beaded rods to go into pot plants under the watchful eye of President Jo Ellis who made sure we had everything we needed. Some lovely work done thank you Jo.

Wendy from SANDS was thanked for coming and for judging the competitions and she joined us for lunch and enjoyed the craft.

Dene Lines was thanked for hosting us and providing a great day. A collection for foodbank realised a large box of goodies to be delivered. The raffle was won by Carolyn Nicholas. The silver dish went to Trish O'Rielly.

Competition results Christmas Serviette. 1. Dene Lines. 2. Carolyn Nicholas. 3. Jo Ellis. A decoration from your own wedding cake. 1. Dene Lines. 2. Sharyn Hurley. Christmas Cup cake. 1. Dene Lines. 2. Nancy Stokes. 3 Jo Ellis and Margaret Arbuckle.

Carolyn Nicholas

## Rural school drinking water threatened by fast-track

After a Ministry for the Environment report revealed rural schools across the country are facing heightened levels of nitrate, e.coli, and in several cases, dangerous levels of arsenic in their water supplies, Greenpeace says the fast-track approvals bill will worsen drinking water quality across the country. Greenpeace spokesperson Will Appelbe says, "While Government's own the reports indicate that rural children are at increased risk of health impacts from drinking unsafe and contaminated water, Luxon and his cronies continue to press on with the undemocratic and antienvironment fast track bill that will put more people at risk."

"The Fast Track Bill will make drinking water quality worse across the country. Contamination of drinking water with toxic heavy metals often occurs as a result of gold mining - and fast-tracked gold mines are planned in both the Waikato and Otago regions.

"On top of more water contamination from mining, massive irrigation schemes in Hawke's Bay and Canterbury are set to expand intensive dairying, which is the primary source of nitrate contamination in drinking water."

There are three irrigation projects listed in the fast track list, including the Ruataniwha Dam in Hawkes Bay and the Klondyke water storage dam in Canterbury. Both of these dams have

been labelled 'zombie projects,' as attempts to construct them initially failed to proceed due to the environmental impacts of the proposals. There are also three gold mining projects planned in Waikato and Otago.

"Everyone, no matter where they live, should be able to access safe, healthy drinking water. But reports have shown that rural children are consistently being exposed to dangerous levels of nitrate in their water, putting them at increased risk of developing bowel cancer later in life,' says Appelbe.

Greenpeace says that the health impacts of nitrate are just the start. Chemicals like arsenic and bacteria like E.Coli also have serious health implications,

particularly for children. "The fast-track bill will increase the risk of further drinking water contamination because the fast-track process is all about bypassing public consultation and environmental protections to allow more polluting industries, including mining farming. and intensive That will lead to more contaminants in drinking

water," says Appelbe. "Nobody wants their kids drinking polluted water. And that's why local communities will stand up to resist more mining or more dairy intensification. Any company who thinks they'll get an easy ride with the fast-track is underestimating what people will do to protect their kids' health."

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## Christopher Luxon's Weak Leadership Undermines Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Christopher Luxon had the opportunity to show real leadership and shut down David Seymour's Treaty Principles Bill. Instead, he's allowing it to proceed, failing to stand up for Te Tiriti and dividing our country in the process.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the foundation of Aotearoa New Zealand. It underpins the partnership between Maori and the Crown and shapes the nation we share today. Here in Taranaki, we've seen the strength of this partnership through redress agreement the between Ngā Iwi o Taranaki and the Crown. This agreement addresses historical injustices and acknowledges the profound significance of Mt Taranaki to tangata whenua, ensuring the maunga's rightful place is restored.

David Seymour's Treaty



**GLEN BENNETT** 

Principles Bill threatens to tear that partnership apart. It's divisive by design, a deliberate attempt to undermine Te Tiriti and stoke division in our communities.

The Bill has no support from any other party in Parliament. Even Christopher Luxon himself admitted, "there is nothing in the Treaty Principles Bill I like." Yet instead of stopping it in its tracks, he's allowing it to

linger for six months before it inevitably fails. And how much will this cost?

Luxon's inaction is harmful to our communities. Experts warn the Bill could cause "significant social harm." Waitangi Tribunal The has said it threatens the trust and goodwill built through decades of Treaty settlements. Even Nicola Willis, National's Finance Minister, has called it "dangerous."

Christopher Luxon could have stopped this Bill with a stroke of his pen. Instead, he's bowing to David Seymour, just as he did during coalition negotiations.

And the harm doesn't stop here. Since coming into power, Luxon's government has repealed Māori wards, gutted funding for te reo Māori classes, abolished the Māori Health Authority, and slashed resources for Māori Television and the Office for Māori Crown Relations. Each of these cuts takes us further away from the partnership promised by Te Tiriti.

We deserve a Prime Minister who stands for all New Zealanders, not one who panders to the loudest voice in the room. Luxon's failure to lead on this issue will cost us dearly: in trust, in taxpayer dollars, and in the unity of our nation.

Aotearoa deserves better. Te Tiriti deserves better. And Christopher Luxon needs to do better, or step aside for someone who will.

Glen Bennett Labour List MP based in Taranaki Spokesperson for Economic Development and Associate Energy.



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## Urgent action needed to address Aotearoa's shameful household food insecurity

The Government must act swiftly to address the shameful increase in rates of food insecurity facing nearly a third of children in Aotearoa, and the disproportionate harm for those from Pacific and Māori households.

The annual NZ Health Survey data for 2023-2024 showed that the proportion of children from homes where food ran out sometimes or often had increased by nearly six percentage points in just one year, from 21.3 per cent to 27 per cent.

Over half of Pacific children (54.8 per cent) and over a third of Māori children (34.3 per cent) were from homes where they were not getting the food they needed sometimes or often. HCA food policy expert advisory group member and registered dietitian Mafi Funaki-Tahifote said the data reflected what she was seeing in her work in Auckland, particularly in the South Auckland

community. "Households are spending a

lot more on food, not only due to price increases, but also from the impacts of the deeper forces of escalating fixed costs of housing and power bills, to name a few, which means left-over money available to spend on food is diminished."

She said poor access to healthy food had a significant impact on children's health and wellbeing, which is why the data was devastating news.

"It impacts on their growth, on their health such as on their immunity, on their educational ability and how well they do at school. Nutritionally those kids

are not able to function optimally in terms of concentration, their moods, studies, play and sports."

HCA co-chair Professor Lisa Te Morenga said the high number of children going without food was an indictment on Government actions that have penalised vulnerable the most communities and failed to ensure health and wellbeing are prioritised over commercial goals in its food policies.

"This is a result of political decisions, like aligning benefit increases to the CPI instead of wages, imposing benefit sanctions and failing to ensure access to healthy food for all households."

Therma

"We have about 30-odd ministries and agencies responsible for food in some way, but no co-ordination to ensure that people can access the food they need." HCA urges the Government to urgently expand the healthy school lunches programme and establish a co-ordinating group for all food policy, with a focus on ending food poverty and reversing damaging economic and social welfare policies that put children's health at risk.

"These findings show how important programmes like the free healthy school lunches are as a vital safety net for food insecure children. It also shows that we urgently need to expand it because many of the children impacted by food insecurity go to schools that aren't eligible for the lunches under the current criteria," Te Morenga said.

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The Opunake Fire Brigade was called to a motor vehicle accident on the Eltham Road shortly after 10pm on Tuesday night. A vehicle had gone off the road and power lines were down.

# Volcanoes erupted on **Sheep at home** noon for at least 1.4 billion years

Volcanoes on the dark side of the moon mainly erupted about 2.8 billion years ago, according to fragments of basalt - a type of volcanic rock - in soil samples collected by China's Chang'e-6 mission. The researchers found that around 99% of the basalt fragments collected at the

landing site were from around 2.8 billion years ago, but they also found a sample that dated back 4.2 billion years, implying that volcanoes were active on the far side of the moon for at least 1.4 billion years.

Nature



This charming photo was taken by John Rowe from the Stratford Camera Club. Explained Jeff It was taken at Greg and Jess Rowe's place at Puniho and is a photo of their children's, Jeff's grandchildren's, pet lambs. Sam and Alyssa called the lambs Cloud and Flower (don't ask me which one is which), says John adding "they've obviously grown quite a bit, in the photo, from when they were cute little lambs at Okato school's pet day."

Another prizewinning photo reminiscent of the winning front page photo in the last issue of the Opunake & Coastal News of the cows that had taken up residence in an abandoned farm house.



More time spent sitting, reclining or lying down during the day may increase your risk of heart disease and death, even if you're otherwise active, according to international researchers. They found that more than roughly 10-and-a-half hours of sedentary behaviour per day was linked with future heart failure and death from heart attacks, even among people meeting recommended levels of exercise. The study looked

at data from fitness trackers that captured movement over seven days for 89,530 British people and then followed up on their heart health an average of eight years later. The researchers found that once sedentary time exceeded about 10.6 hours a day, the risk of heart failure and death from heart attack rose significantly, which they suggest indicates a 'threshold' for these risks.

JACC

#### Big changes to baby brains during birth

Parts of the human brain grow dramatically during birth, according to a first-ofits-kind study. Researchers looked at more than 180 brain images from 140 foetuses and babies aged between 25 and 55 weeks after conception, and studied changes in different regions of the brain. Some showed regions small

or steady changes while others developed rapidly during birth, including the subcortical network, which relays information to other parts of the brain. The authors say this work lays a foundation for future research that could show how factors like premature birth interact with brain development.

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#### Thursday, November 28, 2024

# A place to swap bottles and yarns

Retired Kaponga farmer Byl Ricky has been collecting bottles since he was 15. Back then people would pay for empty bottles so it was a nice little earner.

"I took some to school and somebody wanted to buy them, so I just got more and more," he says.

The days of refunds for empty bottles are long gone but 50 years later Ricky still collects them.

"You find them under houses, under banks around rivers, you find them around old dump sites," he says.

At one time every town of any size would have at least one bottling company.

Every month Ricky hosts meetings of the Taranaki Bottle Collectors' Club. The club has been going for about three and a half years and has about 30 members who come from as far afield as Kapiti to "the other side of New Plymouth."

"A lot of swapping and buying goes on here at the club," says Ricky. "We have lots of bottles go round and round in circles.'

Stuart and Paul are two of the collectors who have dropped in for the day.

"Go out digging and that's how you find bottles," says Stuart. "Any old building from the late 1800s you'll find lots of old bottles around there."

Paul says he started by collecting beer bottles. "There are 700 known beer



Ricky Byl with some of his collection of bottles from Grey and Menzies.

bottles in New Zealand," he says. "In America every town would have their own Coca Cola bottle."

From beer bottles he moved on to collecting soda bottles and preserving jars. He cites the example of an 1881 Vanfliet jar in the United States which sold for \$US27000.

"We don't have too many young people, but we do have a few of them," says Paul.

Iin some ways collecting bottles is similar to collecting stamps. Just as stamp collectors have their catalogues of collectible

items, the meeting of the Taranaki Bottle Collectors Club also features catalogues listing various bottle types

from around the country. Ricky says a Hugh Johnston bottle from Stratford, one of only two known in existence recently sold for \$5000.

Stamp collectors often choose to specialise in what they collect and so do bottle collectors.

In Ricky's case it's collecting bottles made by Grey and Menzies, a company formed from the merger of John Grey and Son from Auckland and Robert Menzies from Thames.

Ricky says that faced with the vast number of bottles available he decided to specialise and with this company being a major player in the bottling business he decided on them. He now has about 500 of their bottles.

There are several bottle collectors' clubs around the country, and at that time Ricky was a member of the Auckland club.

There had been an earlier Taranaki club based in New Plymouth, but that had folded.

When the current Taranaki club got started, they met for the first few months in a private house, but that wasn't big enough. Now they meet at Ricky's one hectare section on the outskirts of Kaponga where there is a building large enough to accommodate them.

Ricky moved here two years ago.

"This came up for sale and I liked the idea of it being just a good retirement project," he said.



The stream at the back of his section has a "No Fishing" sign, all the better for visitors seeing the trout which often come visiting. He has also been working

**NEWS** 

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on a nine-hole mini golf course, which with the maunga as a backdrop he is looking forward to having people round to shoot a few holes.







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# **Fare-free Fridays on Taranaki buses this December**







## Friday, 6th, 13th & 20th

Save on parking and spend more on holiday cheer! Enjoy free bus rides across Taranaki every Friday for the month of December. No Bee Card required - just hop on and go!

Check trc.govt.nz or scan below for timetables and pick-up spots.





#### Christmas shopping? Catch the Connector.

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, Taranaki families can take advantage of free bus travel each Friday in December.

Building on the success of free buses for World Car-Free Day in September, Taranaki Regional Council is bringing back fare-free Fridays to spread some Christmas cheer and help families get around more affordably and sustainably.

Council Transport Engagement Manager

Cheryl Gazley says that offering free bus rides on Fridays leading up to Christmas encourages new riders to try the bus for holiday shopping, rewards regular users and helps everyone save a little extra just in time for Christmas.

"We were thrilled by the 22% increase in passenger numbers from our last fare-free day and received great feedback from the community.

"We hope that by offering fare-free Fridays, people

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will again enjoy the convenience, cost savings and eco-friendly benefits of taking the bus. It's a stressfree way to get into town and back without worrying about parking or traffic during one of the busiest times of the year."

On Friday 6, 13 and 20 December all urban Citylink, school Citylink, Connector, Your Connector and Southlink bus services will be free for all passengers. Bee Cards, usually \$5, will also be available free from local retailers (one card per person, while stocks last) on those days.

For more information on bus service timetables and a list of Bee Card retailers, trc.govt.nz/busestransport



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# Following the Hooves to a great night out



At the barbecue. Leanne Shegedin, Ian Phillips and Belinda Philp sell a sausage to Paul Brook.

Opunake retailers who kept their shops open for the Follow the Hooves late night shopping on Friday night say they would do it again.

"It's been very successful," said Opunake and Districts Business Association chair Raewyn Cornford. "We had one lady just stumble in on it and she said what a community."

Raewyn said those businesses that stayed open on Friday had worked together very well, and she would be keen to do it again in the leadup to Christmas. Layla Cann from Citizen



ACADO A

Murray Forsdyke shows off a licorice treat.

about how the evening went. "I think it's been really worth it, and we'd do it again next year and make it an annual event," she said. "It's good that we can capture people after work and bring a little magic to Christmas."

Business had been steady, with bags, earrings, paua soap and Christmas cards being among the items in demand. As well as this all the sausages for the barbecue had sold out. Also popular were the bags of reindeer food to bring out on Christmas Day.

"Just for fun we do it every year," says Layla. "We feed the reindeer."

Among the people who wandered in was Bruce Bennett who said he hadn't been aware of the shop's existence before. "This is a really cool shop

with a really cool groove," he said.

Across the road at Licorice Bernadette and Murray Forsdyke were also having a good night.

"There's been a good mix of locals and visitors to town," said Bernadette. "People are saying what a nice community this is and how it has a nice vibe." She had earlier been talking to visitors to town from Ohope Beach.

Murray noted the way people seemed to be enjoying the evening.

"People are just standing around and talking in the street which makes it very social," he says.

The licorice products for which the store is named were also proving popular including Bernadette's licorice allsorts embedded in lolly cakes.

Patrice from Country Connections said it had been a good night.

"Lots of people have been coming into town. It's been very steady. Just perfect."

At the Coastal Greengrocer Bert Treffers and Stephanie McKenzie were providing live musical entertainment. The two of them started performing as the Tuesday Birds after they had been in a production together with Opunake Players. Bert writes all the music, something he had taken up about the time they started performing together.

"Before then I had never



Phil Flintoff and Layla Cann of Citizen Leather.

written a song in my life," he said. Bert says their music

has elements of folk and country.

"We take inspiration from lots of different genres and give an honest viewpoint of the human condition," says Stephanie.

On a more sombre note, Jenny Bennett from the Opunake Foodbank stand outside Everybody's Theatre said when times are tougher, the need to rely on the community to support those in need is the greatest. "It's really the kids that

concern me. I can't bear it when kids are in need,"



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**NEWS** 

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# Environmental work recognised by TRC

A charity which prevents hundreds of thousands of CO2 emissions, vital mahi to improve fish passages, tireless voluntary work controlling pest animals and plants and long-term efforts by farmers to restore waterways have been recognised at this year's Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards.

In an awards ceremony held in New Plymouth on Wednesday night, the seven winners and five recipients of 'highly commended' awards were congratulated for their inspirational work safeguarding biodiversity, protecting the environment and promoting sustainability.

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Council Chair Charlotte Littlewood says the awards are an excellent way of saying thanks to the unsung heroes who are leading by example and giving so much back to their communities and the region through their work.

highlights of the year to see who has won an award and to find out about their mahi and how that is making a difference to Taranaki," says Mrs Littlewood.

"And this fantastic work is being done across the generations and by people from all walks of life. Their efforts to keep our place special are truly inspirational

"It's always one of the

VANTAGE

able to recognise what they've been doing with an environmental award. "Our mission is to care for

Taranaki and it's pleasing to see many others share our passion for preserving our environment and ensuring we're all working together to make the region a better place to live and work."

and we're delighted to be

The awards have been running since 1993 and a total of 382 groups, individuals, charities, farmers, large, small and medium businesses, schools and kindergartens and iwi and hapū have now been recognised.

Environmental Action in Education

Uruti School – For empowering tamariki to take action to protect and restore the environment.

Environmental Action in the Community

East Taranaki Environment Collective and Pukerangiora Hapū - For working collaboratively to protect and enhance the environment at Everett Park Scenic Reserve and increasing understanding of environmental issues.

Environmental Leadership in Climate Action

On The House Charitable Trust – For taking climate change action by redistributing surplus food, preventing emissions and conserving water while taking a holistic approach to sustainability.

Environmental Action in Water Quality Improvement Otaraua Hapū Taiao Team – For taking action to protect and enhance water



Nigel and Raewyn Chapman.

values within Taranaki water bodies.

Youth Environmental Leader

Addison Moore - For leadership, support of others and willingness to share ideas in making a significant contribution to Taranaki's environment.

Environmental Leadership in Farming

Malcolm and Lorraine Campbell Araheke Farm - For leadership and excellence in environmental stewardship, sustainable farming and land use practices.

Environmental Action in Biodiversity

Restore PG Nops Reserve Care Group - For commitment to supporting management and pest protecting biodiversity in Taranaki.

Highly commended:

Environmental Action in Education

Stratford Primary School, with special mention to Marlene Lewis - For empowering tamariki to take action to protect and restore the environment.

Tree Machine – For empowering rangatahi to take action to protect and restore the environment. Youth Environmental

Leader

Scarlett Bines and Amélie Staunstrup Moore - The Aqua Quack – For leadership, support of others and willingness to share ideas in making a significant contribution to Taranaki's environment.

Environmental Leadership in Farming

Nigel and Raewyn Chapman - NRGE Farms Ltd - For excellence in environmental stewardship, sustainable farming and land use practices.

Kieren and Ngaire Faull - For excellence in environmental stewardship, sustainable farming and land use practices.





Stratford Primary School, with special mention to Marlene Lewis.

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### MIND MATTERS

This edition of MIND MATTERS continues our exploration of the unconscious. Previously, we delved into subjective *experience*—how you perceive and feel about your world. It's all about the internal experience of living—your unique perspective.

Next, we explored the evidence for the existence of the unconscious. The model of the mind we use is just that-a model! It's a theory designed to help us understand our subjective experience. Over the past twenty years, advancements in investigative techniques have shown that certain physical areas of the brain are related to this model, but the relationship is complex. There is no single part of the brain that can be labelled as the "unconscious." shouldn't trouble This us, as we are focused on understanding our felt, internal experience, rather than anything physical or external.

This edition of MIND MATTERS is the first in a series about dreams. Later,



**DR. ROBERT SHAW** 

we will discuss how to analyse a dream, providing a step-by-step process. For now, let's delve into the history of the unconscious and the role of dreams within it. Our modern approach to dream analysis begins with Sigmund Freud. Later we will have to consider Carl Jung.

The unconscious mind is a marvellous universe of hidden forces, energies, and intelligence. It holds aspects of our personality and is the secret source of much of our thought, feeling, and behaviour. Although this description is somewhat



Thursday, November 28, 2024

good introduction to our topic today.

One way to explore the unconscious mind is by examining our dreams. Dreams provide valuable insights, though deciphering their meanings can be challenging. They form part of our "phenomenological experience"-the direct, experience subjective of living, in contrast to knowledge gained from books.

The sources of evidence for the unconscious include: Phenomenological (1)Evidence: This involves your subjective experiencewhat you actually encounter in your daily life and what it feels like to be you. (2) Clinical Observations: Signs and patterns that indicate the workings of the unconscious mind. (3) Psychological Experiments: For example, studies which show that people can be influenced by stimuli without being consciously aware of it. (4) Neuroscience: For example, the use of MRI machines to show that specific brain areas are active during tasks thought.

Humans have tried to make sense of their dreams centuries. During for our evolution, we began dreaming and wondering about those dreams. Do animals dream? Absolutely. mammals Many and birds experience sleep cycles similar to humans, including REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep, which is strongly linked to dreaming. You might notice your pet's eyes moving, limbs twitching, or little noises during REM sleep signs they are dreaming. Research suggests animals might dream about their experiences, such as a dog dreaming of chasing a ball or playing with its owner, or perhaps even being chased by a bigger dog.

While many have written about the meaning of dreams, our modern approach to dream analysis begins with Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung. Freud believed dreams serve two purposes: Wish Fulfilment (satisfying hidden desires and wishes) and Psychic Release (reducing inner tensions caused by unconscious conflicts). For example, you are attracted to someone, but you wish to be faithful to your partner so you suppress the thought, a



introduced the Freud concept "manifest of content" (the actual dreamt storyline of the dream) and "latent content" (the hidden, symbolic meaning of the dream). He believed that the mind disguises the true meaning of the dream through a process called "dreamwork". At night, you do dreamwork to transform the latent content (hidden meaning) into the more acceptable manifest content which you experience in your dream. In the morning you begin your dream analysis to reverse the process of dreamwork. You now try to work out the latent content (hidden meaning) of

the dream. Let me quote Freud, to give you a feel for how he writes: "We know a dream from what seems as a rule a fragmentary work of sense-impressions, mostly visual but also of other kinds, which have simulated an experience, and with which thought¬-processes ('knowledge' in the dream) and expressions of affect [emotion] may be mingled. What we thus remember of the dream I call 'the dream's manifest content'. It is often entirely absurd and con¬fused - sometimes only the one or the other." He then goes on to say that although the dream looks all muddled and confused there is to be found "latent dream-thoughts", which you and I will call the meaning of the dream. With effort you can work out the latent dream-thoughts, and thus you can bring into your consciousness that which was in your unconscious when you had the dream last night.

The quote above is from volume 8 of "The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud". This 24 volume work is a comprehensive collection of Freud's writings, translated from German to English under the general editorship of James Strachey. The books include critical footnotes by the editors, providing valuable context and interpretation.

Dr Robert Shaw Registered Psychotherapist opunake@mail.com

**TENDER** 

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## HĀWERA DROP IN SESSIONS

Toi Foundation staff will be available for drop in sessions at the Foundry in Hāwera every Wednesday 11am - 3pm from now through until 11th December.

Our team will be able to assist you with any funding, application or reporting queries, No appointment necessary.

Where: The Foundry, 130 High Street, Hāwera 4610



# The End-of-Life Choice Society welcomes the Ministry of Health's operational review

The End-of-Life Choice Society welcomes the Ministry of Health's operational review of the End of Life Choice Act, now reported to Parliament. Data from the Ministry of Health show that assisted dying has mainly benefitted terminal cancer sufferers because the trajectory of cancer is more predictable.

Those suffering unbearably with other incurable, life-limiting diseases such as Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, dementia, endstage heart or lung disease, find it almost impossible to access assisted dying. This unfairness could be addressed by removing the requirement for the person to be "likely to die within 6 months" and replacing it with a requirement for the person to have a "serious and incurable medical condition likely to lead to death".

A survey undertaken by Horizon Research shows that this is what the majority of New Zealanders want, irrespective of ethnic origin, gender, voter preference and whether disabled or nondisabled.

Seventy-seven percent of respondents to the Horizon

survey also believe assisted dying should be accessible to dementia sufferers while they are still mentally competent. Currently, those suffering from dementia cannot meet the eligibility requirement to be "likely to die within 6 months" yet still mentally competent.

The Society supports the Ministry's recommendation to remove the 'gag' on health practitioners that prevents them from raising the topic of assisted dying as one option for end-oflife care. The 'gag' severely disadvantages certain groups, notably the elderly and poor who do not have internet access, those with limited health literacy and those too intimidated by doctors to ask about it. There is no public education about assisted dying and none intended.

Assisted dying is a compassionate end-oflife choice for the relief of unbearable, irremediable suffering caused by an incurable medical condition.

**Kermit in Dawson Street** 

It allows an individual meeting certain eligibility criteria to choose to end their life prematurely with the assistance of a medical professional, or to continue suffering until 'natural' death occurs. Assisted dying currently accounts for 0.8% of total deaths.

The Society renews its call also for better funding for hospice and palliative care; they are an essential aspect of health care and must be generously funded to make them accessible to all who need them.

While palliative and hospice care are welldeveloped, well-respected services in Aotearoa New Zealand, even the best of palliative adn hospice care cannot sufficiently alleviate suffering in some people. Seventy-five percent of assisted dying applicants are already receiving palliative care at the time of applying.

"On hearing that there was a possibility of a 'choice', he said it was the best news we could give him."

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# Disruption to Council services



The STDC Administration building.

Services at the South Taranaki District Council disrupted for will be approximately 4-6 months while the main Administration Building in Hāwera is earthquake strengthened, says Council chief executive Fiona Aitken.

Ms Aitken says from 3 December the Administration Building on Albion Street will be closed and the staff relocated to other facilities while the strengthening work is done. Te Ramanui 0 Ruapūtahanga, the district's new Library, isite visitor information centre and gallery on the corner of High and Regent Streets will be the temporary location for all Council related enquiries. "All the same services will be available as before; however, we will need to do some things just a little differently," says Aitken.

"When customers need to see a staff member, we'll need to use video conferencing technology (Teams) or arrange for appointments to be made, because the staff will be in several different locations," she says.

While there will be a degree of disruption for the public and staff, Aitken says it's nothing they can't accommodate.

"Since COVID-19 we've learnt to be very flexible with how we do things and, while shifting out of the main building is not ideal, it means we can get the strengthening work done more quickly.

Ms Aitken the says strengthening work is needed because the Hāwera Administration building is the district's Civil Defence emergency operations centre and needs to meet higher structural requirements than other buildings.

"We need to make sure that in the event of a major disaster we are able to use this building as our base of operations as well as continue to deliver our business-as-usual activities to our communities.'



## **Our Christmas Issue** will be out on the 12th of December.



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# **New President of Rural Women**

Tairāwhiti sheep and beef farmer and current Chair of Rural Women New Zealand's (RWNZ) Board Sandra Matthews has been elected as the organisation's new National President.

Along with husband Ian, Sandra runs Te Kopae Station, a 536-hectare sheep and beef farm at Rere, near Gisborne. She has a financial and coaching background and alongside farming has her own consultancy helping farmers grow efficient and viable agri-businesses.

Sandra also has extensive governance experience. As well as being RWNZ Board Chair, she is Chair of the Rural Communities Trust and past chair of the Beef + Lamb NZ Eastern North Island Farmer Council and the Tairāwhiti Rural Advisory Group. Sandra is also a Trustee for Endometriosis New Zealand and was the co-founder of Farming Women Tairāwhiti Incorporated.

"Sandra has been a committed advocate for women and New Zealand's primary sector over many years, and her family, farm and personal values are at the heart of everything she does," says RWNZ Chief Executive Marie Fitzpatrick.



Sandra Matthews.

Zealand readies itself for Sandra has the knowledge

"As Rural Women New our centenary next year,





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and experience to not only ensure we celebrate that milestone appropriately, but also set an exciting course for our next 100 years," Marie says.

Sandra Matthews says she is honoured to be elected and take on the National President role.

"The support of so many rural people have helped Ian and I in our own farming lives, so I am looking forward to giving back through such an important and historically significant organisation as Rural Women New Zealand," Sandra says.

"The fact is that primary industries and rural communities remain the backbone of the country but are often neglected.

Rural New Zealand can be idyllic, but at times it can also be incredibly difficult to live and raise a family in, with isolation factors, severe weather events, economic conditions, volatile commodity prices, and the accessibility of health, education and social services often presenting severe challenges.

"The role of RWNZ is to empower and support women, rural families and their communities to meet the challenges of today so they can build towards a positive future for generations to come. RWNZ also advocates strongly to make sure rural concerns are not forgotten by policymakers."

With Sandra's election,

Gill Naylor's four-year term as National President has come to an end.

"Gill certainly leaves a big legacy, and we will greatly miss the expertise, enthusiasm and wisdom she brought to the role," says Marie Fitzpatrick.

"Gill has been relentlessly focused on ensuring the organisation is in the best possible position to support our members while also meeting the changing needs of rural women today.

"On behalf of all Rural Women members, we thank Gill for her hard work as National President and for the effort she has put into fulfilling the organisation's purpose of 'Strengthening, Supporting, and Connecting People and Communities."

# Report shows uptake of good wintering practices

A DairyNZ survey is reporting a significant increase in the number of farmers improving their wintering practices, which results in a higher standard of animal care and environmental protection.

This year, 86% of wintering survey respondents implemented at least five good management practices, to support their cows and manage winter conditions, an increase from 74% in 2023.

DairyNZ Senior Specialist Environment Justin Kitto says this improvement is the result of an intense five-year focus on optimising animal wellbeing and productivity, while protecting the environment.

"It's not a simple task, but one that farmers are clearly focused on achieving," says Justin.

"The work involved in improving wintering practices includes providing comfortable lying surfaces, excluding stock from

waterways, and protecting critical source areas."

Justin says the findings emphasise the expanding range of tools in the toolbox. "DairyNZ's role is to

support that depth of options for farmers to run their businesses sustainably and profitably. A range of farm-specific tactics is the best bet to ensure the best outcomes for both cows and environment."

Other strategies used to minimise mud and improve lying conditions include back fencing (temporary fences to protect previously grazed areas), portable troughs, providing extra straw as a dry bedding material and moving the break fence multiple times a day.

The number of farmers who had written plans remained stable at 80%, which is significantly higher than earlier years.

Use of contingency plans for bad weather also increased to 74%, which was substantially higher than the year before.

"This is crucial to ensure the whole farm team knows what to do when bad weather hits," says Justin.

"Winter weather is always an unknown, but the certain thing is that in rain or shine, New Zealand dairy farmers know they need to care for their animals and land, right through to the end of winter, and that is what we have seen."

Additionally, the results showed that 99% of respondents had their stock excluded from waterways, while 100% had buffers around waterways to filter contaminants before they reach a waterway.

"Farmers should be proud of the work they have done to improve winter management practice over the past few years, and especially the continued dedication this past season. This work is being recognised."



# Regulatory review vital to primary sector growth

Government's The agricultural and horticultural products regulatory review must address the current backlog of new products awaiting approval, says industry group Animal and Plant Health NZ.

Animal and Plant Health NZ briefed Parliament's Production Primary Select Committee on the importance of the review to New Zealand's primary sector.

"New Zealand's farmers and growers are facing big challenges such as climate change, emerging biosecurity threats, and increasing productivity and (EPA quarterly report). export value," says Animal A 2023 Sapere report and Plant Health Chief estimated 2-4 years to clear Executive Liz Shackleton. "They need timely access

to new tools to tackle these challenges - such as treatments for emerging diseases, new and improved crop protection treatments, vaccines and innovative solutions like methane inhibitors.

"Currently there is a backlog of significant applications for approval of new products."

As at June 2024, the EPA reported 121 release applications in the queue

the queue, assuming no new applications and an additional 12-18 months assessment. (Sapere report).

Dr Shackleton says Animal and Plant Health members recognise the need for appropriate regulation to manage risks but want to see a balanced risk mindset and a more efficient, consistent and effective approvals process.

"Members also want to see greater transparency of how sector funding is being used, resource focus

# When the going gets tough 'get through' with **Farmstrong**

An online hub with mental wellbeing tools and resources designed to help farmers and growers deal with the stress of adverse weather events has been officially launched by Minister for Mental Health, Matt Doocey.

"Adverse weather events are an increasingly common reality for our farmers and growers. It's vital that people know that they're not alone and that they can get through this and come out the other side stronger," Mr Doocey says.

"Farming and growing isn't easy work. There are already a ton of challenges to navigate even before the likes of floods and cyclones are thrown into the mix. When things get bad it's okay not to be okay, but it's critical people know to ask for help". real

compiling "By

experiences alongside professional psychological advice, 'Getting Through' will help our farmers and growers build strategies and resilience to lean on when challenges arise," Mr Doocey says.

"It will be an important resource for the rural community, who often live in geographically isolated areas.

"We are working on growing the number of available supports to those who can't easily meet face-to-face with a clinician. Telehealth, online counselling and resources like 'Getting Through' are an important part."

Farmstrong is a national provider of rural mental health and wellbeing support to help farmers, growers and their families manage the challenges of farming through practical tools and

resources.

\$345,000 of funding from Health NZ through the North Island Weather Events Response and Recovery package, was allocated to Farmstrong to promote wellbeing support and provide free resources to rural families and communities.

This funding also enabled Farmstrong to host resilience-building events in partnership with rural support providers, reaching communities across the North Island, including isolated areas like the Far North and North Tairāwhiti.

While primarily aimed at those dealing with extreme weather events, these resources offer universal lessons for anyone facing adversity.



#### Dr Liz Shackleton.

and the outcomes that are being delivered for that. Clear objectives, a businesslike approach and strong governance are important for New Zealand to grow."

Dr Shackleton says the

review being undertaken by the Ministry for Regulation is a welcome opportunity to put the issues and possible solutions on the table. Animal and Plant Health

NZ has proposed a number of

solutions, including moving to a Group Standard for Trial Products, for example, for lower risk trials run to international standards, and away from environmentally sensitive areas. This would support resource focus on the backlog. They have also proposed a strategic leadership forum bringing together regulators government, industry and independent expertise to strengthen alignment and address the backlog.

For agricultural compounds and vet medicines they would like to streamline minor changes that align with international practices well-established for products and processes, by introducing self-assessment.

propose They also harmonising with international standards, for example, rule of two for companion animals (that is, where two regulators in selected countries have approved a product, then it can be accepted here) and label harmonisation where appropriate.





# Scientists develop tool to monitor coastal erosion

An online tool developed by scientists at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland allows for detailed monitoring of the nation's coastal erosion from satellite imagery.

Around a map of New Zealand, dark red lines show the beaches eroding the most and clicking into any individual line gives

detailed information going back to 1999. The data is updated once a month.

"This tool is a gamechanger for anyone involved in coastal science or management," says Professor Giovanni Coco, of the School of Environment. "Online beach monitoring for the whole of New Zealand is now a reality."

New Zealand, can be used to monitor shoreline changes, assess coastal erosion, and support conservation efforts. For now, the tool is for specialists since more investment and tweaking would be needed for a version for the public.

Software engineer Nick Young of the University's

Minister

McClay and New Zealand

the conclusion of these

negotiations. With New

Zealand and the GCC first

launching FTA negotiations

back in 2007, it is good

to see negotiations finally

negotiators

Todd

on

the

outcome".

"We

The tool, called CoastSat Centre for eResearch and Coco built on the work of scientists at the University of New South Wales, who created an open-source software toolkit that pulls beach position data from publicly available satellite imagery.

Erosion hot spots exist in places such as Port Waikato while other places are

concluded. New Zealand

is also the first major dairy

exporter to secure a free

trade agreement with the

GCC and we commend

continuing to pursue this

Government for

accreting, such as Whatipu. "As coastal areas face increasing pressures from climate change and human activity, tools like CoastSat New Zealand are essential for informed decisionmaking," says Coco.

Google Earth Engine gives access to a growing archive of publicly available satellite imagery, providing the opportunity for globalscale analyses stretching back decades, Australian scientists led by Dr Kilian Vos said in a paper explaining their work.

"This project was made significantly easier by Kilian Vos providing the data and code freely online," says Young.

# Trade negotiations welcomed

Trade

trade

The Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ) welcomes the announced conclusion of trade negotiations between Gulf Cooperation the Council (GCC) and New Zealand. The conclusion of this deal with the wider GCC region follows on from the recent conclusion of trade negotiations between New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

approximately

products to the GCC region in the last year. This makes the GCC region New Zealand's second-largest dairy market after China. Locking in elimination of the already low tariffs on key dairy products into this highly valuable market provides important commercial certainty for exporters," dairy says DCANZ Executive Director Kimberly Crewther. congratulates

billion worth of dairy

"New Zealand exported NZ\$1.9 "DCANZ

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# October rainfall slightly less than average

appreciate

October continued this year's trend for lower than average rainfall - but only just, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

There was an average of 158.2mm - or 1% less than usual – for the month, ranging from 26% less rain at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd, and 22% more at Waitotara at Hawken Rd. On average there has been 12% less rainfall than normal across all rain gauges, with yearto-date rainfall lowest at Waitotara at Hawken Rd with 26% less rainfall than normal while the Pohokura

Saddle has had the highest year-to-date rainfall with 1% more normal.

Mean river flows for October were 8.9% lower than typical values, low flows were 17.8% greater, and high flows 30.5% lower than typical values and mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 12.9°C, an average the same as long-term October values. The maximum river water temperature recorded in October was 21.6°C at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd on 25 October.

The average air temperature for the region (excluding Te

Government's the commitment to a trade agenda that continues to deliver for exporters, including in regions where New Zealand does not have an existing free trade agreement footprint. We strongly encourage the

Government to maintain momentum and ambition to bring down barriers with other negotiating partners, including upgrading existing trade agreements that have not yet secured dairy tariff elimination."



Maunga sites) was 12.6°C, which is 0.2°C warmer than long-term averages. The maximum air temperature recorded in October was 22.6°C at Inglewood at Oxidation Ponds on 22 October. wind speeds Average

were 15km/hr, with average gust strength of 46.2 km/hr, these were 0.7km/hr lighter, and 0.4km/hr gustier than normal and the maximum wind gust was 106.56km/hr at Waitotara at Ngutuwera on 25 October.

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# The team at Sandfords wish you a very **Merry Christmas** and a Happy New Year

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# **Taranaki** Title Snatched From Rees' Grasp

After winning the first two Stockcar races on Saturday night, one from grid twelve and the other, impressively from grid twenty six in a full thirty car field, Gisborne contracted driver and current 3 x New Zealand Superstock Champion Asher Rees looked set to snatch the Taranaki Championship trophy from the locals at the **R&R** Mechanical Sponsored event. However, with local pride on the line, Tyler Walker and Emilio Hatcher set about turning things back in favour of the locals. The pair worked together at the start of the final race to push Rees up the wall in the first corner of the first lap to nicely eliminate him from the running of the event.

With Rees out of the running, the locals had a clear run to the flag with Ricky Paul winning the race and taking second overall. But it was Haydin Barker,



Speedway action from Stratford..

who recorded two thirds and a fifth over the three races who won the event and is the new Taranaki Stockcar Champion. Bevan Phillips was third.

Streetstocks raced for the first time this season and attracted a field of thirteen

Dylan Smith was cars. in good form and placed third in the first race before winning the next two to win the City of New Plymouth Classic. Veteran racer Steve Reed was second and Jared Pryce third after winning a run off with Whanganui

racer Blair Ladd.

After racing in a mixed field with Super Saloons at the opening night event a few weeks ago, Saloons raced on their own and contested their City of New Plymouth Classic with a field of thirteen cars, including visiting drivers from

Gisborne and Palmerston North. Mike Adamson drove well to win the first race of the night for the class which was his maiden victory. Race two was won by Palmerston North driver Paul Hosking and race three by Blake Hooper but it was a consistent Bradley Korff who sat at the top of the points table to win the classic ahead of Hosking and Hooper.

Superstocks raced three heats to set their grids for the United Steel 1k feature which saw \$300 on the line for the race winner and \$700 for a joker position which was drawn as fourth place. Wayne Moss had an excellent start to hit the front of the field in the first lap from a grid seven start and stayed there until the race end to collect \$300. After tangling with William Hughes, Brad Uhlenberg, who late in the week

purchased the former 1nz car of Asher Rees, used his head, read the race and made his way back to fourth place and sat there to collect \$700.

Minisprints and Youth Ministocks also raced on the night with Minisprint races being won by Regan Ogle. Erin Uhlenberg and Cameron Hurley. Minsitocks were split between the learner mentor drivers and those with more experience. Mentor races were won by Paige Adamson, Jake Read and Lucy Joblin while the senior races were won by Tim Corrigan, Boston Joblin and Lincon Wilson.

The next event at Five Star Liquor Stratford Speedway is the M.C.Fale Transport/ Gibbons Contracting North Island Modified Championship on December 14th.

Jarrod MacBeth

# Pre-season matchup for Chiefs and Hurricanes

Whether Taranaki locals are Chiefs or Hurricanes fans, they will be able to cheer in the stands at Yarrow Stadium when the teams meet on 1 February 2025 for their first pre-season match of the year.

It's been 11 years since Taranaki changed their Super Rugby club allegiance from the Hurricanes to the Chiefs Rugby Club, with many locals still on the fence about who they now support. Chiefs CEO Simon Graafhuis said: "We are glad to be bringing Super Rugby back to Taranaki. They are one of our proud provincial unions that have produced a significant number of Gallagher Chiefs players

with great success in recent years, winning NPC last season and most recently the Ranfurly Shield.

"Games between the Gallagher Chiefs and the Hurricanes are always a good contest, and it should be a great occasion with the strong rivalry between the two teams and their respective fans."

Hurricanes CEO Avan Lee is excited to be taking on the Gallagher Chiefs in Taranaki.

"There's a lot of great rivalry up there between Chiefs and Hurricanes fans, which is sure to make for an exciting game of rugby...

"Taking the game to the wider Super Rugby community is really special, and it's a great way for both teams to connect with their supporters, whether they back the Chiefs or the Hurricanes," said Lee.

With the support of Venture Taranaki, Taranaki Rugby CEO Jimmy Fastier is also trilled to have the two powerhouse teams heading back to the region.

"This is a rare opportunity for the Taranaki community to see two first-class Super Rugby squads and a host of Yarrows Taranaki Bulls go head-to-head in their backyard, Yarrow Stadium.

"We expect high demand for grandstand tickets so encourage fans to get in early once tickets go on sale."

Many well-known local players are set to feature in the games including Bradley Slater, Kini Naholo, Arese Poliko, Tupou Vaa'i and Kaylum Boshier.

The game will kick off at 2pm for an epic day of summer afternoon rugby.

## Taranaki women sitting atop the table after getting a game in at last

The Bartercard Taranaki women's cricket team have got their Shrimpton Trophy campaign off to a winning start, eventually, on Sunday after a second rain out hampered day one of their weekend trip south.

With games scheduled for Saturday vs Wairarapa in Masterton and against Nelson in Palmerston North the next day, the weekend was pivotal for their hopes of taking out the CD district associations tournament.

Having won the toss at Queen Elizabeth Park in Masterton, Taranaki sent Wairarapa in to bat and Central Hinds batter Georgia Atkinson was the glue in the home team's innings, crafting 83 off 91 balls to lead Wairarapa through to a tally of 169.

Cara Hollard was the pick of the Taranaki bowlers, taking 4/30 off her eight overs, in what was the start of a good weekend for the CD Under 19 spinner.

Facing a potentially tricky chase, the rain arrived in just the second over of Taranaki's innings, and play never resumed.

After the first-round game against Manawatu was also washed, Taranaki would



Taranaki women's batter Cara Hollard hits out on her way to 31 against the Nelson Nyxons in Palmerston North on Sunday. It was a good weekend for Hollard, who also took figures of 4/30 in the previous day's washed out match against Wairarapa.

have been frustrated but with a game against the Nelson Nyxons the next day it was time to quickly refocus.

Park, Taranaki was quickly in trouble at 14/3 before Hollard set about a rescue mission. Hitting her way to a solid 31, Hollard had partnerships first with Charlotte Butler and then with CD

Hind Grace Foreman before she departed with the score at 78/5. But Foreman had also found her groove and carried on to top-score in the innings, making a careful 44. Some late contributions from Kate Baxter (17) and Anika Scott (13 not out)

saw Taranaki through to a defendable 163 off their 40 overs.

Foreman got the innings Sent in to bat at Fitzherbert off to a good start, knocking over the dangerous Kate Gaging and Claudia Green. From 25/3 the Nyxons were just never able to get their innings going, and lost wickets at regular intervals and were all out for 77. Aside from Foreman (2/23) others to shine with the ball were Hollard (2/16) and captain Lucy Mitchell (3/6), while Niamh Moriarty snared a late wicket on debut.

The weekend's results leave Taranaki on top of the Shrimpton Trophy points table, with 8 points from three games. Hawkes Bay and Manawatu are both also well in the hunt sitting on 6 points.

The weekend was also

notable for veteran Aimee Wisnewski bringing up her 50th game for the province. The team is next in

action on December 8

when Wairarapa travels to Taranaki for a match which will be key for Taranaki to solidify it's top of the table position.



# Love and Mistletoe great fun

The New Plymouth Little Theatre's latest show Love and Mistletoe written by British playwright Raymond Hopkins is a lot of fun with just a touch of naughtiness.

It's Christmas and Sue and Tim Millard have invited Sue's widowed Dad (Brian) to tea along with three eligible women in the hope that he might find love again.

Thus begins much merriment as the initially reluctant Brian resists the approaches of the three very different but determined women,. When the most persistent of the three opens a present she thinks is intended for her (it had been mis delivered and was intended for the mayor) and finds a whip and handcuffs she, after a few excited whips of the bewildered enthusiastically Brian, handcuffs herself to him. Brian meanwhile starts to enjoy the novelty of three women fighting over him. Until that is

Julie, a schoolfriend of Sue's whose husband has just left her, joins the fray and things get even more complicated and competitive.

Meanwhile the workaholic Sue and the neglected Tim have their own problems. Lynda West as the



From left drian (Morris West) and rivals for his affections Madel (Vicki Kitchie) and Mavis (Lynda

persistent ebullient Mavis was extremely funny as she ardently pursues the taciturn Brian.. The more subdued Mabel played by Vicki Ritchie was a nice contrast and Martha, whose

true interests only come out later, was also very convincing. Cat Jordan as the younger sultry Julie was also sensitively played. The controlling Sue (nicely played by Jacqui Penn)



**Öpunake Medical Centre** 

Christmas Hours

Closed from 2pm Tuesday 24th December

### Reopen 8.30am Monday 6th January

For medical advice during the holiday period contact Ka Ora Telecare 5pm to 8am (evening and overnight) on weekdays, and 24 hours in weekends and public holidays Phone 0800 252 672

If you require urgent medical attention during this time, please visit Medicross or Taranaki Base Hospital. In an emergency please phone 1-1-1

> Please ensure any repeat prescriptions have been requested by <u>2pm Monday 23rd December.</u>

> > Phone 06 761 7324 www.opunakemedical.co.nz



The talented cast taking a bow at the end.

From left Julie (Cat Jordan), Brian (Morris West), Felicia (Alex Sheehan), Tom (Simon Buick), Sue (Jacqui Penn), Mavis (Lynda West), Mabel (Vicki Ritchie) and Martha (Margaret Chapman).



and the henpecked Tom (captured beautifully by Simon Buick) initially have lesser roles until Tom makes his surprise announcement and the couple take centre stage along with their headstrong daughter Felicia (again beautifully played by Alex Sheehan).

In the end one of the women gets Brian and the rejected women happily head off to Florida where they've seen some hunky available men on the internet while Tom and Sue carve out a different life enlisting their daughter and soon to be son in law.

A lovely play with some great acting and beautifully directed by Christine King, I enjoyed it very much. I liked the music too (Cliff Richard's Christmas hit Mistletoe and Wine).

Love and Mistletoe continues at New Plymouth's Little Theatre till December 14.

> Reviewed by Bernice McKellar

Bowel Cancer NZ is welcoming the funding of cetuximab (branded as Erbitux) for advanced bowel cancer patients with leftsided, RAS wild-type and BRAF wild-type, metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC).

Bowel Cancer NZ and patient advocates had set up Givealittle pages to finance this life-extending drug in the absence of government funding. Many patients courageously fought for its accessibility, even knowing that it may be too late for them.

The Chief Executive of Bowel Cancer NZ, Peter Huskinson, says, "Today's announcement is a testament to the unwavering strength and determination of our bowel cancer community. Patients and their families have shown incredible resilience, advocating for a treatment they believe can change lives. We honour the memory of those who fought bravely and have since lost their lives, and we remain committed to ensuring that bowel cancer patients' voices are heard."

Pharmac anticipates that about 380 patients will benefit from cetuximab in the first year of funding.

This includes 140 people who have not received



Improved access to cetuximab (branded as Erbitux) for bowel cancer is being welcomed by **Bowel Cancer NZ** 

any prior treatments for metastatic disease and 240 individuals who have received one or more treatments. In previous addition, they understand that around 60 people privately funding cetuximab could move into the publicly funded setting.

Huskinson says, "The funding of this new bowel cancer medicine is a vital step forward, but the journey is far from over. There remain patients with other

forms of advanced disease who are not yet getting treatments that PHARMAC has long since assessed as cost-effective. Therefore, Bowel Cancer NZ continues to call for cetuximab to be extended for BRAF-mutated metastatic colorectal cancer in combination with encorafenib and for bevacizumab (Avastin) to be funded, which has been on the Medicine Waiting List for fourteen years.

"All around the world,

patients, doctors, funding agencies, governments and pharmaceutical suppliers are doing better at reducing the delay in the availability of effective medicines through prompt assessment, responsible pricing, and timely appropriation of public funds. Lives depend on it. We want what all Kiwis want for our loved ones not to miss the chance for the best survival outcomes and additional months and years of life. We urge the

government and the health sector to work to make this the start of a new era rather than a one-off belated catchup."

23

The Christmas issue of Opunake & Coastal News will be out on December 12. Please get your adverts and editorial contributions to us as early as possible. Ph 06 761 7016.

H00VES&GR00VES HOSPITALITY PACKAGES NEARLY SOLD OUT! Hooves and Grooves Party Village - from \$45pp City Lawn Marquee still available - \$169pp Party after the last - Little Ashes (Band) 18+ all day Sausage Sizzle + x1 Beverage Party after the last - Ash & Aidan and the cr NEW YEARS EVE Family day out! Bring the kids and a picnic. NEW PLYMOUTH Activities for the whole family RACEWAY

**MORE INFO:** 

WWW.NEWPLYMOUTHRACEWAY.CO.NZ



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### **CHURCH NOTICES**



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

#### Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

#### Okato Co-operating Parish

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

4.30pm-6.00pm

#### Opunake Catholic Church St Martins, Pungarehu: Temporarily closed - no Masses

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday

#### Other areas

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

> **St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga** Sunday Mass 8.45am. Thursday Mass 10.00am (subject to change).

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - weekly

The Wave

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

#### St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

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

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

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

#### Friend & 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 Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799

# Ministry has focus on healing and setting people free

Kaylene Subritzky is the director for Dove Ministries, which was originally founded by Bill and Pat Subritzky and has a strong focus on healing and setting people free from spiritual bondage.

From her life-experience as a mother, wife and successful businesswoman, she has insight and skills that allow her to connect with a broad range of people.

Kaylene's meetings are known for their warmth and genuine love. Coupled with God's anointing this sees her messages focus on helping others to make sense of God, the world, love, marriage and family.

Kaylene married Bill Subritzky in February 2012.



Kaylene Subritzky.

Together they travelled and ministered nationally and internationally seeing many people healed and set free in the name of Jesus. They did this together until Bill passed away in December 2015.

Today Kaylene plans and leads Dove Ministries' events, activities and

## Vape advertising and promotion ban 'long overdue'



Vape advertising ban on the way?

A ban on vape advertising and promotion could be on the cards for New Zealand next year, following news of upcoming changes to vaping laws.

The Ministry of Health released a newsletter stating that vaping devices, products or its packaging will no longer be able to be on display in general retailers, and specialist vape retailers must not display these products in a way that makes them visible from outside their business. This also includes advertising and display in online stores and in automated vending machines.

Asthma and Respiratory Foundation Chief Executive Ms Letitia Harding says the move cannot come soon enough.

"We know that vaping advertising and displays are bold and colourful and make these products very appealing to young people - they really catch your eye when you walk past a shopfront window."

The Foundation has been calling for a ban on in-frontof-store advertising and product displays by retailers since 2021.

The Foundation provided feedback to both Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Amendment Bills - the first in 2020 and the second in 2024. The second - (No 2) - is still before Parliament. The newsletter also states that specialist vape retailers (and their online stores) will no longer be able to give away free vaping products, discount vaping products at retail, offer rewards, cash rebates or gifts for the purchase of vaping products, or offer lotteries or games to people who buy vaping products.

For years, the Foundation has pushed for measures like these to help reduce youth uptake of vaping, Ms Harding says.

"The addition of these new restrictions will hopefully be another way to ensure that vapes are not being marketed as a lifestyle product that targets our rangatahi."

The Bill is awaiting its second reading.

resources, often appearing as a key speaker and prayer leader.

She says: "I have a heart for all people and I'm particularly focused on the needs and issues of hurting people in today's world. With the increasing stress and pressure of society, we are all looking for ways to not just survive but to thrive. I've personally found that God's answers to our questions are the ones we can depend on. I'm committed to walking with those in need and seeing people receive God's hope for the future. The story of my life before becoming a Christian and the miraculous way in which God called me into His Kingdom is a powerful testimony to God's grace and love. I spent many years in the world and only became a Christian in later life, and then I had the privilege of being a part of a godly marriage with Bill.

The Bible tells us that God has a plan for our lives. It says in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a hope and a future." My own story is a message of hope, a story about the plans that God had for my life – plans that continue to unfold in my life and ministry.

Nothing is impossible with God and the message from my life is that what the Lord had done for me, so He can do for you too."

Supplied





# Autumn theme reflects grief and loss

As spring merges into summer The Village Gallery in Eltham is ending the year with an autumn-themed exhibition.

Farewell Autumn an exhibition by local artist Ambury Hall opened on November 20 and will run to December 14.

Ambury is a volunteer for The Village Gallery, and as well as showing here has had exhibitions in the Percy Thomson Gallery in Stratford, and at the Depot and Bruce Mason Centre in Auckland.

"I'm an amateur artist, not abstract" he says. "I love colour."

He says he chose an autumn theme to express the concept of grief and loss.



Artist Ambury Hall with Barbara Hart and Neil Crozier and mandala.

"Trees blossom and leaves fall," he says. "It's the universal feeling we have when we lose something,

whether it's a relationship or a parent, and we don't have that any more." says he has Ambury

experienced loss over the passing of loved ones and an individual leaf can represent that person, whether it be his mother or a niece who has passed away.

"It's about the concept of loss and grief," he says. "I wanted to make it cheerful and full of colour and congratulations rather than of gloom. The object is to help people get with the flow and get grounded again, to bring some hope and resolution to the feelings you have so you don't get overwhelmed."

Among the features of his exhibition are a mandala or circular artwork on the floor on the way into the exhibition and a tree-like structure with two magpies

nesting on the top. Ambury says he wanted something to make people look down and then look up. He says artworks like

the mandala are used in Aboriginal and North American Indian cultures to mark important points in life. The tree is based on an umbrella stand with bent copper wire used to attach the leaves.

"I wanted a pretend tree with different leaves," he says. "It's an imagination tree not a particular type of tree like an oak or a maple. Its' the shape of the tree that got me. I wanted to get the height, to make it perpendicular so that people would look up rather than straight ahead."

With a huge range of

characters and lots of

action it was an ambitious

undertaking and Christine

Ryan deserves credit. The

young audience clearly

clearly loved.

Village Gallery chair Bill Davies is looking forward to the year ahead.

"We've got just about a full catalogue for next year," he says. "It's just a matter of pinning down what and when people want to exhibit."

Lorna Davies who will be having the first exhibition of the new year says The Village Gallery had its beginnings in an exhibition in 1999 which highlighted the amount of artistic talent in Eltham. The Village Gallery opened in Bridge Street in 2001 before shifting to its current High Street premises in 2006.

"It was a good move to come along to main street because we get the foot traffic," she says.

## Wolfy woes and troll troubles hits the mark with its young audience

Wolfy Woes and troll troubles, a Hansel and Gretel story written and directed by Christine Ryan is the Opunake Players latest offering.

The show was clearly directed to young children and follows the tradition of a pantomime with lots of audience Interaction.

Action is centred in the enchanted forest with a large cast of characters which included among other well known fairytale characters Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel, a troll, a wolf, 15 blackbirds, 8 goats and three pigs all of whom have aged since their younger fairy tale days. Hansel and Gretel, two of the main characters played by Gibson and Indiana Waugh, are now teenagers.

There were so many characters but several stood out. Alistair Cook hunched over and with a menacing snatching unwary look



Wolfy woes and troll troubles.



goats off his bridge made a lots of attendant action brilliant and very convincing which the young audience troll.

Lynelle Kuriger was also a fearsome big bad wolf - assisted by the She Wolf (well played by Kelly Langton) - creeping up behind the three pigs amidst excited warnings by the young audience.

The rest of the cast with the help of the audience try to stop the villains succeeding in their evil quest.

I enjoyed the goats especially the one named Billy T James played by Frankie Campbell who gave an amusing depiction of New Zealand's much loved comedian with some clever jokes and ending with his distinctive laugh.

The pantomime was a colourful confection with

appreciated it.

If you want to see Wolfy Woes and Troll Troubles you need to book now as it ends on Friday November 29.

Bernice McKellar





25 WHAT'S ON

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### What's On Listings

#### **ONGOING**

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

12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

Beginners Social Dance Classes: Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm. TUESDAYS

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

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

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

#### **WEDNESDAYS**

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

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

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

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

Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to5 .30pm.

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

#### **THURSDAYS**

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

Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia: Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

#### **FRIDAYS**

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

Beginners Social Dance Classes: Oakura Hall, 6.15pm.

#### AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:

Monday: Burger special \$15, Happy Hours 3pm- 6pm; Tuesday: Pork ribs \$20, Pool Tournament 7pm; Wednesday: Pizza night 2 for \$24, Poker night \$30 buy in; **Thursday:** Steak night for \$20, Poker Night \$27 buy in; Friday: Pensioners lunch \$15, Lamb Shank \$20; Saturday; Chicken Schnitzel \$20; Sunday: Roast night \$20 Complimentary dessert for dine in customers.

#### **NOVEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 4**

Ambury Hall presents Farewell Autumn Exhibition: At the Village Gallery, Eltham. **NOVEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 14** 

Love & Mistletoe: A production by the NP Little Theatre

## NOVEMBER 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28 & 29

Wolfy Woes & Troll Troubles: At the Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake.

**NOVEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 20** 

Time Exhibition: At the from out of the blue gallery, Opunake. Special opening event Nov



nearer my god to thee







I wouldn't recommend Voodoo to anyone! Wance or not, you don't half burn your beet walking on hot coals!



#### 24, 2pm. **NOVEMBER 29**

Taranaki Tour with Kaylene Subritsky & Dove Ministries: The Mamaku Centre, Inglewood. Open Meeting. 7.30pm

#### **NOVEMBER 30** Orimupiko Reserve Trust AGM: Sinclairs Electrical & Refrigeration

Events Centre, 10am.

Taranaki Tour with Kaylene Subritsky & Dove Ministries: St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Stratford. Women's meeting. 2pm. NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 1

Stratford A&P Show: Flint Rd, Stratford. **DECEMBER 1** 

Taranaki Tour with Kaylene Subritsky & Dove Ministries: Belmont Church, Hawera. 7pm.

#### **DECEMBER 3** Oaonui Water Supply Ltd AGM: Opunake Golf Club, 6pm. **DECEMBER 5**

Christmas at the Races: New Plymouth Raceway

### **DECEMBER 7 & 8**

Val Deakin Dance School Annual Recital: At the Dance Centre, 306 St Aubyn St, New Plymouth. 1pm

The Recital has a very wide range of music and dance, and performers aged 4 to experienced adults. Ballet, character, contemporary, comedy and tap are a few of the genres on offer. Exciting lighting



then I tried Zen, but attaining enlightenment (or 'satori') is nopicnic, I can tell



things were getting inal experience ... and that saved me ...



I had my hose done



and colourful costumes complete the theatrical experience - suitable for audiences of all ages.

Tickets are available at the door or by phoning 752 7743. **DECEMBER 9** 

Opunake Business Association Monthly Meeting: 23 Napier St, Opunake 5.30pm.

**DECEMBER 24** Opunake Christmas Parade: 7pm start.

**DECEMBER 27** 

Hooves & Grooves Race Day: New Plymouth Raceway DECEMBER 31

New Years Eve at the New Plymouth Raceway **JANUARY 4, 2025** 

**Opunake Beach Carnival:** Opunake Beach



### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

### **OAONUI WATER** SUPPLY LIMITED

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 6.00pm

at the Opunake Golf Club 235 Namu Road, Opunake



Next Meeting is on Monday December 9, 2024 at 5.30pm

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

### **TO LET**



Office Rooms/ Board Room available Long term, short term or casual basis Building has kitchen facilities, wheelchair access, cleaning services and plenty of parking on Napier Street or at rear of building on King Street. Inquiries to Clare Moss - Ph 06 278 4169 clare.moss@hughson.co.nz



**OPUNAKE AND DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** Presents

#### **Opunake Christmas Parade 2024**

Tuesday December 24. Gather from 6.15pm onwards for 7pm start. Tasman Street, Opunake

Welcome to our celebration. Please complete and return the bottpm portion of this official entry form by December 18 to guarantee your position in the parade lineup.

All entries will be judged this year and prizes will be awarded based on the following criteria.

### **Best Effort and Most Creative**

Please review the parade safety rules and guidelines on the back of this page keep this portion for your records.

> Return the bottom portion to Agrimec, Ihaia Rd or email agrimecauto2022@gmail.com

-----Name of entry: Type of vehicle: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of entry (mtr): \_\_\_\_\_ No. of adults: \_ \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children: \_\_\_ Responsible person: \_\_\_\_\_ Dayime phone: \_\_\_\_ Email address: \_

### 2024 PARADE ENTRY FORM

My printed name or signature below is my bond that I understand the rules and guidelines for the 2024 Santa Parade and warrant that my/our entry will fully comply.

Signature: \_\_

Safety Rules and Guidelines

Special note: The parade begins at 7pm on December 24



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### **TRADES & SERVICES**

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

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### GRAZING

**GRAZING AVAILABLE** Phone Richard 027 510 9667.

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

www.



**OPUNAKE AND DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** 

Christmas Parade 2024

#### Safety Rules & Guidelines

I. Parade officials will inspect all entries and reserve the right to eliminate any entry that is in violation of these rules.

2. The 2024 parade will start at Tasman Street and Ihaia Road corner and end again at that corner.

3. Once your entry has started along the parade route, no one may board your float.

4. Cover all open wheels for safety so marchers cannot snag clothing or be pulled under wheels.

5. Your entry must not exit the parade before the end of the parade.

6. No alcohol is allowed.

7. For public safety, nothing may be thrown from your entry.

8.All motorized fleets must have wheel watchers on both sides.

9. All entries must have clear identification signage.

10. Changes in the parade line-up the day of the parade will be made at the sole discretion of the parade officials.

II.A representative of your entry must make themselves known to the officials upon arrival.

Keep this portion for your records

Entries must be received by 20th December 2024 Entries received after that time will be placed at the end of the parade.

Please email your completed form to agrimecauto2022@gmail.com Or drop it into Agrimec Auto, Ihaia Rd, Opunake.

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