



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Inside



New Council sworn in.
Page 4.



Lexi McQuaig reading her winning poem at the RHM Literary Awards. See pages 6, 7



Val Eliason remembered
Page 9.



Rediscovering Taranaki's heritage. Pages 10-11.



Stoic, quiet and social. The alpaca. See page 24.

Local news, local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events. Delivered free around the mountain every fortnight.



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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Taranaki National Art Awards a winner

Exhibition continues till November 6

The 2022 Taranaki National Art Awards attracted 350 artworks from all over New Zealand. South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon who officially opened the awards on Friday October 19 before a packed Sinclair, Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre on the basketball court temporarily converted to an art gallery, described the event as "huge for us." The standard of art that's here is "unbelievable," he said before welcoming everyone.

The Awards were not held last year due to COVID. Megan Symons, Chair of the Taranaki National Art Awards who next spoke said the awards were "testament to the vision, commitment and action of everyone associated with it" including the artists "talent, skills and knowledge."

The awards were judged by Janice Wilson and Karl Tito who previously judged the awards on separate occasions. Both describe themselves as contemporary artists. Karl acknowledged "the enthusiasm, creativity and bravery of the exhibiting artists. It's not easy for people to put their artwork in such a public setting".

Interesting and reflecting the digital age we now live in, were some exhibits such as the winning Works on Paper entitled Blue Sky Guardian used digital devices in the creation of their artworks. The impact of the Covid pandemic featured in some of the works.

Karl said they had a really difficult job this year in judging the Painting category as there were so many really amazing entries. They decided in the end to give Highly Commended awards to two artists, Althnia Batchelor from Waitara and Jasmine Middlebrook from New Plymouth.



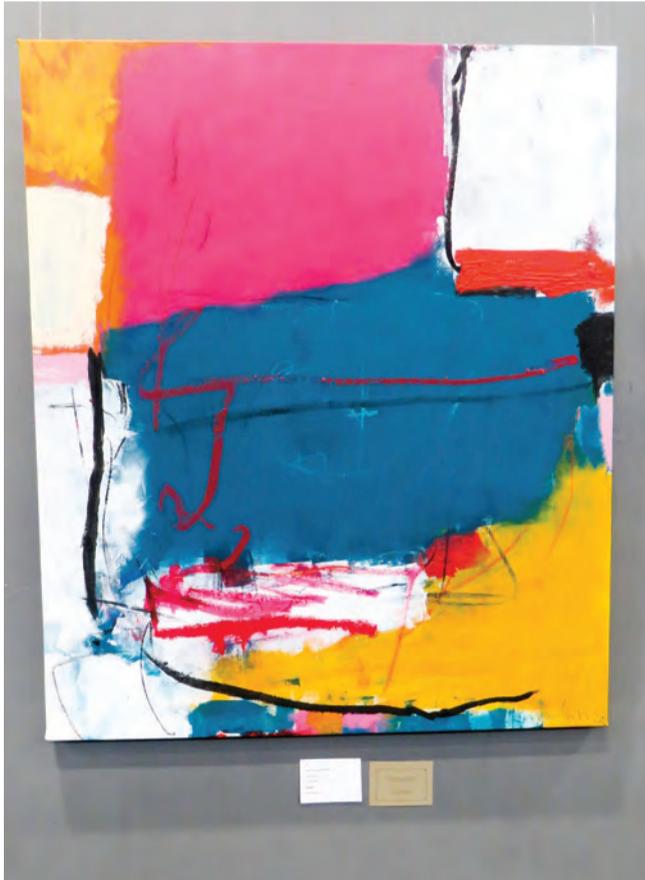
Nic Bousfield from Whanganui collected two awards. Her 'ceiling fan' won the Photography award. She also won the Fibre Art Award with her 'They/The/Their' exhibit. Commented Janice, the winning photo depicted things we take for granted. "If lockdowns have taught us anything, it is the familiarity with the things we see in our homes and take for granted. "Nic Bousfield's photograph is a beautiful, if not sensual, portrait of a ceiling fan, said the judge Janice Wilson."

Of her woolcraft and micrame exhibit which won the Fibre Art Award, the judge described it as "delightful, fun and a little bit naughty" and said "We fell in love with it."

Speaking of her two winning works afterwards Nic said the fan became an image of contemplation during lockdown, the focal point of the photo being the shadow and not the fan. The backdrop of the fan and its texture which included thousands of little dots and the shadow and light and angles began to fascinate her the more she observed it. Five years ago Nic in her first ever entry to the Art Awards gained a Highly Commended in the Photography category. "I love playing with light and dark," she says.

Of her other winning entry Nic, who regards herself as primarily a fibre artist said she was a bit bemused by the judges reference to her exhibit being "naughty" and said she couldn't see anything naughty in it. (It clearly says something about the mind of the judges! Editor).

Continued page 17



The winning painting chosen by the judges at the 2022 Taranaki National Art Awards was by Krismarlianti Donaldson from Manaia. Entitled I Will Find You, the judge Janice Wilson said it was selected for its "sheer joy and colour." Its brilliance fills our senses and makes us want more she said.



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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.

Signed up to a joke

Cheers to Neil Walker and to the team at Opunake & Coastal News for pairing my “Signed up to a joke” letter with a gesture of Regional Council openness. In the edition of 20 October last, Neil’s letter, just after mine, is saying “Thank you” for any votes that helped him get elected to the Regional Council recently. He is offering you his mobile phone number. Punters may imagine me

getting Mr Walker on his mobile and us sorting out the problem of dead-brain vows in connection with climate change I mentioned.

I have never taken well to the Regional Council relationship scene. I recall the 1972 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States of America and Canada as the stimulus that got New Zealand cleaning up. We brought on

the catchment commissions and gave some other existing authorities like the New Zealand Timber Preservation Authority a few more duties. On the environmental front, we were doing pretty well with this crew, by say 1987. The wanton abuse of waterways of the 1960s that had needed to be stemmed had, in fact, been quite wonderfully curtailed. However in 1991, resource consents and Regional Council compliance orders were brought in to replace the powers of the old crew who were then goneburghers.

Resource consent management is not completely a New Zealand invention. Budding historians could read “Confessions of a Civil Servant” by Robert Stone from the United States of America. “Sang-froid” is a word for describing the constitutional

wash. Keen researchers may then go to a

text like “Natural Justice: Principles and Practical Applications” by Geoffrey Flick in order to see

that a sang-froid of this kind could become a bane of lords. Flick explains a simmering case against le droit administratif, as going slightly haywire in France, Britain and the United States of America.

There can be a big loss to untethered insecurity complexes. I could not help seeing Lord Hewart of

Bury from Flick’s text in Vladimir Putin during his televised address some weeks before the Ukraine war began.

There is a dunce act on our doorstep and that is not apropos. We should not expect a dunce act

about temperature to uphold certain ramparts for too much longer. One may distinguish between

a doctrine of le droit administratif and the science after some standards have sifted out the froth.

Russell Christensen
Eltham

A hundred years of serving Opunake

In the year 1922 The Cottage Hospital building in Opunake was opened. It operated as a Hospital before being converted to the District Maternity Home. Finally after closing for one day it was converted to the current Opunake Cottage Resthome. We are going to celebrate 100 years on the 26 November 2022 with the community with a mix and mingle. There will be a cake cutting and the Resthome will be open for visitors to look through. If anyone has any photos or stories that would like to share for over this time please contact The Cottage Resthome or email admin@opunakeresthome.co.nz.

Gwenda Thomas
Opunake

ADELPHOS

The world really needs hope in 2022. It seems that everyone I speak with in Aotearoa New Zealand, and overseas, are feeling that humanity is facing a very uncertain future. Just yesterday one 88-year old woman in a retirement village told me, “We all might as well spend our money and enjoy ourselves because we don’t know if the world has a future.”

Many reputable scientists and historians are now

Hope

using the often cliched words “unprecedented” and “apocalypse.” So it’s not just “religious” people quoting biblical prophecy. Today, optimism and pessimism are in a global arm-wrestling match. Hope is hanging in the balance.

The best way to find hope is always to have faith in something. Some faith options may be in discovering yet unknown scientific solutions. Then

there’s reducing carbon emissions, turning down the heater, shooting down a threatening asteroid, the United Nations negotiating world peace or Elon Musk creating a habitable and unpolluted environment in outer space.

In an ever-increasing secular world, very few accept the “added” option of faith in what the Bible says about human nature, our earth’s future and eternity. I say “added” because God is the Creator and source of human intelligence; He wants us to use all options in caring for His people and the environment.

However, will this world eventually come to an end with God recreating a new heaven and a new earth? Yes (Revelation 21:1-4; Romans 8:20-22). Will it be soon? We don’t know exactly when. But there is hope. Hope in Jesus offers everlasting new life.

Maranatha,

Adelphos

Next issue
November 17.
Phone
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to be in it.

Deadlines for copy

We find we are working very late on a Tuesday night to put the paper together for it to be at the printers first thing Wednesday morning.

Our deadline for copy is Monday 10am.

This gives us an opportunity to proofread the copy.

We continue to receive a lot of material on Tuesday and are struggling to process it all as well as put together the paper.

If you have trouble meeting this deadline can you let us know.

This deadline does not apply to the Cops and Fire Service columns where incidents can occur on the Monday and Tuesday.

We do appreciate your contributions, so thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Editor

Opunake & Coastal News Paste Up Night



More Opunake & Coastal News’ out

We have printed more copies of the Opunake & Coastal News.

It is available on stands at the following locations

New Plymouth:

Ate Forty One, Tukapa St, Westown

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The Health Shop on the ground floor at Centre City

The Store, Cnr Tukapa St & Wallath Rd

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Pastimes in Opunake

Tim’s Barbershop, Moturoa

Okato Takeaways

Correction

RIGHT:

The caption to the photo which accompanied the story Surfing the Wave at Gisborne (Opunake and Coastal News October 22, page 19) was incorrect. The caption should have read "From left, Cade Carr, Cody Aldridge, Zion Aldridge and Joel Becroft."

The Opunake and Coastal News apologises for the error.



ABOVE: Many thanks to the person who left a message on our ansafone that the "poppies" on page 4 (October 6 issue) were actually tulips. My staff now know the difference.

Weather fails to deter Market Day punters

On Saturday it was all on for Market Day in Opunake. The stalls were open and doing a brisk trade, and Tasman Street was humming. The weather forecast for Saturday October 29 had not been a good one. Although the rain was holding back it was a windy morning, but the punters were still out in force.

"I never miss it," enthused Dianne Haist, a visitor from Palmerston North. "I come here all the time for the Arts Trail and the gardens, as well as this. I come here every year. I've been coming for the last five years, except for when there was COVID. It's my Paradise."

Annetta Scott said she had set her stall up at 7.30am and been busy since about 9am.

"It's been really good," she said.

Opunake Business Association chair Raewyn Cornford said that given the forecast it had been a close call as to whether or not to go ahead.

"We made the call. Everybody was organised, so I said let's go ahead. It's gone very well. We've only had three cancellations, and it's attracted a lot of people into town."

Helen Duff at the Wesley Church stall said they had



Sharon Gooch serving Kathy Stanley who is sharing a joke with Bev Henderson.

been "flat tack" since setting up at 8.30 am.

"This is the quietest it's been, now," she said two and a half hours later. "They've just been coming and coming. It's been brilliant."

Similar sentiments were voiced across the street by Jenny Cavaney at the St Barnabas stall. "Our tables were full, but we've had to keep replenishing them," she said. "We're very happy,

even though the weather is absolute rubbish. It's typical Opunake. We look after each other."

Maree Drought and Jenny Bennett were running the Everybodys Theatre stall in front of the town's iconic cinema.

"We've sold lots of lollies, especially candy floss," said Jenny Bennett "We've also had lots of ladies say they are coming to the movie,"

she said pointing to the poster promoting Mrs Harris goes to Paris."

As well as the traders, community groups were making the public aware of

their presence. Chief fire officer Andrew Pentelow and Beau Le Prou were there with a parked fire engine selling raffle tickets, handing out fire safety literature, and encouraging people to think about joining up.

"We're about two or three firefighters down, so we're looking to boost numbers,"

said Beau.

The Opunake Communities Kindergarten were having a good day selling plants grown by the children. Danni Newsome said they had had a lot of people drop by.

"If the weather was better, we might have got a few more," she said.



CFO Andrew Pentelow and Beau Le Prou QSM from the Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade.

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Marae hosts historic occasion

The elections are over, and now the hard work starts. That was the message South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon presented to the district's elected councillors and community board members when they were sworn in at the Kanihi Mawhitiwhiti Pa near Okaiawa on October 26.

"The hard mahi is about to come, but I'm sure you are all up for it," he said. "Once you are members of Council, you are there for the whole community, and our whole community is pretty diverse."

The ceremony marked several milestones. It was the first time the South Taranaki District Council, or any council in Taranaki, had been sworn in on a marae. It also marked the swearing in of Leanne Horo and Tuteri Rangihaeata as the first councillors to be elected for designated Maori wards. Performing his last official duty before departing for his new position in Palmerston North was chief executive Waid Crockett.

The marae had only opened in December last year. Mayor Nixon paid tribute to Daisy Noble who had passed away early last year. She had been chair of Te Korowai Ngaruahine and had been a driving force behind getting the marae built.

Ngaruahine kaumatua John Hooker says that when the marae opened it was under Covid restrictions, so only 50 people at a time could be admitted to the meeting house.

Mayor Nixon recalled the ceremony at the marae on September 17 this year, "a date that will go down in our history," when the South Taranaki District Council transferred Te Ngutu-o-te-manu Site B back to Ngaruahine, following the transfer of Site A seven years before.

He presented the marae with framed copies of the deed which had been signed at the September 17



Coming on to the marae.

ceremony.

John Hooker said a pouwhenua at had been placed at Te Ngutu-o-te-manu to mark the occasion. "This was hugely significant getting Te Ngutu-

"We are there for one purpose, and that's for creating a better district of South Taranaki for everybody."

Waid Crockett presented the mayoral chain to Mr

Nixon for his second term of office. Mayor Nixon noted that when he was sworn in for his first term this had been done by outgoing mayor Ross Dunlop.

The rest of the Council, followed by the community board members were sworn in. Mayor Nixon said Cr Rob Northcott would continue to serve as deputy mayor.

He said the last three years had seen challenges including those posed by Covid, as well as government reforms like Three Waters.

"If we have to share our water with other councils in Taranaki, we have no problem with that, but we don't want to see control go from out of Taranaki," he said. "We want to be in control of our own destiny."

He said he looked forward to carrying on with projects that had already been started like Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga, the Nukumaru Station Road and the Hawera Business Park. He said the Business Park was something he had long supported.

"I am pleased to see that it's really going gangbusters in our district," he said. He noted that there was already one big business from Palmerston North planning to relocate here.



At their Swearing in Ceremony. The Taranaki Coastal team. From left: Sharlee Mariekura, Cr Bryan Roach, Cr Leanne Horo, Cr Aaron Langton, Monica Willson, Andy Whitehead, Liz Sinclair.

o-te-manu back. It was significant for Ngati Ruanui and Ngati Manuhiakai." He said things are underway for the iwi to pass it on to the hapu.

"We are really pleased to have the first meeting of

the Council on a marae. No other council in Taranaki has done that."

Mayor Nixon paid tribute to outgoing chief executive Waid Crockett and councillors, community board members and staff.



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Taranaki Regional Council elects new chairperson

Charlotte Littlewood is the new chairperson of Taranaki Regional Council, after she was elected unopposed by fellow councillors.

Mrs Littlewood was the sole nomination for chairperson and received a round of applause as her appointment was confirmed.

She nominated long-serving South Taranaki Constituency councillor Neil Walker as her deputy, which also passed with no opposition.

Mrs Littlewood, in her third term representing the New Plymouth Constituency, thanked her fellow councillors for their support and pledged to lead diligently, respectfully and with integrity.

"I am truly humbled and this is something I don't take lightly."

She said the Council had a key opportunity to become one of the best councils in New Zealand.

"I genuinely believe we have one of the most talented councils in TRC history."

She said while they would face challenges ahead, she was confident the Council would work together as a team and she would ensure



Chairperson Charlotte Littlewood and deputy chairperson Neil Walker.

every voice was valued.

She added she was looking forward to the fresh perspective of the four new councillors – Bonita Bigham, Donna Cram, Susan Hughes and Alan Jamieson.

Mrs Littlewood is the Council's fourth chairperson and first woman to hold the role. She takes over from David MacLeod, who stepped down from the Council at this year's election after 22 years in the

job.

Ngā Iwi o Taranaki have confirmed four of their six representatives for appointment to Taranaki Regional Council's two main standing committees.

Peter Moeahu will remain on the Policy and Planning Committee for another three years. He will be joined by Emily Bailey and Mitchell Ritai, who represented iwi on the Consents and Regulatory Committee last term.

Newcomer Dion Luke will sit on the Consents and Regulatory Committee along with two other iwi representatives, to be nominated in the near future.

Iwi representatives first joined the standing committees in 2016, as part of the region's Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

Newly elected Council chairperson Charlotte Littlewood says they had brought a unique perspective to the table, which benefitted the entire region.

"We have seen just how valuable that iwi perspective is to ensure robust discussions and effective, collaborative decision-making.

"It's great that three of the previous representatives

have chosen to return, while we look forward to the fresh ideas the new appointees will bring."

The nominated iwi representatives have been endorsed by the eight iwi in the region representing the three Taranaki waka - Aotea,

Kurahaupō and Tokomaru.

New councillor Bonita Bigham was an iwi representative on the Policy and Planning Committee last term. She was elected unopposed in the newly created Taranaki Māori Constituency.

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Orimupiko Marae



Orimupiko Marae.

Ma te whakapapa hei tu kaha te whanau Tena koutou e te whanau

On behalf of Orimupiko Reserve Trust Trustees we would like to give an update of the temporary closure of Orimupiko Marae, Eltham Road, Opunake.

Orimupiko Marae trustees received direction from the Registrar of the Aotea Maori Land Court whereby

relevant documentation was submitted and Internal review systems reviewed.

Trustees have received notification that the next hearing is scheduled for December 2022 to be held at the Aotea Maori Land Court Te Hawera. (Date yet to be confirmed by MLC).

An independent Audited Report and Statement of Financial Position was also

reviewed.

Trustees would like to acknowledge the mamae the closure of our marae has caused. We welcome the findings and look forward to progressing forward the rebuild to completion.

Naku noa

T.M.Skinner.

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Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards



Lexi McQuaig who won the Secondary School Poetry section reading out her winning, thought provoking poem 'If I Were a Boy'.. Watching on are from left South Taranaki mayor Phil Nixon, Keith Horner and judge Robert Sullivan.

In reading out the winning story in the Open section of the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Awards the judge was clearly moved. Collecting herself she tried to resume but struggled again commenting the story resonated so strongly with her own experience of losing her own grandmother. In the end someone took over to read the story entitled 'A Casket Made of Flax.'

Written by Airana Ngarewa from Patea – who also took out the Highly Commended award in the same category and won the Open Poetry section - the story was about a group of whanua gathered after the death of a much loved "nan". The story was also laced with humour with incongruous references by her husband - and koro - to their active sex life to the groans and embarrassment of the gathered whanau.

The 2022 Ronald Hugh Morrieson Awards evening held at the Hawera Hub before a large crowd was opened by newly re-elected mayor Phil Nixon who introduced the colourful Ronald Hugh Morrieson as someone who "did a lot of writing, played a lot of music and took in a bit of alcohol."

There was an increase in

entries this year said MC Layne Winiata who described writing as "therapy for the soul" and acknowledged the main sponsors Lysaght Watt in supporting the important "gathering of stories within our community". Ken Horner from Lysaght Watt who next took the stage noted there were 167 entries this year and commented "That's a lot of entries."

The short stories were judged by Arini Beautrais who remarked that "the spirit of Ronald Hugh Morrieson, his mischievous dark humour and gift for satire but also for portraying humanity in all its caprices and contradictions," was evident. "The best stories used character skillfully and contained some kind of arc, ranging from the seemingly mundane dynamics of a workplace to the blossoming of romance, to tragedy and grief."

Of the stories in the Open category the judge said, "While the eventfulness of the stories is variable each one is a satisfying whole. Characters are believable, language is used dynamically and dialogue is effective and natural." All were highly readable.

The winning story in the Open section, 'A Casket

Made of Flax' written by Airana Ngarewa from Patea – who also took out the Highly Commended award in the same category and won the Open Poetry section - was about a group of whanua gathered after the death of a much loved "nan". Lest the subject seems grim, the story was also very funny with the departed's husband - and koro

– making frequent reference to their active sex life to the groans and embarrassment of

the gathered whanau. Second in the Open category was Emma Hislop from New

Plymouth with her story 'Cure' and third was Bruce Finer from Hawera with

Another print run needed for Morrieson biography

Another print run has been ordered for the biography *A Towering Talent: Reflections on Ronald Hugh Morrieson* by Rolland McKellar. The biography is selling best in Ron's hometown of Hawera, at least as indicated by Paperplus Hawera. Owner Aaron (and Jenny) McCallum has said it is his fourth equal (with *Tools for the Top Paddock* by Kane Brisco) best seller. The overall best seller is *Straight Up; Ruby Tui*, the well-known rugby player. Second is *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult, with *Black and White* by Paul Thomas in third place – the biography about top cricketer Ross Taylor.

The Morrieson biography is selling best in places where it is displayed prominently, explains Rolland. For example, Bookstop Gallery in New Plymouth always has a copy

of the biography displayed in the front window facing the street. In Paperplus Hawera there are copies in Aaron and Jenny's New Releases Area, the Best Selling area as well as a third stand in the interior of the shop. There are also some promotional posters on display and when the biography has sold out (as they have several times) one buyer approached the author to request a copy after seeing posters in the shop.

Aaron requested another 20 copies of the biography a few days ago, which effectively cleaned out the last of the author's stocks. All that are left are the ones already stocked by book-sellers – such as Pastimes (Opunake), Poppies (New Plymouth), Govett Brewster (New Plymouth), Inglewood Book Centre, Paperplus Strat-

ford and Tawhiti Museum (Hawera). Aaron's shop has about 25 copies for sale for those who are interested in Taranaki's foremost novelist. "The biography would make a great Christmas present," commented Rolland. "He's a superb writer – maybe our best novelist." Ron Morrieson is the only New Zealand author to have had all his books made into feature films namely *The Scarecrow*, *Came A Hot Friday* (with Billy T James), *Pallet on the Floor* and *Predicament*.

The Scarecrow (Klynham Summer - USA name) was the first New Zealand film to have won overseas acclaim and *Came a Hot Friday* was judged our nation's Best Film of the Year, with Billy T James winning the Best Supporting Actor award and Peter Bland Best Actor.



Rolland McKellar (with wife Stephanie at left) was signing copies of his book on Ronald Hugh Morrieson. Copies were available for purchase at the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards evening.

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attract record entries

'Recognition'.

Of the entrants that placed in the Secondary School category, Arini said they displayed a "rising talent and enthusiasm" which ranged from the heart-warming, to interior disquiet, tragedy, history and memory.

First Place in the Secondary School category went to Rosie Butler from New Plymouth Girls High School with 'The Ugly Ducking'. Second was Bethany Gyde from Hawera High School with 'The Adventure of Ricky Baker' and third was Krishay Lal also from Hawera High School with 'Home'.

Arini's parting advice to all writers was to "Keep reading, keep writing and most importantly, have fun."

The True Story category open to Secondary School students sponsored by the Normanby & District Lions Club attracted 15 entries. Judged by Matt Rilko from the Taranaki Daily News, he commented after 20 years he "still gets butterflies when writing for public scrutiny" and commended all the writers in the room.

First Place and prize money of \$500 went to Hunter Quinn from New Plymouth Boys High School with his entry 'The Strange Object'. Second was Tin Tin Nguyen (New Plymouth Boys High School) with 'The Bet'. Third Was Jerry Wei (NPBHS) with 'The Railway Adventures'.

The Secondary School Poetry category was judged by Robert Sullivan who commented "I enjoyed encountering young people's perspective on life" and added "It was a real testament to their teachers that they are able to share their views on things." First was Lexi McQuaig from Opunake High School with her compelling poem 'If I Were a Boy?' Remarkd the judge it showed how "young men are trapped" and "young women are ignored." He added "I hope to see this poem published soon." Second was 'Warmth', by Bethany Gyde from Hawera High School and Third was 'The Power of Kupu' by Aria Brophy from Opunake High

School.

In the Open Section Poetry category, First was Airana Ngarewa (Patea) with 'Poi E Won't break Your Heart'. The judge said the poem shows "great emotional intelligence." He summed up his approval with the exclamation "Wow." Second was Mikaela Nyman (New Plymouth) with 'Moturoa No 4' and Third was Michaela Stoneman (Patea) with 'Hot Tub'.

Other results:
Highly Commendeds were awarded as follows:

Short Story Open

Airana Ngarewa (Patea), 'Ever Had Yoghurt'.

Molly MacDonald (Hawera), 'Moments in Motherhood'

Secondary School

Jordan Dawson (Hawera High School) 'Stouburn - a Real Town

Sahan Larsen (Opunake High School) 'Operation Overload'

Poetry Open

Frances Rookes (NP) with 'Unseen'

Secondary School

Georgia Bryant, Taranaki Diocesan School For Girls 'Eighteen'

True Story

James Anglesey (NPBHS), 'Location for the Hell of it.'

Oliver Marsh (NPBHS), 'Great Uncle George Armstrong',

The judges

Arini Beautrais, from Auckland and Whanganui is a poet and short story writer and has a Phd in creative writing from the International Institute of Modern Letters and has also studied ecological science. She has published four collections of poetry and a book of her short stories. She has won various awards for poetry and in 2016 won the Landfall Essay competition and in 2021 a book of her short stories won the Jann Medlicott Acorn Award for fiction receiving \$57,000, New Zealand's largest cash book prize. It

was only the second time a book of short stories which the author described as a collection of "unhappy love stories" had won the award in the history of the New Zealand book awards.

Robert Sullivan is a poet of Maori and Irish descent, an academic and editor. He has a Phd from the University of Auckland and is the author of over 12 books of poetry. He describes himself as multicultural. His poems explore social and racial issues and aspects of Maori culture and history. He has worked as Associate Professor of English and Director of the Creative writing programme at the University of Hawaii and until recently led the creative writing programme at the Manukau Institute of Technology. He is currently Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Massey University.



Judge Arini Beautrais (at left) of the Open Short Story section with Bruce Finer (placed third), Molly MacDonald (second) and at right Emma Hislop who accepted the first prize on behalf of the winner Airana Ngarewa.



From left: Keith Horner from Lysaght Watt, major sponsors of the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards, judge Arini Beautrais and placegetters in the Secondary School Short Story section Krishay Lal (Third), Bethany Gyde (second), Rosie Butler (first), Sahan Larsen (Highly Commended, in front) and Jordan Dawson (Highly Commended).

The next issue off Opunake & Coastal News is due out on November 17.

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Five years progress with Labour



STEPH LEWIS
MP FOR WHANGANUI

In October we marked five years since Labour came into Government. Our Government has a very clear vision for New Zealand's future: An economy which provides security and opportunities for every New Zealander and their family; where everyone has a healthy, affordable place to call home; where all of us have access to world-class healthcare; where we look after our environment for generations to come. We have worked hard to put in place the foundations for this future so, on this milestone of five

years, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the progress so far. Thanks to our strong economic management, debt is low, exports are up, and our economy is larger now

than before the pandemic. We have more people in work, with higher wages, which makes both our families and our economy strong. We've also seen child poverty continue to improve, and measures such as our Families Package, minimum wage increases, benefit increases, and free lunches in schools have helped to lift families' wellbeing. Turning around New Zealand's record on child poverty wasn't the only big, long-term challenge that we were elected to fix. The housing crisis is a problem that has been decades in the

making, and while there's no easy solution, the actions that we've taken are already making a real difference. Housing supply is ramping up, we've changed the law to make renting fairer, and we've successfully tipped the balance in favour of first home buyers. We're speeding up the scale and pace of house building through our Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, and we've built more public and transitional houses than any Government in decades. We're also making good progress on our plan to

make sure that everyone in New Zealand has access to world-class healthcare. We're upgrading hospitals and health centres and training more nurses and doctors. We've put in place more mental health support, boosted Pharmac's funding, and extended free GP visits to all children under 14, and lots more. Tackling climate change was made a priority, and thanks to the actions that we've taken since 2017 such as passing the Zero Carbon Act and supporting businesses to switch to cleaner energy, New

Zealand is on track to bend the curve of our emissions downwards for the first time in history. It can sometimes be easy to forget just how far we've come since 2017, particularly as we've all faced a global pandemic and economic shock. While there's still more work to do, I'm incredibly proud of our Government's record.

Steph Lewis
MP Whanganui.

Pothole of the Week highlights state of rural roads

National's Pothole of the Week campaign is shining a light on just how bad New Zealand's roads have become under Labour, and this includes our rural and regional roads, National's Associate Transport spokesperson Matt Doocey says.

"The potholes around rural New Zealand are driving Kiwis crazy as our roads become billy-goat tracks. People are sick of the havoc this is causing their vehicles, and they're telling us things and the worst they've seen them. "The pothole photos are

coming in from across the country and it's not a pretty picture. "From Cape Reinga in the Far North to Bluff in Invercargill, and all the rural and regional roads in between, the potholes are just dire. "For people driving on

rural highways, if a pothole causes serious damage to their vehicle in an area where there is limited cellphone coverage, they could be waiting hours for help. "Kiwis are desperate to get the Government's attention on this, using spray cans, taking a dip in the potholes and even some DIY concrete

filling. "While they should be repaired professionally, the frustration at the delay in pothole repairs is fair enough. "It seems that Labour is so busy with their pet projects in Auckland and Wellington that they are missing out on doing the basics right in our regions. "I could count on one

hand the number of rural Kiwis in Canterbury and Southland who want to see up to \$29.2 billion spent on Auckland light rail, but I don't have enough hands for all the concerns about potholes. "Transport Minister Michael Wood needs to fix our rural and regional potholes and stop wasting money on his pet projects."

On this month in history Martin Luther King Day proclaimed

On November 2, 1983 President Ronald Reagan signs a Bill proclaiming the third Monday in January a national holiday in honour of Martin Luther King. Dr Martin Luther King, was a Baptist minister who campaigned for equal rights for black people and the end of segregation. He advocated non-violence and civil disobedience. He won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964. A stirring moment in history was when he led a march to Washington DC where he made his famous 'I Have A dream' speech. He was murdered by an extreme racist on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Barbara Kuriger MP for Taranaki-King Country

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A lifetime of service remembered

Mary Valerie (Val) Eliason campaigned to keep the Kaponga Hospital open and went from being secretary of the Kaponga CWI to being CWI National President. In the 1993 New Years Honours List she was made a CBE (Commander of the British Empire). She passed away on October 10, aged 89.

Val was born in Opunake, one of five children of John and Blanche Stevenson who farmed on the Watino Road, Pihama. She did her schooling at the Pihama School and Opunake District High School, and then helped her parents while taking an active part in the Pihama sports scene.

She married Colin Eliason in 1954 and shifted to the Eliason family farm near Kaponga which would be home for the next 53 years until she and Colin shifted to New Plymouth in 2007.

In the memoir which her daughter Karen read at her funeral Val recalled knowing very few people in Kaponga at that time, and telling her mother that she was lonely.

"She said 'You have got to go out and join something in the district. You may have to go more than halfway but you will make friends,'" Val recalled.

Val joined the Kaponga Country Women's Institute and later became Secretary, so beginning the path which took her to being national president.

Val and Colin's three children Peter, Jenni and Karen were all born at the Kaponga Maternity Hospital, so when in 1963, an infection forced the hospital to close, and there was talk that it would not reopen Val felt she had to do something.

"A public meeting was called and almost 200 locals attended," Val recalled. "The Hawera Hospital chairman



Val Eliason at WI Centennial with her CBE.

stated it was closed for good. Five elderly gentlemen (as I thought) spoke. It must not close. As a new mother I got up and spoke and was the only woman to speak. A group of five were appointed to meet the Minister of Health who came up from Wellington to meet us. He finally agreed to have the facility open after stringent fumigation etc. I now think that that was the beginning of my involvement in affairs that affect women and children."

Val and Colin moved on from sharemilking for Colin's parents to being farm owners. As their children got older, they continued to take an active interest in their sporting pursuits.

In 1984 Val was elected

President of the South Taranaki Federation of Women's Institutes. In the same year she and Colin took a three-month world trip. In Britain she attended the annual meeting of the English Women's Institute where speakers included two National Health nurses who talked about suitcase cervical testing. When she returned to New Zealand she decided to do something in South Taranaki, and with the help of Family Planning and local GPs organised smear tests at Hawera Maternity Hospital. Over a two-day period 150 women were tested, with two advised to have urgent follow-up and surgery.

The 1980s were a busy time for Val. She was made a JP,

was on the Ethics Committee of Midland Health, and was appointed by the Health Services Commission to assess the possibility of Taranaki's three hospital boards merging into the Taranaki District Health Board. She was also involved in fund raising for the first CT scanner at Taranaki Base Hospital.

In 1990 she was elected the Country Women's Institute National President. Her four-year term included celebrations for the centenary of universal suffrage, and discussions on whether to set up a Ministry of Rural Affairs, which the Women's Institute opposed. In her time as national president she visited WIs from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island. She recalled a particularly moving visit which Institute members made to see for themselves how life went on at Arohata Women's Prison.

In 1990 she received a Commemoration Medal for service to the community, and in 1996 she received a Gold Honours Award from the national executive for her work in the CWI.

Overseas travel continued to be an interest, and she led tours to Australia.

Last year she attended the WI Centennial celebrations in Wellington.

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Historic Ohawe Beach a fascinating afternoon

As part of the Taranaki Heritage Month (October 1-November 5), a group of about sixty people were treated to a fascinating walk through the history of Ohawe beach and what is now Ross and Jan Dunlop's farm. The tour on Sunday October 23 started at the Ohawe Military Cemetery at 1pm, with former mayor of South Taranaki Ross Dunlop proving a most informative and interesting guide.

Most of those resting forever were soldiers of the 57th Regiment from the



Ross Dunlop speaks in the woolshed in front of the century old gig, once owned by the Batten family.

1860s who were killed in the Taranaki Wars, led by people like General Cameron and the ruthless General Chute. One of the Europeans killed was a very young trumpeter; the legend on his gravestone reads Sacred to the memory of Trumpeter John Foyston, died 26 July 1865 aged 14 years. There were many battles including a major one at Otapawa, which is east of Hawera.

By the 1920s this cemetery was in a poor state with the wooden crosses (and their information) likely to be lost through decay when pioneer farmer James Livingston showed initiative and built cairns and walls out of local stone, thus helping rescue the information of those who had died. James Livingston also was a previous owner of

Ross and Dunlop's farm.

Ross told us a lot of intriguing things about a former owner of part of the Dunlop's farm – Hamilton Batten (1872-1954), who was very innovative and ahead of this time. He established milking machines, one of the first farmers in Taranaki to do so, conducted herd testing (the Badcock Method), used tractors (his Fordson tractor was just the second tractor in Taranaki), and was a keen radio enthusiast: the farm had many receivers, transmitters and aerial towers.

He also made quality silage (from his crops of lucerne) and one of his two silos still exists despite being over a century old, although it did require some restoration by Ross and Jan. The silo was

capable of storing 70 tons of silage. Filling it was a real family affair as one historic photo shows.

Ross showed us remnants of the hydro dam, such as water races (still partially visible) which provided electricity for the homestead and cow shed, at a time when few Taranaki farms had this provision. The original hydro shed still exists where the turbine had a capacity to produce four kilowatts of electricity. It was situated down a steep slope. "We won't go down there, as only half of you will return," Ross commented to laughter.

Also still on the farm is Hamilton Batten's engineering shed, which has many intriguing relics such as a washing machine, sewing machine and old tools.

Down at the beach Ross spoke about the moa hunting period when the species was rendered extinct by slaughter over

Continued page 11.



Ross Dunlop holds a moa bone aloft.

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Historic Ohawe Beach a fascinating afternoon



Continued from page 10.

a period of only a century. He showed us a moa bone (femur) that he had found on the beach. He also pointed out the sites of pas and redoubts in the locality.

Finally, we headed to the woolshed/museum that is situated close to Ross and Jan's homestead where an amazing afternoon tea had been provided by Jan. Inside were many interesting

artefacts including Hamilton's gig (built in 1902 by Hurrell Brothers), tools, a piano, fridges, pictures, a promotional poster for the film *Predicament* and mounted deer's heads. Also on display was Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga, an exhibition of the history of wool bale stencils.

Ross and Jan must be commended for such an outstanding afternoon of history and refreshments.

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perennials should last for years, not all survive frost and cold so if your garden gets frosted in winter, look for 'hardy' perennials. **Annuals** are plants that you have to replant every year. True annuals are plants that, in one growing season, start from seed or seedling, quickly grow to maturity, bloom continuously, set seed and then die. Annuals have a seasonal life span and are commonly used as borders and in containers and flower boxes to brighten up the landscape. Annuals

give quick results and create an instant pop of colour in your garden. The lifespan of annuals is shorter than perennials and they won't withstand extremes of climate. At Palmers, some of our favourites can be bought as either an annual or a perennial - *Petunia*, *Geranium*, *Dianthus*, *Impatiens* - all make a terrific display. Deadhead, water regularly and give an occasional feed (we like seaweed solution) and you will be rewarded with summer garden colour.

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The Forgotten Coast

As part of the Taranaki Heritage Month (October 1-November 5) Professor

Richard Shaw gave a talk on his 2021 book *The Forgotten Coast*. The book is published

by Massey University Press. Richard outlined his family's history with the Coast.

Richard is Professor of Politics at Massey University.

In particular Richard spoke of his great grandfather Andrew Gilhooly's involvement with the November 5 1881 invasion of Parihaka. Andrew was a member of the Armed Constabulary (Number 3 Company) when at 7am Andrew and the other 1588 members invaded the peace village where various atrocities took place including sexual assault, the destruction of buildings and killing of animals.

Andrew's involvement didn't stop there: "It is probable that he took part in the subsequent destruction of the pa and its culture during the weeks and months that followed the invasion." (page 21).

Subsequently, Andrew was sold land, in 1965, that had been confiscated from Maori ownership. This land was farmed and later he acquired more land which had been taken from the rightful Maori owners.

Richard felt considerable unease with both his great grandfather's involvement



Professor Richard Shaw reads *The Forgotten Coast* during Taranaki Heritage Month.

with the Parihaka invasion, as well as the acquisition of Maori land, which has been confiscated. However, he felt the situation had to be faced up to, and hopefully redressed as much as possible.

"I have to accept that my great grandfather is part of the annihilation of Parihaka.

Not just the destruction, but erasing it from the face of the earth."

There were other grim measures to follow including the blockade of food to Maori people and the expulsion and imprisonment of Maori people, including leaders Te Whiti-o-Rongomai (1830-1907) and

Tohu Kakahi (1828-1907). Richard drew parallels with what happened in Ireland where many of his ancestors came from.

It was a fascinating and informative talk. The book *The Forgotten Coast* would be well worth buying.

Let off fireworks safely this Guy Fawkes Day

Fire and Emergency is calling for people to be careful when letting off fireworks this Guy Fawkes, particularly with high winds forecast across the motu.

Community Education Manager, Adrian Nacey says people shouldn't light fireworks if it's too windy.

"It only takes a stray firework to start a fire or hurt someone, so if you're lighting fireworks this Guy Fawkes please take simple precautions to keep everyone safe," he says.

"Fireworks can make a fun celebration, but they can also be dangerous and need to be used responsibly.

"Make sure you have a safe set up when lighting your fireworks. Light them in a wide-open space, away from

anything that could catch fire and have a bucket of water or hose nearby.

"Ensure your fireworks are pointed at the sky and not at people, pets or anyone's home.

"Let your neighbours know if you are planning to set off fireworks and keep your pets inside.

"Check local bylaws for the rules around using fireworks in your area. In many places, you're only allowed to light fireworks on private property and some places, like the Queenstown Red Zone and Mt Iron in Wanaka, have permanent fireworks bans.

"Lastly, dispose of your fireworks safely and soak them in water before you throw them out."

If there is a public fireworks display in your area, Fire and Emergency encourage you to head along to that rather than light your own.

"But if you do choose to light your own, remember we need everyone to do their part to help keep our communities safe this Guy Fawkes," says Adrian Nacey.

"You don't want to be the person responsible for damaging a person property or the environment by not being careful with fireworks."

The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on November 17.

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Free oral antiviral medicines are available for people at risk of becoming very unwell from COVID, and free RATs are available for everyone.



Benefits of antiviral medicines

Antiviral medicine can help people be less sick and stay out of hospital. The medicine must be taken within the first 5 days of having COVID symptoms to reduce the amount of virus in the body.

Who can get antiviral medicines

Eligible people include:

- Māori or Pacific people aged 50 years or older
- everyone aged 65 years and older
- anyone aged 50 years or older who has had less than two COVID vaccinations
- anyone with a severely weakened immune system, Down syndrome, sickle cell anaemia, or were previously in critical or high dependency hospital care from COVID.
- anyone with three or more high-risk medical conditions.

For the full list of high-risk medical conditions, visit [Covid19.govt.nz/medicines](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/medicines)

When to get antiviral medications

To get the COVID antiviral medicines, all of these must apply:

- you have COVID, or you are a household contact and have symptoms
- your symptoms started **within the last 5 days**
- you are eligible for the medicine.

Your doctor, nurse, hauora provider, or local pharmacy can tell you if you are eligible and may provide you with a prescription. If your local pharmacy does not prescribe antiviral medicine, they can put you in touch with a pharmacy that does.

How to get antiviral medications

If you have COVID you must isolate for 7 days. You can arrange to have medicines delivered by friends or whānau. If needed, pharmacies that provide COVID antiviral medicine can have them delivered to you, for free.



Free RATs

Free rapid antigen tests (RATs) are available for everyone, and you do not need to have COVID to get them. You can order them online at [RequestRATS.Covid19.health.nz](https://www.requestrats.covid19.health.nz) and collect them at community providers, marae, testing centres, and some pharmacies, or have someone collect them for you.

Upload your test results, positive or negative, to [MyCovidRecord.health.nz](https://www.myCovidRecord.health.nz), or call 0800 222 478 and choose option 3.

Find out more at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

Rumours are True

A large group of teenagers, ranging from 14 to 18, went for a stroll in a thick, lush evergreen forest on the outskirts of their quiet town, because they heard the rumour of a crazed lunatic living in the midst of trees and deadly animals.

Theo, their leader, doesn't believe in the rumour so he encouraged the gang to go check it out. Erica, the youngest of the party, would be considered a ghost enthusiast by most. She started the rumour and barely made it out the first time she ventured into the daunting depths of the towering trees. Rachel is like the deputy to Theo. She is strong in her beliefs. She is the brains of the operation and knows how to handle a variety of situations. Alexander or Alex is the muscle. He works out at the gym for a minimum of four hours a day. He is a 109kg 17-year-old male who is very protective over his friends. Jeremiah is the newest recruit. On his first day he was talking about subtle cracking on the walls. He is an observant, strategic wizard.

At the beginning of their adventurous trek through the dense, humid jungle Jeremiah was noticing early warning signs to leave and never return, literal signs



Ashley Symons (13), a student at Opunake Primary School.

that said "leave and never return." Erica claimed to sense unnatural energy and pleaded with Theo and Rachel to go back from whence they came. Alex stood by Erica when Theo politely declined because they are like brother and sister.

Snap whoosh aaahhh! Erica was now dangling from a tree branch from the ankle. Theo refused to believe it was a trap from the crazed lunatic. Rachel used her pocketknife to cut the rope then Alex caught Erica

and gently placed her on the mossy ground.

"Sorry guys, I didn't see the rigging."

"Erica, it's not your fault."

"Thanks Alex."

As the group continued on their risky walk, Erica started freaking out, saying someone was watching them and she didn't know who, only they were up to no good.

Theo and Rachel started getting anxious as the forest became almost too thick to move through. Alex was the tallest of them and declared

that he could see a meadow through a clearing in the trees. Everyone kept walking looking for this clear patch of grass, but to no avail. Theo yelled at Alex for lying and took back the lead.

It was soon dark and they were lost within the infinite maze of trees. Rachel was starting to doubt Theo's opinion on this adventure and wished she hadn't come. As more walking and precious time passed, they decided to hit the hay and leave.

In the morning: Alex awoke to panicked breathing in his ear.

As his eyes fluttered open, he soon became aware that a strange man was leaning over Erica, watching her reaction to the unwelcome surprise.

"Erica, who is that?"

"I I I started the rumour and it is real. This is the so-called crazed lunatic that thrives in the lush bushes and protective trees. I've met him before and barely made it out. He won't let me go easily this time."

"That's right Erica, you escaped before, but now you will experience my true wrath."

With those as his final words, the man grabbed Erica and fled out of sight, deeper into the tangle of

roots and leaves. Alex hurriedly woke the others and frantically explained what had happened.

"We have to go after her!" exclaimed Theo.

"No, that's what he wants, he is luring us into a trap," retorted Jeremiah.

"I'm with Theo on this one, we don't know if she is ok or not," said Rachel.

"Wait, where's Alex?"

Alex had run off through the woods to go rescue Erica. Whoosh, Bang, Snap. Crunch. Crunch. Crunch. As Alex forcefully scurried through the entangled twigs and knee deep mud, he had eyes on the wretched man. Alex locked eyes with Erica, who had been hoisted over the lunatic's shoulder and screamed,

"Give her back!" The cruel man halted in his tracks and dramatically rotated to face the enraged Alex. The man held Alex's gaze for the rest of eternity, a never ending stare that burrowed deep into Alex's deepest thoughts and secrets. The man suddenly retrieved Erica from a boulder and darted with accuracy toward a miniature between two intertwining trees.

Alex wasn't expecting the sudden flee and dramatically failed to keep up with the proven psychopath. At that moment, between the panting and sobbing, Alex didn't notice his other friends come and enclose him in their grasp.

"It's ok Alex, we'll help you get her back," said Rachel in a soft calming voice. "He went towards the middle of the forest. He disappeared after going in between the two trees. It's like the Smurfs, an invisible home."

"Genius," said Theo with a huff.

The shrunken gang materialised a plan of extraction. Rachel would go in and make a distraction, Theo would find out where Erica was being kept, inform Alex and Alex would go save her. Jeremiah would wait outside in case Erica

escaped by herself.

Rachel entered the rickety shack.

"Hello. Anyone here?"

"Yes I'm home Rachel," replied a scratchy voice coming from a shadowy face.

"I'm here for a lunatic," stuttered a mortified Rachel.

"Oh, wrong place. There is only a sane man and a kidnapped girl here."

"Where can I find this girl?" questioned Rachel.

"Up in the attic, strapped to a chair with a shard of glass getting nearer to her neck."

With that Rachel blasted up the staircase into the attic, only to find a deserted room, free of movement. Slam! It was a trap. The man knew their plan all along and had just locked Rachel in the attic.

"I'd stay and chat, but I have your friends to attend to."

The man lurked outside the door until Rachel let out a scream of horror. Aaahhhhhhh! Thud! The man chuckled and crept back down the stairs.

"Now for the young boy," cackled the man.

The man approached the exit that Jeremiah was guarding. He rested his spiky chin on Jeremiah's sweaty shoulder.

"Boo!" Jeremiah flinched and was knocked on the head. A throbbing lump started forming, as the man backed away.

"Aaahhh!" Silence.

"Half way," whispered the lunatic. As the psycho entered his home, a rusty button was summoning him. The millisecond after he heard the click, a deafening scream pieced through the cool winter air.

When the group awoke, the first thing they laid their watering eyes on was a trembling Erica, also strapped into a chair. The man circled the group, inspecting the 'new meat.'

The group of kids were never seen again.

Ashley Symons, Opunake Primary School



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An insight into irrigation

What's happening behind the scenes when drinking water gets to our taps or our wastewater is discharged – and how might climate change get in the way?

Graham Elley, Principal Scientist - Environmental Monitoring, NIWA, comments:

“Irrigation currently accounts for about two-thirds of all consumptive water allocated in New Zealand and production from irrigated agriculture is projected to increase further.

“That's why it's important to encourage the development and uptake of better irrigation management tools, practices, and systems – these can help farmers better understand what water resources are available, the best time and methods to use water, and to consider what land use options are best suited to the resources they have.

“We recently completed a five-year project called Irrigation Insight. Working with a group of South Island

dairy farmers, researchers, industry, and regulators, we investigated opportunities to encourage the optimal use of water for land-based production activities, and identified barriers that currently discourage optimal use of water.

“A focus of the research was investigating and demonstrating the benefits of using weather forecasts to help shape irrigation decisions.

The programme also involved asking some hard questions regarding land use suitability and dealing with water constraints, such as:

What could you do with the land if you understood what water was available now and into the future?

Would irrigation allow you to do more with the land? If yes, do you have the water resources to support irrigation, or would you need water storage?

Once you understood how much water you were likely to have during each season of the year, could you

identify different types of production, better suited to your land?

“We used feedback from our collaborators to develop tools which can help farmers review their irrigation decisions, as well as the impact of those decisions on their pasture growth, soil moisture management and drainage events.

“The principal outcomes of the research include: improving the ability of farmers to see the cause and effect of their irrigation decisions, and giving farmers the capability to make changes to their farm management using readily available data, as well as information derived from their own learning experiences.

“A lot of the work in this area is about how to make the most of the water that is available, employing ‘smart thinking’, and using high resolution weather forecasts to drive actions around water use.

“By applying technology, we can help farmers make economically sound decisions while also being environmentally responsible.”



This amusing rural model graces a well-irrigated paddock.

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Principal's Address



He ora te whakapiri

There is strength in unity

This whakatauki depicts our kura and community. Together we have raised a considerable amount of money for the Cancer Society through our wonderful 'Relay Our Way' day. An enormous thank you to Lexi McQuaig who made this happen, and all of the supportive ākonga who ensured it was a vibrant, visceral, vivacious day.

Also, we say another huge thank you, to all of our community who supported our inaugural Sports Prizegiving, which was incredibly well attended and sparkling with sporting talent. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate not only our athletes but our coaches and managers who are the cornerstone of our sporting successes.

Some of our tamariki have been working with Horses helping Humans, Hōiho Hāpai Hapori to develop their confidence and strengthen their hauora. It has been really appreciated by our students to have had this opportunity.

This week we farewell our Year 13 students and look forward to seeing them continue to grow into the change makers of tomorrow. May they wear their successes with humility, rumble with vulnerability, dare greatly, and always let love fill their lives and laughter save their falls. It is with such sweet sorrow we say haere ra to them all, and wish them enormous success in all they do.

Arohanui,

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui

Andrea Hooper Carr
Principal

HORSES FOR HUMANS

Year 10 students, Izzy Williams and Piripi Nepia have been attending a course run by Horses Helping Humans Taranaki through the generous support of the Childrens Flexi Fund, available for students who might not receive funding through other avenues.

The programme incorporates Te Ao Māori and teaches body awareness by pairing a young person with a facilitator and a horse. By interacting with the horse, young people learn how to adjust their body language and breathing to regulate their emotions, improving their assertive communication skills and confidence.



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Search 'Opunakē High School' to find us.

RELAY YOUR WAY

With the traditional Cancer Society Relay for Life cancelled for 2022, Head Girl Lexi McQuaig came up with an alternative for our kura to raise funds for a very worthwhile cause, finished with a grand "Colour Run" finale. Thank you to anyone who sponsored this event.



Taranaki Art Awards - exhibition continues till November 6

Continued from page 1



Jasmine Middlebrook's Forces of Nature shared the Highly Commended award in the Painting category. Jasmine is a past winner of the Taranaki National Art



A Beautiful Day Fishing by Althnia Batchelor from Waitara shared Highly Commended in the Painting category. Medium: Acrylic on driftwood.

RIGHT: Paul Burgham from Eltham with his work The Good Shepherd which was Highly Commended.

Remarking on the attention to detail across the whole work the judge commented "this was not just a photo with a clever frame but a cohesive composition where every aspect has a purpose and helps to convey the story in a meaningful and reverent way". Paul said he took the photo years ago when he ventured inside a church near Foxton. He added the stained glass frame.



RIGHT:

Highly Commended in the Taranaki Artists category was Phil Taylor from Inglewood with his work in wood, Spinosa Disputatio/Thorny Debate. Of his amazingly intricate piece he said it was "as fiddly as it looks" and estimates he spent 70-80 hours on it. It is made out of purple heart and maple wood. He explains there is a convex side and a concave side and a hole in the middle so you can "see the person you know" and realise "all that's between us is the thorny debate".



2002 Taranaki National Art Awards Results

Fibre Art Award
 Winner Nic Bousfield (Whanganui)
 Highly Commended Michelle de Silva (Nelson)

Photography
 Winner Nic Bousfield (Whanganui)
 Highly Commended Paul Burgham (Eltham)

To Taranakitanga Award
 Winner Sapphire Csik (Christchurch)
 Highly Commended Jordan Quinnell (Palmerston North)

Works on Paper
 Winner Debbie Hahn (Whanganui)
 Highly Commended, Sam Dollimore (Wellington)

3D Award
 Winner Gaye Atkinson, (New Plymouth)
 Highly Commended Catherine MacDonald (Whanganui)

Taranaki Artist Award
 Winner Dev Capey (Opunake)
 Highly Commended Phil Taylor (Inglewood)

Painting
 Winner Krismarlianti Donaldson (Manaia)
 Highly Commended Althnia Batchelor (Waitara) and Jasmine Middlebrook (New Plymouth)

Taranaki National Art Awards Committee Choice
 Sarah Luttrell (Masterton), The Treasured Kakipo.



ABOVE: Works on Paper Winner Debbie Hahn (Whanganui)



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Coastal Taranaki School Pet Day



Maggie Stone with her chicken at the Coastal Taranaki School Pet Day.

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Vaccinations key for keeping pets healthy

The New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) is urging pet owners to check their animals are fully vaccinated, in a bid to keep them healthy and reduce the need for antimicrobial treatments, including antibiotics and antifungal medication.

Vaccinations help prevent animals from becoming ill and needing antimicrobial therapy. These medicines increase the risk of drug-resistant bacteria developing and spreading to other animals and their owners, veterinary pharmacologist Dr Oliver Reeve says.

“Reducing antimicrobial use as much as possible is key to preventing nasty bacteria from becoming resistant, so that when you really do need to use antibiotics, they work,” he says.

“Unlike us, animals can’t wash their hands if they get sick, which puts people and other pets at risk of getting sick too. Up-to-date

vaccinations are key to well.” keeping our animals and each other, healthy and



Carter Munroe - Champion of Champion Lamb winner.

Resistance (AMR) Committee and says although New Zealand is the third lowest user of antimicrobials for animal treatment in the OECD, more needs to be done to stop drug-resistant bacteria from developing.

“Whether your animal whānau consists of a cat or dog, or sheep and cattle, vaccinations are he says, are beneficial to all of them. If you’re unsure of your animals’ vaccination status, please talk to your vet,” he says.

The New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) is urging pet owners to check their animals are fully vaccinated, in a bid to keep them healthy and reduce the need for antimicrobial treatments, including antibiotics and antifungal medication.

Vaccinations help prevent animals from becoming ill

Continued page 19

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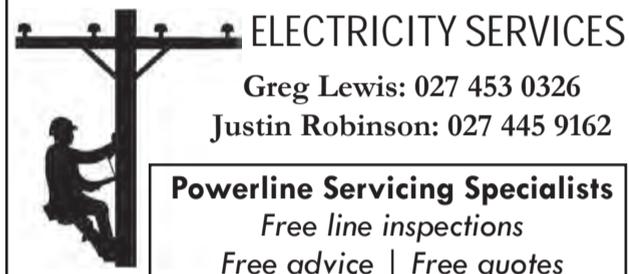
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At the Coastal Taranaki School Pet Day that was held by FOCTS the school parent association, staff and students on Friday October 21.

Louis Barron with Turbo, Junior Champion.

Elena with Bolt, Senior Champion and Champion of Champions, and Brooke with Mini, Intermediate Champion.

Vaccinations key for keeping pets healthy

Continued from page 18
and needing antimicrobial therapy. These medicines increase the risk of drug-resistant bacteria developing and spreading to other animals and their owners, veterinary pharmacologist Dr Oliver Reeve says. "Unlike us, animals can't

wash their hands if they get sick, which puts people and other pets at risk of getting sick too. Up-to-date vaccinations are key to keeping our animals and each other, healthy and well."

Dr Reeve is a member of the NZVA's Antimicrobial

Resistance (AMR) Committee and says although New Zealand is the third lowest user of antimicrobials for animal treatment in the OECD, more needs to be done to stop drug-resistant bacteria from developing. "Whether your animal

whānau consists of a cat or dog, or sheep and cattle, vaccinations are he says, are beneficial to all of them. If you're unsure of your animals' vaccination status, please talk to your vet," he says.



Decorated cake silent auction at the Coastal Taranaki School Pet Day.

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Agrimec Autos has changed hands but offering the same great service

Agrimec Autos in Opunake has new owners, Lincoln and Tina Payne, who take over the business from Mike and Julie Walsh.

Lincoln, a qualified engineer and welder, and Tina previously worked at Supercheap Auto in Hawera for 12 years where she rose to the position of Assistant Manager. Steve Barratt will continue to be employed in the business as a service technician.

The couple has strong connections with Opunake. Lincoln grew up on a sheep and beef farm in Eltham. His parents moved to Opunake some years ago to the bach they built by Opunake's lake as a holiday home.

Tina, whose maiden name is Olliver, was raised on a dairy farm in Stratford, her parents later farming in Nopera Road.

There are no plans to make major changes to the business say Lincoln and Tina who have three children aged 7, 3 and 2.

"Why change a good thing," they state.

Mike and Julie who have owned Agrimec Auto for three and a half years say the



Mike and Julie Walsh and Tina and Lincoln Payne at Agrimec.

business has steadily grown over the years.

"We'd just like to thank everyone whose been loyal

and supported us since we started," said Mike.

"It's been a great help and a three year challenge."

Mike who is a qualified panel beater said they'd repaired everything from fixing baby buggies to

trailers, to hand shears to office chairs.

Lincoln hopes to carry on the great service and says

"I fix anything." As well as fixing lawnmowers, and motorcycle servicing and sharpening chainsaws he welds aluminium, stainless steel and steel. They'll also continue to stock a full range of tyres "from lawnmowers to tractors." They also offer mobile air conditioning, an auto electrical service, car radio installation and have a full supply of car and tractor batteries.

Adds Mike, Lincoln is "a good problem solver."

Mike and Julie who returned to Opunake where both grew up after a stint farming in the South Island and then running a business in Tauranga say they are looking forward to "having a rest" and insist they're "not going anywhere."

They will be helping the transition to the changeover for the next 4 weeks.

Relaxed in that they are handing over the business to experienced and capable new owners, Mike and Julie say.

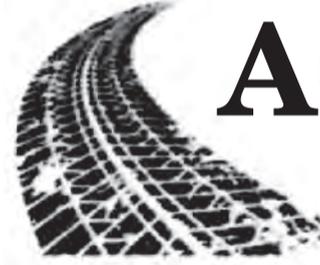
"Walsh Agrimec Tyres and Services will be in good hands."



Thank you for all of the loyal support. It has been most appreciated over the three years we have had Walsh Agrimec Tyres and Services. We will be having a well earned break.

We are leaving Agrimec in great hands with the new team Tina and Lincoln Payne.

Mike and Julie Walsh



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Rural goes to town and wins



Opunake Under 11 Boys Basketball Team goes undefeated at New Plymouth Basketball Tournament.
Back Row: Zion Aldridge (St Joseph's Opunake), Remi Jones (Auroa), Luca Harvey (Auroa), Carson Rangiwanga (Kaponga), Luke Norris (Auroa), Marley Rangiwanga (Coach).
Front Row: Xavier Le Prou (St Joseph's Opunake), Caden Guthrie (Auroa), Mack Lynskey (St Joseph's Opunake).

The New Plymouth Basketball Association held an Under 11 Boys Tournament at 'The Lab' basketball facility on October 22-23. The association called for South Taranaki players to join the tournament and an 'Opunake' team was formed of three students from St Joseph's School Opunake, four from Auroa Primary and one from Kaponga Primary. Opunake faced four teams from New Plymouth and one from Stratford. The tournament was the end of a six-week training period for the New Plymouth teams so Stratford and Opunake were set up for two days of intense basketball with no prior practices. The Opunake players, who are usually rivals in the Opunake Basketball League came together naturally with individual skill, teamwork, and the country kid ability to make fun. Opunake had epic family support at each game and were super grateful to Marley Rangiwanga for stepping up to be their coach. Opunake won every game they played. They won the tournament with humility and proved that New Plymouth's cool shoes and tough talk couldn't intimidate them.



Viral infections less frequent but more severe in people with Down Syndrome

People with Down Syndrome have less-frequent viral infections, but when they do occur, such infections lead to more severe disease. New research suggests that this "paradox" could be explained by oscillations between an over- and under-active immune system in people with Down Syndrome. Authors of the study say the extra chromosome that causes Down Syndrome also causes a hyperactive immune response to viral attacks. The body then overcorrects for this to reduce excessive inflammation, which suppresses the immune system and leads to increased vulnerability later in the viral attack.

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Feds urge infrastructure focus this term

There are myriad issues facing local government but always keep front of

mind the topic that was likely top of the list of most residents' concerns out on

the campaign trail - their rates bills.

That's the request to newly elected councillors up and down the country from Federated Farmers local government spokesperson Sandra Faulkner, with the final results in some close electoral races now confirmed.

"Federated Farmers congratulates all successful candidates, and thanks all of those who stood. It takes courage to put your name forward for an election," says Sandra, who has just stepped down from a district

council elected role herself.

As it has in the lead-up to past local government elections, Federated Farmers published a 2022 'platform' of council issues, outlining the farming sector's concerns and suggested changes on everything from three waters and Resource Management reform to rural road maintenance, climate change and environmental regulation.

"Right up the front of that platform was the bald and unpalatable fact that in the decade to 2022, local

authority rates and fees have gone up an average 56%, against a consumer price index rise of 20%," Sandra says.

"For farmers, and many other businesses and households too, the rates bill is a major - and climbing - cost."

"Councillors are lobbied to spend on all sorts of projects and initiatives; Federated Farmers' plea to them is to remember the difference between 'must haves' and 'nice to haves', and ask searching questions around

value for money of whoever wants ratepayers' money spent - and that includes proposals from council officers.

"Core infrastructure should be the priority."

During the Annual Plan/budget rounds, there should also be robust debate around the place for targeted rates and uniform charges "which are often a much fairer way than general rates of apportioning costs according to benefit derived," Sandra says.

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Support rural communities

Government support for rural communities is vital to realising the potential in mitigating climate change says Rural Women New Zealand.

"Our members care for our land, our people and rural communities and we acknowledge the need to adapt, however, we would like to see more work on empowering rural communities through the provision of resources to effect positive change," says National President Gill Naylor.

"There is no doubt that the solutions proposed by the He Waka Eke Noa Primary Sector Climate

Change Partnership and the Government's discussion document on pricing agricultural emissions, will have an impact on rural communities.

"Rural communities include the towns and regional centres which service them - the adverse impact of, and the opportunities afforded by, emissions pricing stretch further than the farm gate.

"Our members understand the effects of climate change, and the need to adapt our practices, however, the key to ensuring that rural communities remain strong and viable is fence-at-the-top-of-the-cliff solutions.

"RWNZ will be providing feedback on the Government's discussion document, focussing on how the Government can mitigate adverse impacts on the health and wellbeing of the wider rural community through strengthening and supporting the people and connections within it.

"RWNZ will also be calling for more resources so that all rural communities can find and make the most of the opportunities afforded them through fit-for-purpose solutions to reduce emissions," says Mrs Naylor.

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Dairy farmers: Here for the long game

Dairy farmers' commitment to a better future for New Zealand is being shared in a new DairyNZ campaign, Here for the Long Game.

The multi-media campaign launched nationwide highlights dairy farmers' commitment and their part in New Zealand being the best it can be. It also shares how the sector is addressing challenges ahead.

"Here for the Long Game shares the hard work and dedication of our world-leading farmers. As a sector, we want to deliver a sustainable future – meeting the needs of our communities and customers, while maintaining profitable and sustainable businesses," says DairyNZ chief executive Dr Tim Mackle.

Here for the Long Game highlights the dairy sector's drive to being better – New Zealand dairy farmers lead the world but know there's a lot of hard work still to be done. The campaign is an initiative of DairyNZ, the industry good organisation representing Kiwi dairy farmers, and includes TV, digital and social media, supported by a microsite at thelonggame.co.nz.

"Dairy plays a critical part in New Zealand's future prosperity and wellbeing. Being one of the country's biggest sectors comes with tremendous responsibility – we're up for the challenge and focused on improving on what we already do best," says Dr Mackle.

This means being better in business, as sought-after workplaces, and leaders in animal care and environmental management.

For several decades, the sector has made great strides in environmental progress. Dairy farms have the lowest emissions footprint for on-farm milk production, and farmers are further improving water quality and protecting biodiversity on their farms.

This includes 65 percent of dairy farms having a

Farm Environment Plan, covering how they're reducing footprint. By 2025, 100 percent will have an environment plan that outlines actions they are taking to improve water quality, protect biodiversity and reduce emissions.

"Our dairy farmers are putting in the hard yards to improve water quality and have been for more than 20 years. They've planted millions of trees and native plants alongside waterways, and that work is ongoing. We know there's more to do, but the progress to date is something to celebrate."

The dairy sector, including DairyNZ, is working with farmers on a wide range of on-farm development initiatives, as well as investing in new solutions through R&D. Priorities



DairyNZ's nationwide Here for the Long Game campaign shares dairy farmers' commitment to a better future for New Zealand.

A supreme champion



Amy O'Rorke and her Calf Sandy won Supreme Champion Calf at St Joseph's Opunake. Amy also won Supreme Champion Calf at the North Taranaki Championship Calf and Lamb Day held on Labour Day 2022 at Stratford A&P Showgrounds.

include new ways to improve water quality, reduce emissions, make dairy farms great places to work and support farmers in running successful businesses.

"To ensure a better tomorrow for our families, community and the environment, we're getting stuck in and showing we're here for long game."

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Alpacas and a slice of heaven

Daryl and Diane Lehmann are very fond of their alpacas.

“If you’re having a bad day, you can go out among them and feel a lot better,” says Daryl.

They once kept 60. Now they have 23.

On Labour Day the public got a chance to see them for themselves at the Open Day the Lehmanns hosted at their Blair Athol Alpacas property between Ngaere and Cardiff.

The farm has been in the Lehmann family since Daryl’s grandfather “with one arm” carved it out of the bush in the 1880s. He had lost the other arm when a wagon wheel ran over it in Auckland.

Daryl and Diane have kept back a six-hectare block for themselves from the former dairy farm which is now mainly dry stock. The rest of the farm has been divided between other family members. There are now six generations of the family to have lived here.

From their home, Daryl and Diane can see Tongariro, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu on a clear day and the street lights of Stratford, Eltham and Hawera at night.

“We were saying yesterday, this is a slice of heaven,” says Diane.



Daryl Lehmann spends a moment with his alpacas.

The Lehmanns have had the alpacas for the last 11 years. Diane says she had always been an avid knitter and was attracted to the alpaca fleece, which is very soft, and lacking lanolin and barb. It can be worn next to the skin and is good for people with allergies. It took a bit longer to get Daryl interested, however. Whenever they visited field days, Diane would always make a bee

line for the alpaca section. Eventually Daryl was persuaded. They started with two, built up their herd and started showing them, picking up five supreme awards in national shows.

They have learned a lot from other breeders, although Daryl says they are continually learning all the time.

“If anyone comes to you and tells you they know

all there is to know about alpacas they are wrong,” he says.

“They are a very quiet animal. They don’t move and carry on. Every now and then you hear a low hum, but they do have a high pitch whistle and that’s an alarm call, like if you have a dog or a cat in a paddock that shouldn’t be there.

“They are a very stoic animal. They don’t show their problems. If one of them has a crook gut the only way you know is that they hang back from the main group.”

They are also a pack animal which needs the company of their fellow alpacas.

Alpacas come in 22 basic colours and 250 shades. There are two kinds of alpaca. There is the haucaya, which Diane describes as “like a fluffy teddy bear,” and there is the suri, which is less suited to the New Zealand climate, although the Lehmanns do have four of these.

Daryl says that whereas in New Zealand the alpacas would be fed grass, in the Andes there would have

been more roughage in their diet, hence the need for hay and other supplements. Alpacas have been known to take an interest in plants like barberry and the Californian Thistle, although they are less enamoured of the Scottish variety.

An alpaca’s life expectancy is about 25 years, although

Diane says they did have one give birth at the age of 19. Alpacas typically give birth to their offspring or cria between 10am and 3pm. If births take place at other times of the day, then there is usually something wrong. Their gestation period is eleven and a half months, so the Lehmanns plan for births to take place from January to March when the weather is more likely to be better.

Alpacas are shorn once a year. While shearing may have already started in the north of the North Island, the Lehmanns prefer to wait until late November when the weather has settled down.

“They are not like sheep who when you shear them get a layer of fat in two days,” says Daryl.

The Lehmanns enjoy showing off their alpacas to visitors, whether it be at Open Days, or to groups like rest homes.

At times such as these the shop is open, where goods for sale include Diane’s hand-knitted products and other products ordered in from elsewhere showcasing the benefits and attractions of the alpaca.



Dianne Lehmann modelling an alpaca shawl.

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Alpacas come in different shades and sizes.

Trish ups the tempo

Among the challenges facing Trish McKenzie when she gets into the ring at the Hawera Rumble will be a new opponent. Instead of Kazmin Gough, she will be taking on Maria Hajdu from Wellington.

Trish was originally to have been facing Kazmin in the main fight at the TSB Hub in Hawera on November 15, but organisers have had to find another opponent following Kazmin's selection to the New Zealand Amateur team. "I know she's a pretty tidy fighter," says James (Batman) Langton of Barbwire Boxing and Fitness, driving force behind the Hawera Rumble.

"She weighs five or six kilograms more than Trish and has a reputation of being a heavy puncher."

Meanwhile Trish has been training for the last 10

weeks. This has included a sparring session of six two-minute rounds against a taller and heavier opponent in Palmerston North. A week later she was in Auckland sparring with Mea Motu, a title holder in four weight divisions with a 14 fight undefeated streak. Trish had driven to Auckland and then faced Mea in five three-minute rounds that night. She says the following day she had recovered and was able to work according to her game plan for the rest of the sparring.

"It was top level sparring and it upped the tempo for the second half of my training," says Trish. "It kicked me into the next level. I want to get more mongrel."

Meanwhile interest in the Hawera Rumble is building up. An extra 10 corporate tables have been brought in,

making 44 corporate tables in addition to about 600 general admission tickets.

"All the fighters have been training really hard," says James. "I've learned a lot from the Coastal Rumble in July, and I feel I'm more experienced in coaching fighters. I'm really looking forward to the event to see how Trish goes. I want to thank Ange for helping to organise the event, and all the fighters who have put in such hard training, and our major sponsors."

He says buses will be leaving the Club Hotel in Opunake at 5pm on the evening of the Rumble at \$35 a head, and returning straight after the event. Contact Ange ph (027) 3077565 for details.

The Rumble will not be Trish's last main fight for the year. On December 3 she



Trish McKenzie with James (Batman) Langton tries out the equipment at the latest extension to the Barbwire Gym.

will take on Talei Aldiss in Talei's professional debut at the Battle of the Pacific at the Walter Nash Stadium

in Lower Hutt. Among the others taking part in fights at this event will be two other boxers from Barbwire

Boxing and Fitness, Tony Tuitupou and Caleb Parete.

Park players take on Matamata Curve



Park Croquet players. From left Te Kiri King, Ricky Clement, Nik Budd-Clement.

Faced with the dilemma of what to do during lockdown, Ricky Clement and Nik Budd-Clement turned their tennis court into a croquet lawn.

"It was Covid, and we couldn't go anywhere else," said Nik. She had started playing at the Park Croquet Club in Hawera, but Ricky had never played the game before. He started playing officially at the Park Croquet Club last year, and last month, along with Nik and fellow club members Te Kiri King and Ricardo Pintor competed in the Croquet NZ North Island Golf Croquet Championships in Matamata. Ricky made it through to the Singles finals where he was

beaten by Paddy Chapman, who as well as being the current New Zealand Open champion, had been world champion in 2018. Not bad for a player who was so new to croquet that he went into the tournament without a ranking.

"Being new to the game I learned a lot from the top players," said Ricky. "I learned a lot from Paddy." Te Kiri finished third overall, while Nik after narrowly winning her last game in singles play 7-6, went on to finish fourth.

Before taking part in the singles, Ricky and Nik had already paired up in the doubles where they finished third overall.

Nik says croquet grounds have their own individual characteristics and playing in the doubles had got them used to playing the "Matamata Curve" before tackling the singles.

The Park Club members were representing the South Taranaki Association. Also there were players from the Bay of Plenty, Thames Valley, Auckland, Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Waikato-King Country and Northland Associations.

In February next year Te Kiri and fellow Park Club player Joel Steele will compete at the World Under-21 competition at Mt Maunganui.

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Perfect weather for season start

Perfect weather, good fields of race cars and a nice sized crowd with a great vibe set the scene for an awesome night of racing when the R & R Mechanical opening night was held at MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway on Saturday and drivers and fans had their first hit out of the season where four of the six classes on hand were racing for their City of New Plymouth Classic trophies.

Modifieds were the first out of the gate and Ricky Paul, who races a restored forty-year-old ex Willie Noonan car that was built way back when he was just starting school, stormed away from the field to win the first race and record a popular victory. Despite lacking the technology of the much newer cars, Paul kept his relic of a race car hooked up all night long, even after he broke the left rear shock



Tyler Walker won two out of three races in the Superstock Class to win the City of New Plymouth Classic. Images Michael Espiner.

off in race two and elected to run without it in race three to record a third place and second place in the next two races to win the Classic, in a classic. Local speedster

Jason Kalin was second and Blair Luscombe third.

Tyler Walker exerted his dominance early on in the Superstock class to win the first two races before placing

fifth in race three to easily win the Classic for the class. Brad Uhlenberg consistently finished near the front of the field, recording a second, third and fourth over the

three races to take second place while Shane Denham, who scored a win in race three, was third overall.

The seasoned campaigners in the Saloon class were left scratching their heads as to what they need to do to keep up with young racer Bradley Korff who joined the class last season. Korff showed excellent car speed with minimal lap time reduction even as the tricky tack slicked off. After finished fifth in race one, he just drove away from his competitors in the next two races, leaving them in his dust as he raced off to collect the checkered flag and the City of New Plymouth Classic trophy. Former New Zealand Champion Thomas Korff was second and Andrew Tippet, who won the first race of the night was third.

Youth Ministocks were

split into two groups - the experienced and the newbies that are still on the mentor program. Tory Erkes, Blake Luscombe and Quin Spranger all collected wins in the mentor division while Bronson Pierce was super consistent in the experienced division, recording a second, fourth and first place over the three races to win the City of New Plymouth Classic. Regan Ogle was second and Cory Symes third.

In the support classes, Stockcar races were won by Caleb Coxhead (two) and William Hughes. Chloe Ingram created excitement for the crowd when she was rolled over in race three and then continued on with the race after she was checked over. Haydn Fox won two of the three Streetstock races while Ron Washer won the other.

Jarrold MacBeth

Taranaki Air Rifle shooting

On October 22, with no competition arranged shooters were free to try different pellets and different energy levels at different ranges out to 50 metres. Air rifles have come a long way from the old break barrel Springers of yesteryear. Some are still using Springers but they are harder

to shoot well compared to air pre-charged rifles, commonly known as PCPs. A measurement instrument known as a chronograph is used to give pellet speed multiplied by pellet weight and that tells shooters what muzzle energy level there is. Compared to a Rim Fire Target Rifle the air rifles we

shoot with would have less than a quarter the energy of a Rim Fire 22 owing to the lighter projectile, but some air rifles can get very close to the speed of a 22 Rim Fire. Although the pellets are light they can be very accurate out to 50 metres, but in saying that they are very wind affected. Pellet selection is

so important. Pellets come in different weights, makes and sizes and what works for some mightn't work for others.

Air Rifle Shooters turn up at Eltham Pinny Drive every Saturday morning, and Wednesday morning for the challenge of knock down targets and paper targets and a good chatter about what is the best. By the way we sit at a table with scopes and a rifle rest. So what could be

easier? We will soon find a rifle if you want to have a go.

On October 29, air rifle shooters were vertically challenged with shooting standing unsupported. Getting off steady good shots wasn't easy. It is a skill that needs concentration and plenty of practice. The most improved shooter went to new shooter Paul Kuriger. Paul also had the second highest score of the day. All shooters struggled with

this discipline and lack of practice showed up on the day. Frank Eustace managed first, but only coming out top of the pack by a good final two rounds. So the top three shooters were : Frank Eustace 202, Paul Kuriger 174, Geoff Coubrough 161. All the other shooters shot well considering lack of practice and they are looking forward to shooting outside next Saturday.

Frank Eustace.

Sandfords Manaia Golf results

October 8. Saturday Men. 1. Cory Symes. 2. Trevor Larsen. 3. Ethan Jones. 4. Greg Elliott. 5. Ralph Symes.

October 9. Juniors. 1. Jayden Poole. 2. Carter Symes. 3. Jude Poole.

Junior Futures Tournament at Manaia. 9 full holes. 1. Jude Poole. 2. Hannah Symes. 3. Joshua Oconie. 18 holes. 2. Carter Symes. 8. Jack Hopkins.

Congratulations to Liam Campbell for coming 6th Nett at Taupo in the U/19s on October 15.

October 13. Juniors. 1. Max Bailey and Ashdyn Laing.. 1. Carter Symes and Ashton Sharp. 2. Nixon Laing.

October 15. Manaia Championships. Senior Women. Claudia Munro. Bronze Women Jackie Higgins. Limit Women. Aggie Werder. Senior Men. Caleb Symes. Intermediate Men Noddy Symes. Junior Men. Joshua Symes. Limit Men. Cory Symes.

October 16. Manaia won the Top Club Silverware Tournament held at Hawera. Team Kevin Murrell, Rod Le Fleming, Cory Symes, Fay Ford.

Sam Jones running hot, coming runner-up at Christchurch. Rounds 69, 67, 71. Ethan Jones Mr Consistent at 72, 72, 72.

October 29. Saturday Men. 1. Wayne Baker. 2. Gary Wallis. 3. Mike King. 4. Codie Clark.

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A panto at the Players



Cast of 'Cinderella' getting in character before costumes arrive. From left: Lynelle Kuriger, Terry Simpson, Melissa Kuriger, Indie Waugh, John McCarty, Gibson Waugh, Lisa Beynon, Alexandra Lawn, Monica Willson, Chloe Danz.

Pán'tomīm/e n., Dramatic entertainment usu. produced about & based on a fairy tale with singing, clowning, topical jokes & certain stock roles. - Concise Oxford Dictionary
 Cinderéll'a n', A pantomime at Opunake Players the whole family will enjoy. - Samantha Allison, director 'Cinderella', Opunake Players.
 As a child growing up in England, Samantha looked forward to the traditional

English Christmas pantomime, or panto for short. The "certain stock roles" of a woman playing the Prince and men playing the Ugly Sisters always generated a laugh. Samantha would go on to perform in pantos before shifting to New Zealand. She has always been keen to direct a panto so when the opportunity to do so came, she grabbed it with both hands.
 "The panto tradition isn't

prevalent in New Zealand. Theatre groups put them on, but not every year and not always at Christmas," she says. "I decided to go with the traditional reverse roles, so it should be a lot of fun."
 This version of 'Cinderella' is written by New Zealand writer Amanda Stone. Amanda's puckish sense of humour is to the fore, just as it was in 'Peter Pan' and 'A Great Face For Radio,' two shows Opunake Players have

recently produced. Samantha has assembled a strong and experienced cast. Lisa Beynon moves from director of 'Peter Pan' back to the stage to play Cinderella. Chloe Danz takes on the role of the Prince while John McCarty and Terry Simpson are the Ugly Sisters. (Word on the street is that John and Terry have found their true calling.) Lynelle Kuriger is the Fairy Goddess, note: Goddess. Other roles are Alexandra Lawn: Baroness

Hardup and Monica Willson as the Queen. Our younger members are Melissa Kuriger: Buttons, Gibson Waugh: Bubbles (Button's helper) and Indie Waugh as Twinkle, a Fairy Goddess in training. Elizabeth Andersen-Gardiner is responsible for turning two left feet into twinkle toes, otherwise known as choreographer. Samantha is pleased with the rehearsals, saying everyone has been full of laughs but not distracting from the task of getting it right. As one cast member simply put it, "We're all having fun."
 So. You'll be wanting to see it and enjoy the fun

yourself. Here are the details. Opunake Players presents 'Cinderella', a pantomime by Amanda Stone, directed by Samantha Allison, choreographed by Elizabeth Andersen-Gardiner. Playing at the Lakeside Playhouse, Layard Street December 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th at 7pm. Note the earlier start time so your little ones won't be up too late. There's also an interval so they don't have to hold on too long. Tickets on sale at Sinclair Electrical, thanks for the service. 14 years and up \$20, 13 to 5 years \$10, 4 years and under free if sitting on a lap.
 Now. Where's my glass slippers?

The Golding Girls



New Zealand Premiere.

New Zealand is about to go into level four lockdown. Alice feels content at the thought of alone time for four weeks. Then the front door opens and in walks her daughter-in-law looking for a place to stay, followed by another, followed by a stranger. Alice does her best to get rid of them before 11.59pm. But the clock moves faster than she can. Four hormonal women are locked in together; emotions and conflicts soar, until, by chance, they find some common ground. Written and Directed by Shona M Wilson

Back from left: Alex Sheehan, Keryn Smith and Briar Tucker
 At front: Mary Barron.



Don't miss the World Premiere of **The Golding Girls**

A comedy written and directed by Shona M Wilson

November 23-December 10th

At 29 Aubrey Street NP

Discount Wednesdays 7:30pm \$25
 Matinee Sunday Nov 27th 2pm \$20

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
 Show Only 7:30pm \$30
 Dinner and Show 6pm \$75

3 Course Buffet Dinner
 Book online now at iticket

OR at the Theatre Box Office Saturdays
 Oct 27th, November 5th, 12th, 19th
 12-2pm

Opunake Co-operating Parish

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

Okato Co-operating Parish

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

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

The Wave

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

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

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

Okato Community Church

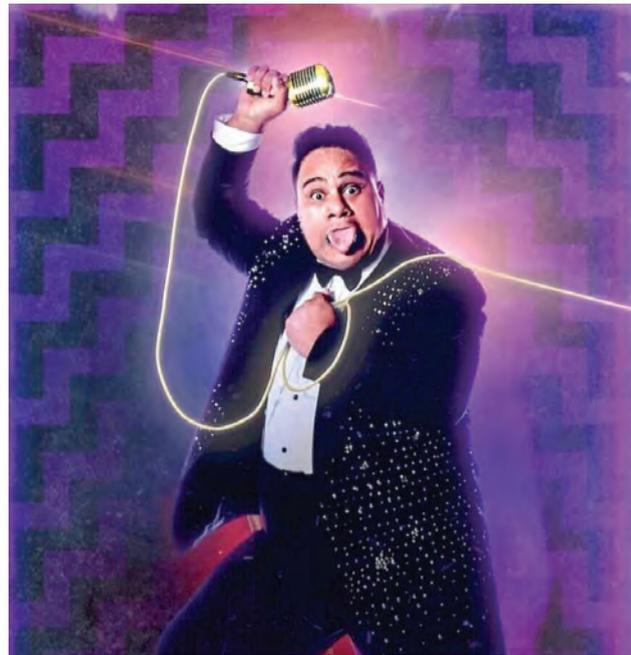
Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.
 Everyone welcome

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 Opunake & Coastal News**

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Spiegel Fest returns to Taranaki

The Spiegelent returns to Taranaki this November, bringing you 10 action-packed days of comedy, music, theatre and more- It's a real treat for TAFT to bring back the iconic Pacific Crystal Palace Spiegelent after a lonely few years due to COVID disruptions. Spiegel Fest 2022 celebrates the power of the arts-with 16 incredible shows over the course of 10 days between November 10-20. It's got a show for everyone. The return of our Around Taranaki Programme brings both well loved, and new performances to the region from the hilarious Thoroughly Modern Māui at Everybody's theatre in Opunake to the toe-tapping rhythms of Turkey the Bird



Thoroughly Modern Maui Saturday 19 November, 7:30 pm. Everybody's Theatre, Opunake.

Goes Brass in Hāwera.

Burgeoning music theatre star Rutene Spooner is channelling this Māori hero into a modern-day icon, complete with rhinestones and glitter. This 'haka-boogie-hori' will be pulling out all his tricks from the past and reincarnating Māui into a living breathing musical rock star before your very eyes. Whether you're looking for laughter, sounds or something for the kids-The Spiegel Fest Programme has a show for everyone. Spiegel Fest is proudly brought to you by Baker Tilly Staples Rodway. Book your tickets online today at spiegelfest.co.nz and visit the website for more information.

from out of the blue Studio Gallery

'from out of the blue studio gallery' is always delighted to be a participant in the Taranaki Arts Trail. It is the yearly occasion that the gallerist and fibre artist Viv Davy uses the space to showcase her own practice. Every year Viv is more influenced by the natural surroundings of her place in Taranaki. She harvests plant materials from her organic dye garden to add pigments and patterns to her fabrics, threads and papers. These are slow making pro-



Viv Davy.

cesses that Viv aligns with the time of the year and stages of the plants. Being off-grid, sunshine and the wood stove are essential elements in this process and add another layer of connection to the natural world in the final art works. Old technologies and methods of making inform the casting of plant-based papers, and handwoven fabrics.

Extended hours During the 10 days of the Taranaki Garden festival Season 'from out of the blue studio gallery' will

be open 10am - 5 pm. That is for the dates 27 October through to 7 November 2022. Other times are by appointment. Watch the social media for pop-up demonstrations and workshops over the garden festival where you will have a chance to learn more from Viv about her nature-based practices. <https://www.facebook.com/silktangles/> <https://www.instagram.com/threadthinker/> www.fromoutofthebluestudiogallery.com

Turkey The Bird Goes Brass

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Sex, Drugs & Rick and Noel

Cue Theatre's latest comedy *Sex, Drugs & Rick n Noel* is well worth seeing and runs at the Inglewood venue from Wednesday November 2 to Saturday November 12. The David Tristram play is ably directed by Christine King, aided by stage manager Nicola Knight.

The play is set in the early 2000s. Richard Branson (aka Rick) is played by Brad Duynhoven, who is in a sad space, having been made redundant, coupled with his wife deserting him for another woman. He turns up at university hoping to enrol in a history degree attired in his nerdy suit (looking nothing like a student) and meets Professor Maxine (Rhiannon McGrane) who accepts him for the degree and introduces him to serial womaniser Noel (Simon Buick), who sets out to make him look like a bone fide student, including renaming him Rick, while tossing his flash clothes in the bin.

The other characters include sexy twins Helen and Rachel



Cue Theatre Cast Back, from left: Helen/Rachel (Jazz Gallagher), Ranjit (Hash Negi), Maxine (Rhiannon McGrane). Front, from left: Noel (Simon Buick), Rick (Brad Duynhoven).

(Jazz Gallagher who plays both), and play a pivotal part in the plot, as well as Ranjit (Harsh Negi) who is also important.

All characters are well-suited to their parts and are excellent

and believable in their roles. I hesitate to single out anyone for special mention, but Brad Duynhoven, who had a huge number of lines is simply first class – a masterclass in acting, no less.

Everyone backstage has contributed to make this another quality production, which we always expect (and get) from the Cue Theatre. Peter Haines has constructed his usual realistic set, helped by Christiane McIntyre (set painting and décor). Others in the capable team include Carole Parr (props and with Francey Langman backstage), Sharren Read (wardrobe), Margaret O'Kane (make up), Hayley Van Herring-Hills (hair), Julie Gillespie and Zoe Piddington (lighting), Karyn Gwerder (sound), Christine Kundig (prompt) as well as several others.

You'll have really missed out if you do not make sure you experience this great production at Inglewood's Cue Theatre.

Viewers take advantage of last chance

Thank you to the 33 artists who put work in the Last Chance Saloon show on the Virtual Tart website. I just had a look at the stats for October, and wow.

1196 visitors made 2692 visits (so most of them came back for another good look). They looked at 9014 separate pages and made 31,257 hits or clicks-on-a-page.

And now I'll put on the exhibition for November. It's new work (painting and drawing) by Glenys Bloor.

Do have a look, on the Virtual Tart site, on tart.co.nz

And for all those who've asked, I'm still doing a massive rationalisation in my studio. More than half-way through. Stubborn.

And for everyone who's politely avoided asking if it's some sort of a Swedish death-clean, No. I gave away a huge tapestry loom and it left an empty corner; I arranged it and it looked so very very

good, I thought I should do the whole studio.

Too stubborn to stop. (Back to making things in a few more weeks)

Cheers

Dale Copeland



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DIRECTED BY CHRISTINE KING

Nov 2-12, 2022

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OR FunHo, ph 06 7567 030

cue theatre

An Amateur Production of Sex, Drugs & Rick 'n' Noel, by special arrangement with Samuel French and NZ Play Bureau Ltd.

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Every 3rd Thursday of the month

For a full list of services and happening here at CoastalCare find us on Facebook or visit us at www.coastalcare.co.nz Contact Aretha Lemon Facility Manager on 06 761 8488

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BLACK ADAM Adventure, Action 1hr 48mins M Thurs 3rd Nov 7pm	MORE THAN GOLD Doco, Sport 1hr 33mins M Sun 6th Nov 1pm & 7pm
THE WOMAN KING Action, True Story 2hrs 15mins TBC Fri 4th Nov 7pm, Sat 12th Nov 7pm	WHEN THE COWS COME HOME Doco 1hr 44mins Exempt Thurs 10th Nov 7pm
LYLE LYLE CROCODILE Animated, Family 1hr 20mins G Sat 5th Nov 1pm	BLACK PANTHER Action, Sci Fi 2hrs 41mins TBC Fri 11th Nov 7pm, Sun 13th Nov 7pm
MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS Comedy, Drama 1hr 55mins PG Sat 5th Nov 7pm	LITTLE MONSTERS Animated, Family 1hr 27mins PG Sat 12th Nov 1pm
	FROZEN REO MAORI Animated, Family 1hr 41mins G Sun 13th Nov 1pm

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MORE THAN GOLD
Doco, Sport | 1hr 33mins | M
The true journey of four-time Olympian and two-time gold medallist, Dame Valerie Adams.

WHEN THE COWS COME HOME
Doco | 1hr 44mins | Exempt
Observational NZ doco charting the unusual life of musician, journalist, artist and cow whisperer, Andrew Johnstone.

body beautiful

What's On Listings

ONGOING

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in

Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

MONDAYS: Tainui Day Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street

Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:230 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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 4.30 to 6.30pm.

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

THURSDAYS

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

Egmont Euchre Club: Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8277 or 06 761 8337

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.

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

WEEKENDS

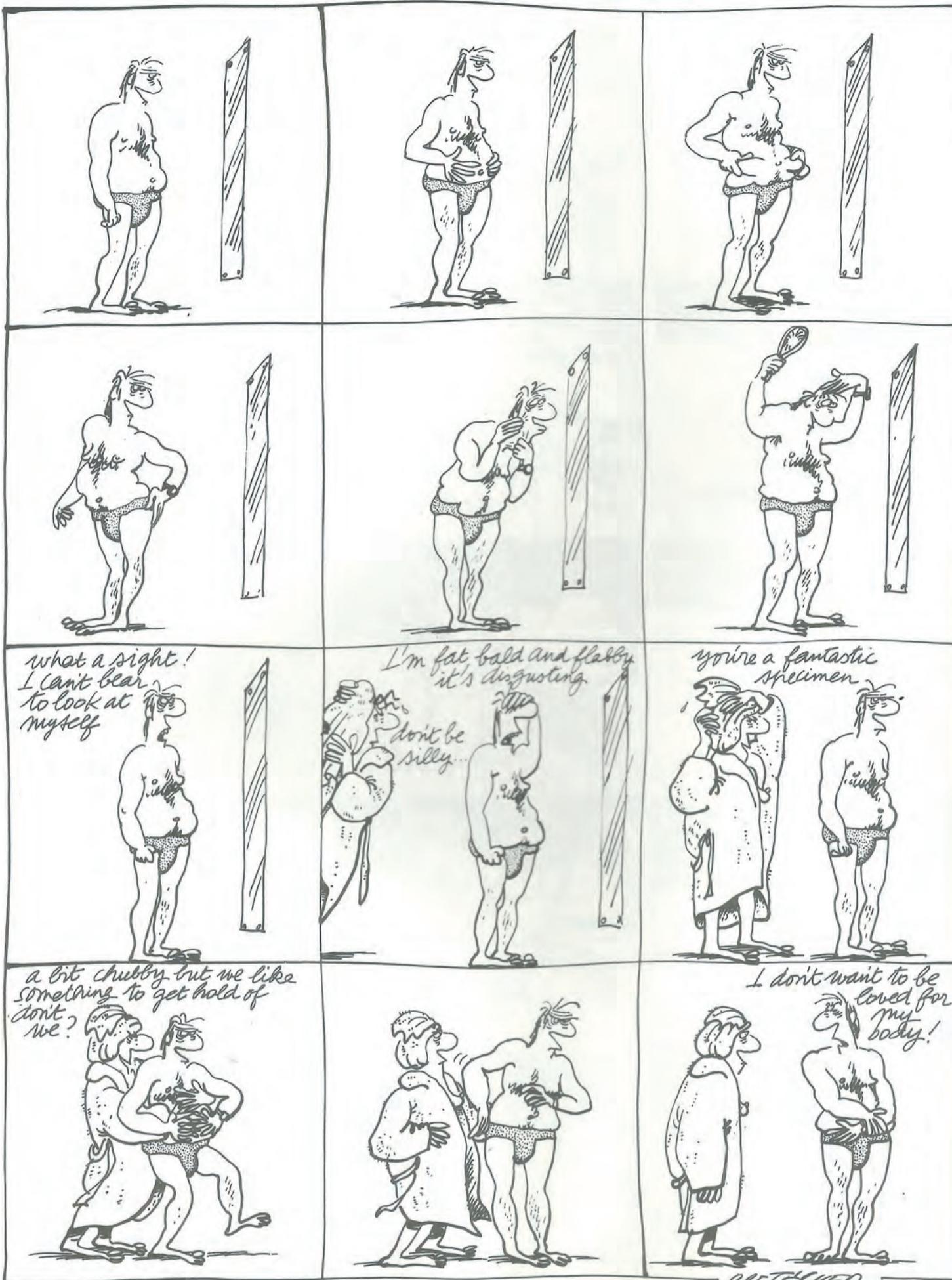
The Historic Cape Light & Museum: Open 11am - 3pm weekends, Bayly Road, Warea.

OCTOBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 5
Taranaki Heritage month: See article for more info.

OCTOBER 24 TO NOVEMBER 22

The Potters Exhibition: At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

OCTOBER 24 TO DECEMBER 3



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NEWS



A Christmas Crackup: At the Hawera Repertory Theatre, Hawera.

OCTOBER 25 TO NOVEMBER 6

Taranaki Arts Trail

OCTOBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 6

Taranaki National Art Awards At Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Event Centre.

NOVEMBER 2 TO 12

Sex, Drugs & Rick 'n' Noel Cue Theatre, Inglewood.

NOVEMBER 5

Speedway: At the Stratford Speedway. See ad for event details.

NOVEMBER 10 TO 20

Spiegelfest: Around Taranaki

NOVEMBER 12

Hawera Rumble: A night of boxing. At the Hawera Hub from 6pm.

Speedway: At the Stratford Speedway. See ad for event details.

NOVEMBER 18

Twilight Fiesta: Twilight racing at the New Plymouth Racecourse. First race at 2.50pm.

NOVEMBER 22

Oaonui Water Supply AGM: at the Opunake Golf Club, Namu Rd. 6pm.

NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 10

The Golding Girls: At the New Plymouth Little Theatre. See ad for event times.

DECEMBER 10

Mistletoe & Margaritas: At the Soul Kitchen, Opunake, 6pm.

PUBLIC NOTICES

J.E. PRESTIDGE TRUST

The J.E. Prestidge Trust has bursaries available to those people who may be undertaking tertiary studies in Agriculture or Horticulture or in allied courses. To qualify, applicants must have attended at some stage during their secondary schooling a High School in Taranaki.

Application forms and full details of the bursaries are available from:

Kellie Parker
Till Henderson
STRATFORD
Ph. 06 765 7123

Email: kellie.parker@thlaw.co.nz

Applications close on Friday 2 December 2022 4pm

OAONU WATER SUPPLY LIMITED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 6.00pm

at the Opunake Golf Club
235 Namu Road, Opunake

Pungarehu Golf Club Twilight

Every Tuesday starting 8th November

Tee off between 5pm – 6pm

BBQ, prizes and entry for meat raffle included in \$10 entry

Prizegiving will be at 7.30pm

Enquiries – Alan Crowley 027 9646587

SITUATIONS VACANT



Seasonal Herd Test Technicians

LIC is committed to supporting our farmers in Herd Testing services to allow them to make informed on farm decisions around Herd Improvement.

We need self-starters who can "hit the ground running" so we can complete our team for the 2022 season!

About the Role

Our Herd Test Technicians travel around their allocated region in an LIC vehicle loaded with Herd Testing equipment, to setup dairy sheds for herd testing and collect equipment/samples from farmers who have tested the day before. This is a fast paced working environment requiring excellent time management skills and physical strength as handling equipment is a must. This role is 6 days per week Sunday-Friday, with a guarantee of 20 minimum hours per week, from now until late-May 2023.

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- Initiative and can problem solve independently to provide solutions
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To apply go to our website www.careers.lic.co.nz.

Job code: 43125

Applications close: 11 November 2022

careers.lic.co.nz



Next Meeting is on
Monday November 7, 2022
at 5.30pm

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Medical Centre)



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The Principal
Opunake High School
PO Box 4, Opunake, 4615.

Applications close on
Friday 2 December, 2022



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.

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

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