



## Inside



**Reflections on Otakeho School due to be demolished. page 5**



**Wanton vandalism. The Opunake Police are interested who is doing it. Can anyone help. Page 6**



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**On now at Lysaght Watt. Page 31.**

## Local Body elections

Voting closes on in the Local Body elections at mid-day, October 9.

The Opunake & Coastal News is running further profiles on candidates in this issue.

There's just two issues of the Opunake & Coastal News left - September 25 and October 9 - if you want to market yourselves in the paper.

## Opunake Walkers stepping it out

Yes, we are still pounding the streets of Opunake, round the lake, across the beach, and along other parts of the Loop Trail. Yes, and everyone knows who we are, and how could you miss our large group of 18 - 25 walking members. We are a tough rural group who walk in all weathers.

Our group has gone from strength to strength, and we are all there to walk for both physical and mental wellbeing. As well as seeing us you have probably heard our friendly chatter, as we weekly walk about 6kms. And of course there is a coffee and some social time to follow our walk. Our aim is to be friendly and inclusive, and we look out for one another in celebrations, in time of loss and in other tough times.

In summer we walk out of town one day a month. Although predominately females at the moment, we welcome the male species and lately we were thrilled to have had two males walking with us.

If the distance is too great, we break up into groups, one fast and one a little slower, and we can head back for that coffee earlier.



The intrepid Opunake walkers photographed two days ago after their weekly walk.

So, we are extending an invitation to any new community members, to join us, any visitors to town,

anyone needing to walk for rehabilitation after illness, or you just need a way of meeting people.

No fuss, no phone call,

no fees, just comfortable shoes and a commitment by you to turn up on the corner of Havelock St by the Club Hotel at 10am every

Tuesday.

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## Thrashing out the issues in Eltham

A large number of candidates was matched with a good turnout at a candidates meeting in Eltham last week.

Candidates for mayor, district and regional council and community board spoke at the meeting run by the Eltham Lions Club and held at the Eltham Fire Station.

Mayor Phil Nixon said he had grown up in South Taranaki, was passionate about its future and looked forward to achieving more in the next three years.

In answer to a question he said he opposed rates capping.

"I know the public are very keen on it, but it hasn't worked in lots of places in Australia." He said South Taranaki is a high service district so if rate caps came in the question would be asked of what services would be cut.

"Who's going to put their hands up to have their pools and library close?" he said.

Continued page 4

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# Letters to the Editor

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

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

## Rates paying for private business activity

With the rising public outrage over rates increases, all matters that contribute require real public debate.

Why are any rates being used to subsidise heavy transport road damage from commerce/private business? All such damage should be coming out of correctly calculated Road User Charges (RUCs)

and fuel taxes. Right now the National government is supposedly looking at RUCs.

Offshore research indicates 90% of road damage is trucking. Thus according to Mayor Nixon of South Taranaki, the government repays 65% of local rates spent on roads. Ignoring the fact that this marketplace cost shifting probably affects general taxes, that means 90% of the 35c in the dollar is cross subsidy to private business transport from by degrees unrelated to those businesses, rate payers.

Rate payers (and probably general taxation) across NZ are being scammed. As boasted by Fonterra that they could land milk in Ireland cheaper than poor old Paddy could produce milk, maybe some of the reason is rates distorting the true costs of that current business.

Yes I understand poor quality roads and poor quality road tar since Marsden Point closed, however it was the transport lobby that got the trucking weights raised.

Max Thomas  
Awatuna

## Maori Wards

### Kia ora

There is a lot of lively debate around the Māori ward referendum that is taking place at the same time as the local election. I support Māori aspirations for tino rangatiratanga, a guaranteed to hapū under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The Māori wards are a small step towards Te Tiriti justice and I encourage you to vote to keep Māori wards at this election. We all know that a diverse group of people

## ADELPHOS

“This above all: to thine own self be true.” Ole Will Shakespeare gave us these timeless words of wisdom. He was challenging us to better understand ourselves and act with integrity and self-awareness. But to know and understand oneself is easier said than done.

The Johari Window is a basic self-help psychological model to help us better understand ourselves and our interactions with others. It has four window panes showing different types of knowledge we have or don’t have about ourselves. We all live in each of these windows.

The Open area (known to self and others) is what we know about ourselves and others know about us—it’s how we usually act. We’re an open book. To use a technical term, we are congruent.

The Hidden area (known to self but unknown to others) is what we know about ourselves but are unwilling to share with others—fears, past experiences, private thoughts. But being too private makes it hard for

## The Johari Window

people to trust or get to know us.

The Blind area (unknown to self but known to others) is what others notice about us that we’re not aware of, like certain attitudes, idiosyncrasies, facial expressions or interrupting others while they are speaking. Here’s the area you might discuss with a trusted friend or family member.

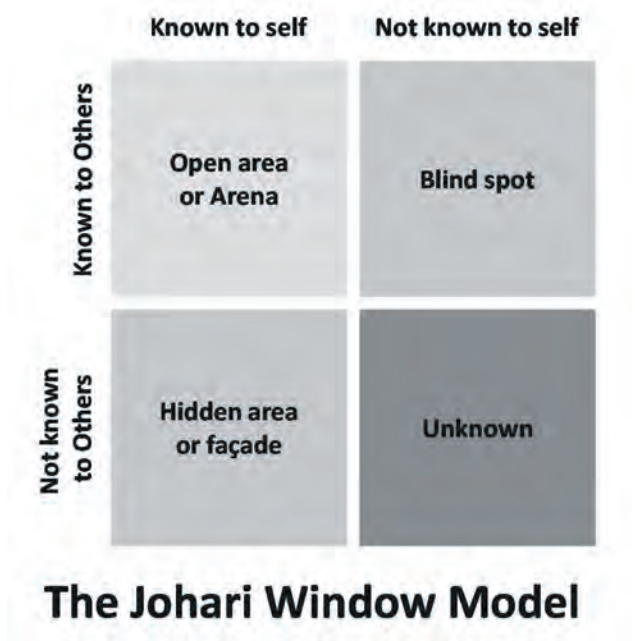
The Unknown area (unknown to ourselves and others) represents the part of ourselves that both we and others are unaware of. It might be a hidden talent or a past trauma that unconsciously influences our behaviour. We can attempt to explore the unknown through self-reflection, surviving a crisis, a spiritual discovery or simply engaging in a new experience such as going to a live musical or travelling to an unexplored place for the first time. The apostle Paul enthusiastically speaks of his new spiritual conversion experience: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has

gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV).” Discovering parts of our unknown area is possible, however, an openness to discovering new insights and potential within ourselves is needed.

The Johari Window offers a useful guide to improving self-understanding, awareness, well-being and

relationships with others—through self-reflection, new experiences and openness to feedback from friends and family. The Hidden, Blind and Unknown window panes are especially challenging for us all. These window panes are worth looking into. You never know what surprising things you might discover.

Adelphos



## Apology

We would like to apologise for the incorrect page 5 being printed in the last issue of the Opunake & Coastal News.

The page 5 pf the August 14 edition of the paper got printed in error.

Not a case of deja vous!  
This was a fault of the printers.

Editor

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makes far better decisions. Local council politics have been dominated by old white males for decades. And while there is nothing fundamentally wrong with old white males - I will be one soon enough - community decisions should not be made by just one sector of society. On South Taranaki members on the Taranaki Regional Council, I don't think that having only two elected members provides for adequate representation. I would like to remind voters that it was in fact the incumbent Neil Walker who voted in favour of reducing South Taranaki's representatives from three to two at the September 2021 council meeting. Like Stratford was awarded some years ago, a special option was presented to the council which would have resulted in two Māori seats and retained South Taranaki's three seats. Neil Walker voted against that proposal and as a result, South Taranaki lost one seat and all Māori across the Taranaki region were reduced to only having one seat. Hopefully, this can be addressed at the council's next representation review but for now, let's all vote to keep the Māori ward.

Urs Signer  
Taranaki Regional  
Council candidate

### Where did three years go?

I must be getting older, time seems to have flown, the local elections are upon us. I have decided to stand again. I've enjoyed the last

three years better as I've got into the swing of things. Working with people within Eltham/Kaponga ward, townspeople, business, farming sector, in many different situations has been rewarding. I'm helping in some way with your concerns. To have different groups approach the Community Board with questions/funding requests has shown how diverse are the needs of the communities. I'm much concerned the rural sector has their voice heard and continue to encourage you to approach the Community Board in matters within your communities and groups and meet together within your farming sector. Kaponga, I believe, is sitting on a gold mine when the rival to "the Tongariro Crossing," "the Taranaki Crossing" is officially opened. The new Pouakai Hut, Dawson Falls Tourist lodge and boardwalk from Mangorei Rd. A total track of nine hours walking has been upgraded with a \$2.4 million Government input. Kaponga, the nearest town/starting point. I encourage accommodation, eateries, gym, camping/council amenities to be ready. Tourists will come as they did at Tongariro in thousands. Kaponga is a sitting duck for new business. As a mountaineer/tramper, we always start or finish at the nearest town. The first thing we need is food and accommodation. As a person involved with many rescues on the mountain, the last being the Frenchman on Fanthams

Peak, I encounter on Fanthams Peak, hundreds of tourists already. I was fortunate to find Frederick and show him care and support in his rescue and time in Base Hospital for many weeks. I'm still in contact with him in France. He's doing pretty well considering his injuries. The care, concern and time I gave to him is also why I stand for Community Board. If an individual or group needs help, I will endeavour to the best of my ability, to be there for you too. I'd be pleased to have your vote again for this coming term.

Lindsay Maindonald  
Eltham

### Re Maori Wards

I feel about Māori wards as I feel about gay marriages. I don't think it's right, but I don't care. If it were up to me, I'd abolish all wards. Most people don't know what they are anyway. Far more important to my mind is the Corporatisation of governments local and national. The "pointy-heads" have taken over. It was a huge mistake to hand the power of councils to employees, expressly the CEO as was done in the 1989 Local Government act. The same process has happened in Central Government. We desperately need intelligent, courageous and gracious Government ministers and we should look for the same qualities in our local councillors. So I will be looking for candidates with those qualities as our local democratic representatives in the local elections, not whether they are black, white or brindle in colour.

David Hancock  
Eltham

## Manhunt ends in bloodshed

Tom Phillips, who has been in hiding with his three children in rugged countryside, was shot and died of his injuries on September 8, ending almost four years of a search. The location of the fatality is Te Anga Road, near Piopio and west of Waitomo. His quad bike, with supplies attached to the sides, was nearby to where he fell. Also on the quad bike were various firearms. Several metres away the nearest police car has several bullet holes in the windscreen. The first officer on the scene, who allegedly exchanged fire with Phillips, was taken to Waikato Hospital for surgery with various bullet wounds, including to his head. One of Phillip's children, the oldest one Jayda (12), was with him and was taken into police custody. She told police where the two younger children could be found. Maverick (10) and Ember (9), were at a remote campground nearby. All three children

were unharmed. This fatal conclusion was sparked at 2.30am when a burglary of a farm supplies store, was reported in Piopio. He was later spotted, driving his quad bike on Waipuna Road with a passenger. The road intersects with Te Anga Road and spikes were laid at the intersection around 3.20am. Soon after, his quad bike encountered the spikes and has to stop. There have been a number of sightings of Phillips over the many months, sometimes when he was on one of his burglaries, stealing supplies. Some of these thefts were in Piopio. At times he would have one of the children with him, presumably Jayda. One of the more serious of his alleged crimes was in May 2023 when two armed people robbed an ANZ bank in Te Kuiti. Our thoughts are with those who are injured or bereaved, including their families and relatives. The Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA) will conduct an investigation.

Opunake & Coastal News

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### Huge housing problem

I am certainly agreeing with Labour's list MP Glen Bennett when he rightfully stated that in our province our homelessness is rising, skyrocketing by 200% as people are now being forced to sleep in cars, live in unsafe temporary housing, losses of jobs, high rentals, discrimination, addiction or any traumatic events which are pushing some into crisis. While our District Council has committed \$350,000 into helping the YMCA open shelters, now it's believed the government has stopped Kainga Ora building more homes, saying it's costing too much. Now hasn't our Labour Party's words come true about this government? Of course they have, but still people voted for Luxon and his motley crew who have been floundering from the time they became our government, as they're still hoping for a huge miracle to save themselves, but the only big miracle has had was when they had a Labour Government. We are having our local body elections coming up, and be extremely careful who you vote for as already some candidates have made up their minds on what

they're going to do. Well, we'll see about that, as already in New Plymouth there are two candidates who will not be getting my vote, regardless of what they can offer, plus next year we have the general election coming, and it may be earlier than we all think.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth.

### Seagulls

Seagulls are seagulls. Seagulls come under a huge umbrella of many different types/breeds of birds, but basically they are birds of the sea. But when they are on land they become savages, and these gulls go

where the food is and I guess some don't even know what sea-fishing is. Speaking for these seagulls, why would they go out into the cold natural environment, the sea when people feed them with fish and chips and bread? In most cases I protect our New Zealand native bird life but just like the wild pussy cats there comes a time when seagulls are living ashore and get food and when they get food they had to poop and when they poo their poop is toxic with e.coli and salmonella which is harmful to our cats and dogs. Don't feed them.

Ian McAlpine  
New Plymouth

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# Thrashing out the issues in Eltham

Continued from page 1

Mayoral candidate Clem Coxhead who had previously stood in 2019 said he believed there was a need for a change.

"I've been approached by quite a few people in South Taranaki and asked to put my name in," he said.

"We're seeing the end of globalisation and we're back to local," he said. "Small towns need to look after themselves a lot more. The decisions we made many years ago to centralise this and that, and for the smaller towns to beg for crumbs are over. I believe smaller towns need to look out for themselves a lot more."

Mayor Nixon read a statement from Cr Steffy

McKay who was unable to be at the meeting. She listed high points of her time on Council.

"I've stood firm from the start that our communities should own our water assets," she said.

Mayor Nixon paid tribute to her work as a councillor.

"Her dedication to Council has been impeccable. She has been a real fighter for your community."

Mark Bellringer who is standing for re-election for the Eltham-Kaponga Ward talked about high points of his time on Council which included leading protests to get a hump installed to slow the traffic coming through Eltham.

He also paid tribute to Steffy McKay.

"Me and Steffy have worked well together and have been a strong voice for the community at the Council, and we will continue to be so."

Tim Taylor who is also standing for the Eltham-Kaponga Ward described himself as "a bit of a hippy."

"For 45 years I lived and worked in this district, and wow, was this place great back then. There was a vibrancy in our town, and I'm standing partly to bring that back."

Eltham-Kaponga Community Board chair Karen Cave is standing for both the Council and the Community Board.

"I first stood in 2007, never imagining I'd still be here 18 years later," she said. The Eltham-Kaponga Ward stretched from Mangimangi in the east to Auroa in the west and she appreciated it when people from these places came to the community board with their concerns. She was now standing for the Council where, she said, she would be able to represent her community at a higher level.

Lindsay Maindonald seeking re-election to the community board said the Taranaki Crossing would be good for Kaponga.

"That crossing starts or ends depending where you are at Kaponga. We need to make Kaponga aware of what's coming."

Glennys Price also spoke about the need to attract people to come to the area.

"Locally we have so much to offer," she said. "We are a destination, not a location. We need to encourage the through traffic to have a reason to stop and stay."

Stan Barnett said he was "passionate about our small communities." The campaign over the future of the Kaponga Library showed that community-level participation works, he said.

Another candidate for the Community Board Dave Stewart said he had lived around Eltham for most of his life and mentioned his own involvement as chair of the successful Save the Eltham School Arches (STESA) campaign.

Urs Signer who is standing for the Taranaki Regional Council South Taranaki Constituency said climate



Regional Council candidate Urs Signer with meeting timekeeper Brenda Stanners and chair Llew Eynon.



Neil Walker.

change is "the collective challenge of our time."

"Those who farm know this."

He made a pitch for keeping the Maori Wards in the vote being held alongside the local body elections.

"Maori wards are about justice and About Tangata Whenua and how they are seated at the table," he said.

He described himself as a "super public transport geek" and praised the bus service on the coast.

He opposed seabed mining and wanted to see a shift to regenerative agriculture, "feeding the land and the community" and away from an export-based model.

Taranaki Regional



Donna Cram.

councillor Neil Walker said the costs involved with central government regulation was something which the Regional Council had had to struggle with, so reform of the Resource Management Act was something which the Council would be facing in the next term.

Donna Cram, seeking re-election to the Taranaki Regional Council said her experience in setting up the Taranaki Catchment Communities showed she was somebody who could make things happen.

"We need to improve environmental outcomes, but we need to improve economically as well. I

believe we can do both.

"I believe the rest of New Zealand is jealous about what we have achieved with the carrot approach."



Eltham-Kaponga Community Board candidate Stan Barnett addresses the meeting.

## On this month in history Edwin Hubble dies

On September 28, 1953 Edwin Powell Hubble died aged 63. The Hubble Space Telescope was named after him.

The American astronomer was born on November 20, 1889 in Marshfield Missouri.

Firstly, he studied law at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. His law practice was in Kentucky before returning to astronomy. He helped establish extragalactic astronomy and observational cosmology. He also discovered the Andromeda Galaxy and determined that what was thought to be clouds was actually collections of dust and gas fields.

He helped theoreticians develop their Big Bang theory.

Hubble developed a classification system for

galaxies by content, distance, shape and brightness which is still used.

His 1929 Hubble's Law showed that the universe

is expanding and that the speed at which galaxies are moving away from earth is proportional to their distance from Earth.



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# End of the road for Otakeho School

On Sunday August 31 Otakeho residents, former residents and former students got to have one last look at the Otakeho Primary School buildings and grounds. A day later contractors would be removing asbestos from the site prior to the school buildings being demolished.

I had been a student here, as had my mother Annie (nee Lawrie) and her siblings, so I was wanting one last look myself. The school had opened in 1884, celebrated its centenary in 1984, and faced with declining rolls and government plans to close other South Taranaki rural schools had decided to voluntarily close its doors for good in December 2002.

Twenty three years later many of the familiar sites are buried under foliage. The artwork proclaiming “The Little School with the Big Heart,” a feature of the last years as a school is barely



Otakeho School today.

visible.

The centrepiece of the ring road, which everyone referred to as the Teardrop, where we used to play bull rush is now overgrown.

Former pupils speculated

about the whereabouts of the time capsule buried during the centenary celebrations. Time capsules were in vogue back then and would always include a video cassette, assuming of course that when they were extracted years later there would be something available capable of playing the tape.

The memorial plaques on the school gates honouring those who did not return from World Wars I and II had been transferred to a memorial cairn at the Otakeho Hall where ANZAC Day commemorations are still held every year. Among the names on the cairn is that of an uncle of mine, Pilot Officer John Lawrie who in 1944 kept his stricken Lancaster bomber in the air long enough for his crew mates to bail out to safety, but not long enough to do so himself.

Memories of times spent there include the annual fancy dress balls at the Otakeho Hall and the school trip to the South Island.

The trip included a visit to parliament, where we were hosted by our local MP Venn Young, himself a former Otakeho resident. We took the overnight ferry which ran from Wellington to Christchurch, something which the government of the day later axed as an economy measure. I remember throwing up en route.

My first teacher was Joan Murray. Others included Sue Simon, and of course the school’s long serving headmaster Bill Rennie. When I was there the school had four classes and the roll was getting up to 100.

In 1884 the Otakeho School opened with a roll of 29. Early pupils included the brothers Alan and Hugh Good who went on to represent New Zealand at rugby in the 1890s. Other rugby personalities of note to have passed through the school have included another set of All Black brothers Don “The Boot” and Ian Clarke, as well as Albert Purvis (“Bill”) Freeman.

I had a bit to do with Bill Freeman when I was living in Wellington and remember spending a very interesting hour and a half with him at his Waikanae home. His father had been deputy manager at the Otakeho dairy factory and he had gone to Otakeho Primary School and Hawera High School.

He shifted to Wellington in search of work and got into playing and coaching rugby. After coaching Petone to win the club championship he was shoulder tapped to coach Wellington who had just lost the Ranfurly Shield to Taranaki. He never did get the Shield back, but he did guide Wellington to wins against the visiting Springboks and Lions in 1966. He spoke fondly of his time at Otakeho.

A new school was built in 1938 and opened by Education minister and future Prime minister Peter Fraser. Three years later Otakeho was one of the first schools in Taranaki to have its own swimming baths. These were replaced in 1961

and a filtration unit installed. These baths proved very popular when I was at the school with local families like ours having the use of them during the summer months. Today the baths have long been emptied, and like much of the rest of the school fallen victim to disrepair.

At one time schools like Otakeho dotted the South Taranaki countryside. Some, like Mangahume and Rowan had closed long before I started at Otakeho. Others like Pihama, Te Kiri, Oaonui, Awatuna, Oeo, Mangatoki and Kapuni were still going strong when I was there, but like Otakeho have since closed.

Bryan Kirk.



Two generations view what was once the Otakeho School Swimming Pool. From left Rod and Richard Walker.



Having one last look around the old school.



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# Hoon drivers an ongoing problem in Opunake

The antics of hoon drivers continue to raise hackles in Opunake. On Monday morning Bryan Roach and Aaron Langton who represent the Coastal

Taranaki Ward on the South Taranaki District Council surveyed the latest damage on the verges of the road between the cenotaph and the lookout next to the Cliff

## COASTAL COPPERS



Constable Brad Coad, Opunake Police

As always we ask that our communities call 111 whenever incidents like the vandalism at Hurst Park are occurring and if further information becomes available they can use 105 update us.

Gather as much information as possible, such as vehicle registration, make, model and any distinguishing

features, and if you can do so safely, capture photos or video footage of the events. While we appreciate people trying to help, we do not encourage confronting, engaging with or chasing these individuals. This can lead to further escalations and potentially put yourselves and others at risk. What we are finding currently is that we are made aware of incidents after they have occurred, and when we check if any reports were made, there are few, if any. We need incidents reported so that we can respond when available, and plan to deploy when appropriate to prevent further offending. For those of you who are reporting using 111, 105 or catching us when we are in the station or out and about, we thank you for all your help.

Top Garden. “They’ve been here again today,” says Aaron. “That’s a fresh bit.” Bryan says the three areas that have been worse hit are the area overlooking Opunake Beach, over by the bike shed by the lookout, and at Hurst Park. He says there have been reports of out-of-town visitors joining local boy racers, illegally closing off streets and doing burnouts. “The big thing is that someone’s going to get injured. They going to hit somebody walking a dog or they could confront somebody and there could be an argument. They are damaging council property and it comes at a cost. Someone has got to fix it, and basically it’s the ratepayers that have to pay for it.” Aaron says it comes at a time when the town is gearing up for the various garden and arts festivals and looking forward to welcoming visitors to town. “It doesn’t make our town look very nice and it’s winter when the ground gets chewed up,” he says. “It’s not that we want to



Bryan Roach and Aaron Langton survey the latest damage.

stop young people. It’s just becoming unsafe for too many of them.” Bryan says police have video evidence which they are looking at. He says a vehicle of particular interest is one that looks like a white silver ute with bull bars in front. He warns against confronting these people head on.

“At the lookout somebody came across and said something, and then felt unsafe for a bit,” says Bryan. “Some people have tried to intervene which is not a safe thing to do. What they should be doing is phoning the police on 111 to get immediate action. Basically you have got to

catch the guys. The police have got to deal with it. The Council can’t go around putting rocks around every place they do this. All they will do is go is go to the next place.” Opunake Beach Camp assistant manager Anton Strydom says hoon drivers are an unwelcome presence at the beach. “If I have a day when it doesn’t happen I celebrate,” he says. He says he worries for the safety of beach users. “There are four pedestrian crossings. The other day a family was coming across the crossing and seconds later a hoon comes speeding down the hill.” He also talks about having confronted recalcitrant drivers on the beach. “When people see you videotaping you cop a lot of flak.” Often they have friends there cheering them on. He encourages people to get in touch with the police if they see anything happening. “If people don’t report it to the police the statistics look like we don’t have any crime,” he says.

## Hurst Park mistreated badly

Local identity Ian Armstrong is greatly upset when he saw what certain irresponsible individuals had done to Opunake’s Hurst Park, the result of doing ‘wheelies’ in their motor cars by the look of it. “When Opunake is looking so good it is disappointing that people would come in and do this.” He was emphatic that the damage was done by motorcars, rather than motorcycles. The northern section of the park was especially bad and almost looked like a ploughed up paddock. It was a puzzle as to exactly how the cars gained access,

apart from one place (in the northern part) where a good citizen has placed a large rock to deter anyone else from adding to the already considerable damage. Pedestrian access to the park is on both Gisborne Terrace and Ihaia Road. The gate at the latter entrance, is securely padlocked presumably in an attempt to ensure vehicles cannot gain access. Hurst Park is part of the Opunake Loop trail and the track continues on, following the Hihiwera Stream to Whitcombe Raod or a path to Allison Street. Interesting historical information, with accompanying photographs is displayed at the last part of the park. This information is well worth a look. Hurst Park, incidentally, is named after the Hurst family. Burt, Ruby and May Hurst, used to farm up Watino Road, but eventually retired to a Domett Street

residence. The family “were prolific workers” into the organising of the Te Kiri Gala and also donated land, to the Council, for the public to enjoy. Burt was secretary of the event for 15 years. Originally, the land, which became Hurst Park, was used for the railway station and associated track, but this came to an end on July 31, 1976, after a railway

life of some 45 years of operation. As regards the damage, there is another issue. The park was intended as a children’s area. With vehicles zooming around and possible children playing, there could be a serious accident. If you see anything untoward in the near future, please phone 111. This request has come from the Opunake Police.



Severe damage caused by vandals.



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# New Plymouth mayoral candidate wants weedkiller glyphosate banned

New Plymouth Mayoral candidate and cancer survivor Peter Marra wants to see the New Plymouth District Council ban weedkiller glyphosate because of recent international evidence linking glyphosate to multiple forms of cancer even when used at supposedly safe levels recommended by the EU. Mr Marra recently celebrated 5 years of being cancer free. He was diagnosed with Stage 3 bowel cancer in 2020 after falling through the cracks of the health system that ignored his red flags of shitting blood. At the time the Taranaki DHB was not part of the national bowel screening program says Mr



Peter Marra New Plymouth Mayoral candidate.

Marra. He challenged the Taranaki DHB leadership to install an electronic booking system and employ more endoscopists to become part of this programme. Two

years later he launched a petition to lower the bowel screening age to 45 to save lives. What's very concerning says Mr Marra is that

the Ministry of Primary Industries wants to increase the allowable amount of glyphosate that can be sprayed on food crops even though thousands have submitted against it. |

"There are many alternatives to glyphosate for weed control including mulching, steam, hot water, hand weeding or low impact natural sprays," adds Mr Marra.

"There are many things that put people at risk of cancer including bowel cancer such as diet, family history of cancer, lifestyle, obesity but it makes more sense to have a preventative approach that includes reducing the risks from pesticides linked to cancer and early detection by lowering the age for screening," Peter Marra says.

Before the last election the Prime Minister promised to lower the bowel screening age to 45 equal to Australia's bowel screening age but reneged once elected, says Mr Marra. With Bowel Cancer NZ stating the screening age announcement leaves the Prime Minister's promise 90 percent unmet.

As a cancer survivor in the absence of strong leadership aiming to reduce deaths by early detection this motivates me to stand for Mayor and New Plymouth District Council aiming to ensure the NPDC encompasses more health and wellbeing in its governance. Health is a person's greatest wealth, Mr Marra states

## Festival takes to the road



The finished truck with Judy Chapman (Chairperson) and Yvette Lowe (committee member).

The Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival committee has just unveiled stunning new branded truck curtains that will take our festival message — and the beauty of Taranaki — on the

road nationwide. This eye-catching truck will be delivering and collecting plants from major garden centres all the way from Auckland to Christchurch, proudly showcasing our

region along the way. Thanks to generous support from Venture Taranaki, these curtains will be promoting our homegrown event for the next 5–15 years. They're large-scale

(10.205m long x 3.152m high) and featured on both sides of the truck — a real rolling billboard for our province.

Anne Clough

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# NCEA – an opportunity to all be on the same page

Engagement with parents, teachers, and students across the electorate has given me a clear sense of the broad support there is for the education changes being led by Hon Erica Stanford.

As a parent with young children I have seen the benefits of structured literacy already and I am excited by the expectation of clear levels of achievement



CARL BATES MP  
WHANGANUI

that the proposed changes to NCEA will bring. I believe in recognition for achievement and in the role examinations have in determining this.

Across the Whanganui electorate are some 72 schools, more in the newly extended seat. As part of my role as an engaged local MP I actively visit them and have been to over 50 already in the last 18 months.

One of the issues raised with me during these visits is “removing the political football of education.” While I appreciate the inherent desire here, it is easier said than done.

Take for example National’s implementation of structured literacy and numeracy. Many principals and teachers I have met are really pleased with this, some thanking the National-led Government for paying for resources they had otherwise intended to buy.

On the other hand, some have challenged me on why these academically proven approaches are being implemented at all. It is idealistic to think that everyone will agree on something in any sector, I know. A constructive approach however beats opposition for opposition’s sake and makes it possible to get the majority onboard.

Last week came the news that a group of 89 principals had written an open letter to Erica Stanford calling on her to drop the proposal to replace NCEA. When you consider however that there are around 500 secondary schools in New Zealand, it is clear not only that most principals are not openly opposing Minister Stanford’s proposal, but also that unanimous approval is unlikely.

It is important to remember

that the changes to NCEA are evidence based. A report from the Education Review Office last year found that 60% of teachers do not regard NCEA Level 1 as a reliable measure of skills and knowledge. Parents struggle to understand the grades, and more than half the employers surveyed by ERO expressed concerns at the level of numeracy and literacy of students entering the workforce.

Under the new subject-based approach, students will have to take English and Mathematics at Year 11, along with at least five subjects in Years 12 and 13, needing to pass at least four to gain each certificate.

The new curriculum is intended to start at the beginning of 2026, the Foundational Skills Award in 2028, and the new certificates in 2029 and 2030 for Years 12 and 13. The new curriculum will promote consistency of learning throughout New Zealand. This would mean students in South Taranaki will be learning the same as their counterparts in South Auckland and Southland.

Consultation on the proposal is open until 15 September, with final decisions due by the end of this year. I strongly encourage parents, educators and employers to have their say by going here - <https://www.education.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-proposal-replace-ncea/details>

In the meantime, Minister Stanford continues her programme of reform in the Education sector. As an MP and Deputy Chair of the Education and Workforce Committee I am committed to ensuring every child has a world-leading education and acquires the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

I am also committed to ensuring we have a national qualification all New Zealanders can be proud of. Ultimately however, cross-party engagement requires stakeholders to come to the table in good faith. While

that will not always result in an agreement, the benefits of a consensus mean we should at least try.

*Carl Bates*  
MP for Whanganui (including South Taranaki and Stratford)



Whanganui MP Carl Bates and his wife, Candice, welcomed their third child in mid-July. There was delight in the Bates household when Bonnie-Ann Elizabeth Bates was discharged from hospital and welcomed home at the end of July. Bonnie-Ann had spent two weeks in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Wellington Hospital before transferring to Whanganui Hospital for a few days.

Born with an extra chromosome, Bonnie-Ann has already weathered some challenges, taken her first flight, has won the hearts of her older brothers and is flourishing in her new home. Candice and Carl want to thank everyone who had wished them well, and offer a special thanks to Candice’s midwife, the staff of the NICU at Wellington Hospital, and Whanganui Hospital’s SCBU. They also thank the crew from Air Whanganui for safely transferring Bonnie-Ann and Candice back to Whanganui and everyone at Ronald McDonald House in Wellington.

Carl, Candice, Angus, Logan, Bonnie-Ann are looking forward to the changes that becoming a family of five will bring, and to their first opportunity for a family trip to South Taranaki.

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# Matuka muster providing valuable insight

The annual Matuku Muster has returned for its second year, and it's set to provide more valuable insights into one of New Zealand's most elusive wetland birds – the critically threatened bittern (matuku-hūrepo or kautuku).

This year's muster coincides with the recent launch of DOC's Always Be Naturing campaign – during Conservation Week – encouraging all New Zealanders to take action for nature. Nature is at the heart of who we are as New Zealanders – it shapes our identity, wellbeing, economy and future. But nature is in trouble, and the challenge is growing. A nationwide initiative run by Love Bittern - a charity organisation and community group promoting protection of the matuku-hūrepo - the Matuku Muster calls for volunteers and community groups to count and observe the cryptic and rare birds in wetlands across New



A matuka in flight.

Zealand. The particular focus is listening for the distinctive booming sound made by males. The muster helps identify and address gaps in the known matuku-hūrepo environment and how the birds use those spaces.

DOC Science Advisor Harry Caley says the contribution of volunteers involved in the first muster provided valuable data on the matuku-hūrepo population.

“The first Matuku Muster helped us understand more about the shape of matuku-hūrepo populations and how they use their wetland habitats so we can help keep their homes healthy, and so they’ve got space to thrive,” he says.

“We want matuku-hūrepo populations to shift towards and beyond not being threatened by making sure their wetlands are healthy now and into the future.”

Last year more than 500 volunteers across New Zealand counted 223 male birds at 462 sites. Finding females requires an entirely separate method still being developed by researchers. However, they can sometimes be seen paired flying with males at sites across the country during the Muster.

“The muster is a way people can take action for nature. With more people involved

we can reach more wetlands, count more birds and protect wetlands into the future - not just for bittern but for the animals that call them home. “We’d really like to get more data from the South Island, where we need more matuku-hūrepo observers committing some time to the muster.

“The previous Matuku Muster data helped us identify and address gaps in the known matuku-hūrepo environment,” he says. “Our aim is for the species to survive in locations for several generations by providing optimal matuku-hūrepo habitats within each wetland network, maintaining those sites indefinitely, and adding or enhancing addition/enhancement of new sites for the birds.”

Harry says repeating observations of matuku-

hūrepo at sites will also mean scientists can model the birds’ abundance and determine their population status. There are estimated to be less than 1000 matuku-hūrepo nationally.

The first Matuku Muster revealed knowledge of the birds is more widespread than anticipated. Many matuku-hūrepo habitats observations are not on land managed by DOC.

Matuku-hūrepo, also known as the Australasian bittern or kautuku as they’re referred to by some South Island iwi, have declined significantly since European settlement of New Zealand. The birds face continued threats from habitat loss, predators and disturbance by human activity. People and groups can find out more and join the muster via the Love Bittern website.

## National rental price hits lowest since 2023

The national average rental price has dropped to \$628, the lowest since September 2023, although regional areas buck the trend.

Southland meanwhile records an all-time high average rental price of \$509 per week and the West Coast bucks national trend with 11.2% average rental price increase. The latest data from realestate.co.nz reveals some subtle and not so subtle rental price increases in the regions, despite New Zealand's average weekly rental price falling 3.0% from \$648/week in August 2024 to \$628/week in August 2025. Southland's average weekly rent however hit an all-time high of \$509/week (August 2025), up 9.2% from \$466/week this time last year. The West Coast also bucked the national trend, with average rental prices up 11.2% on August last year.

Sarah Wood, CEO of realestate.co.nz, says the data shows how localised the rental market can be.

“While the national trend suggests a softening in rental prices, Southland and the West Coast are clear reminders that the market doesn’t move in unison. Local supply and demand pressures are driving different outcomes across the regions.”

Rent in the city: major centres record declining rental prices All of New Zealand's major urban centres recorded a decline in average rental prices when compared to 12 months ago. Wellington experienced the largest year-on-year decline, down 11.8%, followed by Otago (down 3.9%), Auckland (down 2.3%), Canterbury (down 2.1%), and Waikato (down 0.6%).

“These drops may reflect increased rental supply in the

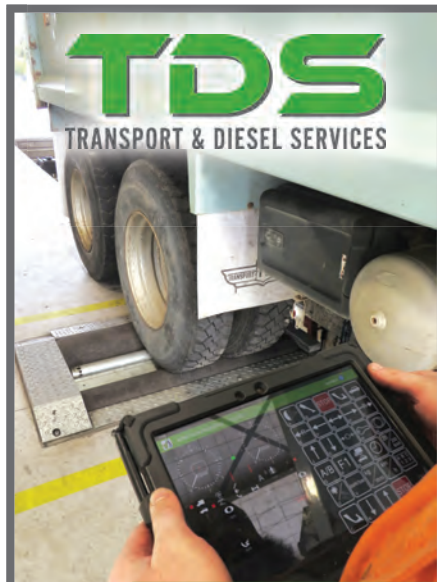
cities or tenants negotiating more favourable lease terms, but it’s also likely linked to affordability pressures amid broader economic challenges,” says Wood.

New listings surge in key regions

Nationally, new rental listings rose 16.0% year-on-year, reaching 6,700 in August 2025 compared to 5,775 a year earlier. Wellington led the charge with a 105.8% increase, more than doubling the number of rental properties newly listed in the capital – from 274 listings in August 2024 to 564 in August 2025. In addition to Wellington, three other regions, Wairarapa (97.1%), Gisborne (82.4%), and Hawke’s Bay (69.2%) all recorded increases exceeding 60%.

Wood says the increase may signal rising confidence among landlords or a shift in property use. “We may be seeing the impact

of properties returning from short-term rentals, or landlords choosing to re-enter the long-term rental market as economic conditions evolve.”



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# Green School New Zealand celebrates

The weather was kind as a huge turnout of people arrived on Friday September 5 to celebrate Green

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One of the founding teachers Mark Armstrong speaks, watched by many students, and, from left, founder Michael Perrett, Campus leader Nigel Barrett and Di Hoskin, who is also a founding teacher.

School New Zealand's fifth anniversary. The school is scenically situated at 406 Koru Road, Oakura 4374, Taranaki. It was founded by Rachel and Michael Perrett, who had a vision of something environmentally and educationally different from the usual schools in New Zealand.

There was no mistaking the enthusiasm and camaraderie as everyone of all ages embraced the special occasion with their common goals of sustainability and child-centred enjoyable

learning. Currently, the school roll is about 100 (catering for Years 1 to 13), but there is scope for considerably more to enrol.

The school has three divisions, the High School, Middle School and Primary School. The High School's focus is for students to embrace their

individualised learning journey, share their passions and take responsibility for themselves.

For the Middle School students the aim is for students to balance a sense of play and wonder, social and emotional learning and accepting challenges.

The Primary School students are encouraged to dive headfirst into a world teeming with opportunities. Every day is intended as a thrilling voyage of discovery.

The staff are certainly friendly and welcoming. Their leader, who is known as Head of Campus (not principal) is Nigel Barrett, who has been at the school just 12 months. His arrival at the leadership role was heralded World-



Founder Rachel Perrett was very welcoming.



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# Pleasers - it's OK to say no

You would be surprised at the number of times I see clients who suffer from 'Pleasingitis' (note - I just made the name of that condition up) - and we all know at least one person who suffers from it. The friend who says "yes" to every favour, every committee, and every last-minute dash to pick someone up from the airport - even when their own car's running on just fumes. In Aotearoa, we'd call them a "good egg," but let's be honest: deep down, they're a pleaser. And while helping others is great, being a full-time pleaser is exhausting and realistically, they never get the enjoyment of pleasing themselves.

So, how do people end up in the 'Pleaser Club' and how can they hand in their membership card without feeling like the bad dude? Let's look at the requirements more closely of how they joined in the first place.

**How pleasers are made**  
**1. Childhood conditioning**  
Many pleasers start young. Maybe Mum and Dad rewarded good behaviour with praise, but frowned on anything that looked like conflict. Little Johnny or Ana learns that keeping everyone happy means being shouted



Richard Hall.

at less and fewer headaches - and boom, the "yes reflex" is born. Fast-forward 20 years, and Johnny/Ana is the office legend for covering shifts, even though he/she hasn't had a proper lunch break since 2019.  
In psychology, this is linked to conditional love: the idea that your worth depends on how well you meet others' expectations. Kiwis don't always talk about it out loud, but the "don't rock the

boat" culture, often seen in small towns (yes, even in Taranaki) makes it worse. Better to keep quiet than risk looking selfish or worry about people talking about you.  
**2. Fear of rejection**  
Pleasers often fear that if they say no, they'll lose friendships or opportunities. It's the old "FOMO" trick of the mind. You think, "If I don't bake 60 sausage rolls for the PTA, will people

stop liking me?" Spoiler: no (Unless your baking skills are legendary, in which case you might get a few grumbles).

**3. Habit and Identity**  
After years of "yes, sure, no problem," the pleaser identity sets in. It's not just what they do; it's who they are. Friends, family, even bosses come to rely on it. Saying "no" feels like breaking character.

The cost of being a pleaser At first, being the reliable one feels good. But over time, it starts to wear you down and can leave you feeling:

- Burnt out: Always giving, never recharging.
- Resentment: Saying "yes" when you mean "no" leaves a bitter taste (a bit like instant coffee after a properly roasted brew).
- Loss of identity: You forget what you actually want, because your compass always points to others' needs.

**How to stop being a pleaser**

**1. Notice the pattern**  
The first step, as always, is self-awareness. Next time you agree to something, pause and ask: "Do I actually want to do this, or am I just avoiding guilt?" If it's the latter, you're in pleaser mode.

**2. Buy time to think.**  
This isn't something you purchase at 4-Square, The Dairy, or Clem & Lene's; it's simply going to be your new default answer instead of "yes." So, say something like:

- Can I get back to you later today, as I need to check with my partner/work/diary/calendar? (Just say one or two of them - not all four).
- This buys you time to think - and of course to check with your partner/work/diary/

calendar, to see whether you have the capacity and time to do it. And make sure you do get back to them asap with that no (or yes) answer.

**3. Practice saying "No" (without the guilt)**  
Start small. Instead of, "Of course I'll drive you to Wellington," try, "Sorry, I can't do that one, but I'm sure you will find a ride." Short, clear, and still kind. Think of it like practicing a golf swing - awkward at first, but gets smoother with repetition.

Tip: you don't need to launch into a three-minute essay about why you can't. Pleasers often over-apologise and over-explain. A simple "Can't manage it this time" works fine. Remember, we're in New Zealand - understatement is a national sport.

**4. Set boundaries like a farmer fencing paddocks**  
Boundaries aren't walls; they're fences. They keep things tidy and protect what's valuable inside. For example, ask yourself: "What's non-negotiable for my time and energy?" Maybe Tuesday nights are for your own hobbies, not emergency favours.

If someone keeps testing your fence, don't rebuild it higher. Just repeat your "no" with the consistency of a Taranaki wave rolling in. They'll get the message.

**5. Remember that respect goes both ways**  
True friends and colleagues respect your limits. If they only value you when you're useful, they're not mates - they're users. A good Kiwi friendship is about balance: sometimes you bring the cheese rolls, sometimes they do.

**6. Redefine your worth**  
Being valuable isn't about how many favours you dish out. Your worth comes from

who you are, not how much you do for others. You're not a human Swiss Army knife; you're a person with your own needs, goals, and dreams - except up until now you've never had the time to achieve them.

Try flipping the script: instead of asking, "how can I please everyone?" (and you end up pleasing no-one), ask, "What's true to me right now?"

**A final word**  
Stopping the pleaser cycle doesn't mean you turn into a grumpy hermit living up the mountain. It just means learning to say "yes" when you mean it, and "no" when you don't. It's about balance. Think of it like baking a cheese scone: too much butter and it's a greasy mess; too little and it's dry as cardboard. Get the mix right, and everyone's happy - including you.

So, if you catch yourself nodding along to yet another commitment, pause. Ask whether this "yes" comes from genuine desire, or from the old pleaser habit. And if it's the latter, remember even in Taranaki, the world won't end if you say "Sorry, I can't do it this time."

After all, even our maunga takes a break now and then, hiding behind the clouds. If you're a pleaser - maybe it's time you did, too.

Richard Hall  
Mind Support,  
Opunake.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is coming out on September 25. Ph (06)761-7016 to advertise.

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# Works history belongs to community

After completing his magnum opus on the Patea Freezing Works Russ Standing now says he has “no projects on the go.”

The Works-A History of the Patea Freezing Works took him 15 years to complete and will be launched at 10.30am on Saturday September 13 at the Hunter Shaw Building 132 Egmont Street, Patea.

This is not his first book. He was already well known for being one of the leading lights in the Hawera theatre scene when a new career as a historical writer beckoned.

“I had managed Farmers Mutual in South Taranaki for 30-odd years and retired in 2001. The CEO of the day said would you write the history of FMG?” says Russ. “I had always been interested in history and what history is. It was for their centenary, and it took me two and a half years to research and write it.”

FMG had begun with four Farmers Mutual Associations in Otago, Wellington, Taranaki and Hawkes Bay who merged in 1978, so the book involved travelling all around the country in an age before the Papers Past online archive provided by the National Library.

Pride Parochialism-a history of FMG Farmers Mutual Group 1905-2005 was followed by a sequel A Jewel in the Crown-a history of FMG in 2021.

Having completed the FMG book, other groups and organisations asked him to write their histories, something which Russ says involved him working 40-hour weeks.

Allied Farmers asked Russ to write their history, and he has also written histories of Halliwells, the Ohangai School and the Manaia Fire Brigade.

In 2009-10 he began



Russ Standing.

working on the history of the Patea Freezing Works which had closed in 1982.

“People kept talking about the Patea Freezing Works. It had been raised so many times with me I thought about the possibility of researching and writing it myself.”

Once started he was surprised at the lack of available material. When Vestey’s, the last owners of the works pulled the plug they took their records with them.

“Because of the lack of information I had to go all around the country, from north of Auckland to Dunedin to talk to individuals who were possibly related to the Patea Freezing Works,” he says.

“For various reasons it took me 15 years to research and write it. I was heavily involved in theatre and had too much on my plate at the time. In the last month or two it’s been the first time in my life I’ve had nothing going on.”

Russ still indulges another of his passions, painting, and has a studio next to his Hawera home.

He spent his early years in England during the blitz and was a teenager when off his own bat he immigrated to New Zealand as a “ten-pound Pom.”

He tells the Opunake and Coastal News reporter he owes his life to Opunake and the Opunake Surf Life Saving Club.

“I had been to an agricultural college in England, and I was 17 years-old and working on a farm at Tataraimaka. Me and my mate decided we’d go to a place we’d heard about called Opunak. We’d never been to a beach like that before. We went on to the beach where you go straight into the surf, and suddenly within 3-4 minutes I said to my mate what’s happening? We were getting swept out to sea. I would say we were within seconds of dying. We were swept out so far, we couldn’t see where the beach was.”

Fortunately, the Opunake Surf Life Saving Club were on hand and got them back to shore.

“I owe my life to the Opunake Surf Life Saving Club,” he says.

He believes the history of the Patea Freezing Works belongs to the South Taranaki community. Having had the book edited and made print ready he donated it to the Patea Historical Society for them to publish and print.

The Patea Freezing Works began with a meeting of the Patea A & P Association back in 1883, from which a company, the West Coast Meat and Produce Export Company was formed in 1884.

Russ however takes the story back to the first Pakeha contact in the 1840s and the development of farming.

Within almost a year of opening the first works were burned down.

“Various individuals came up from Southland and re-established the meat works under various names,” says Russ. “There were a couple of co-operatives over the years. In the 1930s Vestey’s came along and took over the works.”

The Vestey Group was the largest meat processing company in the world. By 1919 in England alone they had 2035 butcher shops. At their peak they employed 30,000 people worldwide and were a significant presence in 70 countries around the world. The Patea Works, employing 800 people was a very small cog in their machine when they pulled the plug in 1982.

Russ is looking forward to the book launch at the Hunter Shaw building in Patea on Saturday morning and is hoping ex-Patea workers will come along.

“Thousands of people have worked there,” he says. “It would be really great to get these people together.”

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## BOOK LAUNCH

### THE WORKS: A HISTORY OF THE PATEA FREEZING WORKS BY RUSS STANDING

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# Last meeting for current community board

Opunake’s iconic Beach Carnival was one of four groups the current Taranaki Coastal Community Board voted backed with funding at their last meeting held at the Otakeho Hall on September 3.

The board chair Andy Whitehead and board member Monica Willson are seeking re-election at the Local Body elections on October 10, while deputy chair Sharlee Mareikura and board member Liz Sinclair are standing down.

Speaking via video link on behalf of the Opunake Beach Carnival Committee, Shelley Harkness said the carnival is an iconic event which has been going for 50 years, and brings the community, families and businesses together.

Shelley said it cost \$13,000 to run the event and they were looking to make up the shortfall between that figure and a potential income of \$9000, which would come from sponsorship, stall holders and raffles and events held on the day. Costs would include closing the road, hiring portaloos, sound system and advertising.



The Taranaki Coastal Community Board at the Otakeho Hall for their last meeting before the local body elections.

“It is a really important event for Opunake,” said Shelley. “It’s the only one in the area and along the coast as well. So not only is it supporting Opunake but it’s supporting the whole South Taranaki coast.”

Andy Whitehead and Monica Willson both declared an interest and did not take part in the vote. Mayor Phil Nixon used his vote to make up the quorum.

The board voted to grant \$3182 from their discretionary fund.

The board also voted to grant \$1150 to the Oaonui Hall Committee who were applying for funding to upgrade the men’s toilets. Andy Whitehead declared an interest and did not take part in the vote.

The board also considered two funding applications that would normally have been district-wide applications, but were being pitched

to individual community boards because of timing considerations.

Heritage Taranaki was applying for funding to run Taranaki Heritage Month.

Rob Green of Heritage Taranaki said this is the fourth year they have been doing this.

“I believe Taranaki has a rich and complex history, and quite a narrative to place on the national stage,” he said. “It irks me that people think that Waitara is the big story here in Taranaki, when we’ve got something more complex here.”

There are 30 events planned

across the province including the Sons of Opunake event focusing on Peter Snell and Graham Mourie to be held at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake. Graham Mourie had agreed to come and speak at this event.

Andy Whitehead asked about the Peter Snell Mile which used to be run from the Event Centre and wondered if there was any possibility of this piggybacking on to the Heritage Taranaki event. Rob said he would be happy to invite hapu and community groups to tell their story.

The board voted to grant

\$600.

They also voted to grant \$1250 to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to provide community desexing vouchers to financially struggling residents of the Taranaki Coastal Ward.

At the end of the meeting Andy Whitehead thanked board members for their services during the previous three years.

Mayor Nixon commended the board members.

“For the last three years you have supported your community very well,” he said.

## Pay gap largely unchanged

The NZCTU Te Kauae Kaimahi is saying there is still huge work to do to ensure pay equity for women following the release of new data by Stats NZ that shows the gender pay gap remains largely unchanged.

Mean female wages rose only 0.2%. While women’s median pay rose 3.3%, this was in large part due to collective bargaining and pay equity settlements, which this Government has gutted.

The CTU uses the mean figure as it better reflects the full diversity of wages in the economy.

“While Stats NZ prefer a measure that makes it look like there has been significant progress on

the pay gap, in reality the average working woman in New Zealand is hardly better off,” said NZCTU Secretary Melissa Ansell-Bridges.

“The difference between the median and the mean likely reflects a lack of progress towards the gender pay gap outside of collectively bargained workforces. It has shifted the value for the middle worker – not for those on the lowest or highest incomes.

“It is likely that the progress made through collective bargaining has shifted the needle on the median wage. Increases in incomes for teaching, nursing, and other female-dominated public sector workforces have helped to close the gap.

“Pay equity settlements in some public sector workforces also likely helped, proving the success of the pay equity system in delivering real change in living standards.

“This data will represent the high-water mark for pay equity progress. The gutting of pay equity, and the below inflation offers for collective agreements in the public sector, means that the progress is unlikely to be sustained.

“At a time when we need to build on progress, the Government is deliberating preventing pay equity for some of the lowest paid women in our society,” said Ansell-Bridges.

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Tuia Taitonga ki Tai

Southlink Coastal

He karere tā te Kaunihera ō Taranaki ki te Tonga News from the South Taranaki District Council



# Ōpunakē Green Space Takes Another Step Forward



Exciting progress is being made on the Ōpunakē Green Space project! After months of planning, the project team is preparing to go out to tender in November, with the goal of appointing a contractor in December. Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2026. The timing has been carefully planned to ensure there is no disruption to Ōpunakē’s busy summer holiday season, when the

town centre is full of visitors and locals enjoying the sunshine, shops, and beach. The Green Space will transform the heart of town into a vibrant community hub, a place for families to gather, visitors to pause, and events to be celebrated. Guided by the Ōpunakē co-design group and shaped by strong local input, the design includes landscaped green areas, seating, and flexible open spaces that can host performances, markets, and cultural activities. “This project is about more than just beautification,” says the Council’s community services group manager Rob Haveswood. “It’s about creating a central place that reflects who we are as a community and gives us all a space to connect, relax, and celebrate together.” Funding for the project has come from Council’s Long Term Investment Fund so has no direct impact on rates. Work on the ground will begin in early 2026, but the vision is already taking shape. Keep an eye out for more updates as the project moves forward, the new Green Space is coming soon!

## Free Composting Workshop Coming to Hāwera

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2025  
10AM - 12NOON

King Edward Park, High Street, Hāwera.  
Meet at the Observatory.

The Friends of Hāwera Parks, in partnership with South Taranaki District Council, are inviting locals to their September activity - a free “How to Compost” workshop. Join Sustainable Taranaki’s Mieke Verschoor at King Edward Park, Hāwera, on Saturday 13 September from 10am to 12noon for a hands-on session on the basics of composting. You’ll learn what ingredients to use, what to avoid, and how to create a healthy compost mix for your garden. There’ll even be spot prizes up for grabs, thanks to Bunnings Hāwera.

The workshop will go ahead rain or shine, so bring a raincoat just in case. Council is committed to reducing waste and encouraging sustainable practices. Composting at home is a simple and effective way to recycle food scraps and green waste, helping to create nutrient-rich compost for your garden. It’s also a great step toward growing your own vegetables—good for your wallet and the environment. For more information, [email envirosus@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:envirosus@stdc.govt.nz)

## Review of Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy

Council is required by the Building Act to have a Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy. The Policy is now being reviewed and this is your chance to comment on the proposed changes. The Policy aims to reduce the potential risk of injury, death, ill health or damage posed to residents in the District by dangerous, affected or insanitary buildings, and sets out how the Council will manage unsatisfactory building conditions. Numerous changes to the Policy are proposed, as recommended by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. To get more details on the proposed changes, go to the Council’s website [www.southtaranaki.com/consultation](http://www.southtaranaki.com/consultation), your local LibraryPlus or the Council office in Hāwera. Members of the community are invited to make submissions on the draft Policy by 4pm on Monday 29 September 2025.

## Natural Environments Fund is now open

The Natural Environments Fund’s purpose is to promote and assist with the protection, restoration and enhancement of areas of significant biodiversity, indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats of indigenous fauna on private land in the District. Individuals, trusts, incorporated societies and other groups are eligible to apply, however funded project sites must either already have permanent legal protection status or applicants must be prepared to seek legal protection status within twelve months of receiving funding. Visit [www.southtaranaki.com/funding](http://www.southtaranaki.com/funding) to find out more. If you have any queries about the Natural Environments Fund, email [envirosus@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:envirosus@stdc.govt.nz) or call 0800 111 323 and ask for the Environment and Sustainability Team. Applications close at 5pm, Sunday 19 October 2025.

Upcoming meetings

Eltham Drainage Committee  
Monday 15 September, 10am  
Taumata Recreation Cente,  
Preston Street, Eltham

Ordinary Council  
Monday 29 September, 4pm

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

Electronic newsletter sign up

Get Council news sent directly to your email inbox every fortnight. Simply sign up by emailing [southlink@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:southlink@stdc.govt.nz) or visit [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)

Green Waste Stickers Available from 16 September

The new 2025/26 ORANGE green waste stickers will be available for purchase from Tuesday 16 September at your local LibraryPlus or Hāwera Administration Building. The current green sticker expires on 30 September.

Seeking Summer Pool Lifeguards

Apply now!  
We are seeking mature, responsible, community minded people interested in gaining their Pool Lifeguard Practising Certificate and supervising their local community pool this summer season (8 December 2025 - 9 March 2026). Apply online before 17 September at [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)



# PŌTI VOTE



Find out more by visiting [southtaranaki.com/vote2025](https://southtaranaki.com/vote2025) or by scanning the QR code to the left with your cellphone.



Voting packs for the 2025 local authority elections will begin to arrive in letterboxes between 9 - 22 September and once received voters can start choosing who they would like to represent them in District and Regional Council positions.

## Vote Box Locations

This year, Vote Boxes will be placed in participating supermarkets and 4 Squares throughout the District, as well as in your local LibraryPlus and the Hāwera Administration Building. Find out where you can drop off your voting documents (if you don't feel like mailing them) before 12noon on Saturday 11 October.  
**A reminder if you are mailing your documents - please do so before the mailing cut off date of 7 October.**

- ŌPUNAKĒ LIBRARYPLUS**  
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- ŌPUNAKĒ SUPERMARKET**  
(Old 4 Square Building)  
59 Tasman St, Ōpunakē
- ŌPUNAKĒ 4 SQUARE**  
(New 4 Square Building)  
77-85 Tasman St, Ōpunakē

- KAPONGA LIBRARYPLUS**  
Temporarily in Kaponga War Memorial Hall  
57 Victoria St, Kaponga
- KAPONGA 4 SQUARE**  
53 Victoria St, Kaponga

- ELTHAM LIBRARYPLUS**  
102 King St, Eltham
- ELTHAM 4 SQUARE**  
156 High St, Eltham

- MANAIA LIBRARYPLUS**  
22 South Rd, Manaia
- MANAIA 4 SQUARE**  
53 South Road, Manaia

- COUNCIL ADMIN BUILDING**  
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- HĀWERA LIBRARYPLUS**  
121 High St, Hāwera
- WOOLWORTHS HĀWERA**  
39 Nelson St, Hāwera
- PAK N SAVE HĀWERA**  
54 Princes St, Hāwera

- PĀTEA LIBRARYPLUS**  
128 Egmont St, Pātea
- PĀTEA 4 SQUARE**  
87 Egmont St, Pātea

- WAVERLEY LIBRARYPLUS**  
58 Weraroa Rd, Waverley
- WAVERLEY 4 SQUARE**  
48 Weraroa Rd, Waverley

## Key dates

9 - 22  
September

Voting papers sent to enrolled voters

Saturday  
11 October

**ELECTION DAY**  
Voting closes at 12noon

14 -17  
October

Final results announced



# LOCAL ELECTIONS 2025 - MEET THE CANDIDATES

## Graham Chard



**Standing for NPDC. Mayor Kaitake-Ngamotu Ward**

With decades of management and leadership in the New Zealand Defence Force, award-winning business experience, and community service, I offer a strong, steady hand to lead real change to tackle rising rates, council debt, wasteful spending, and to support local businesses and ratepayers. My focus is on responsible management, transparency, and building a vibrant,

sustainable future for all. I have the skills, knowledge, and commitment to get New Plymouth back on track, delivering value for every ratepayer dollar and restoring pride in our district. If you want someone who listens, acts, and is focused on building a district we can all be proud of and be happy to call home, that someone is me. Graham Chard - Strong Leadership. Real Change. A Better New Plymouth.

## Greg MacKay

My name is Greg Mackay. I am Taranaki born and bred and, as a concerned citizen, I am offering my services, as Mayor and Councillor for the district. I am an engineer by trade and also have experience as a business owner. There are several major issues facing this election. The main one I would highlight is our outrageous debt. It is time our Council



**Standing for NPDC. Mayor District-Wide Ward**

revert their attention to our core services and to responsibly reduce spending and expensive projects which benefit the few. I believe Council needs to retain ownership and management of our regional infrastructure and assets and to have our communities involved in a similar vision for sustainable governance. I hope that you will support me to bring the New Plymouth District forward into a positive position for the future and I

look forward to working for you with Honesty, Integrity and Accountability.

## Peter Marra



**Standing for NPDC. Mayor Kaitake-Ngamotu Ward**

I have decided to stand for New Plymouth Mayor and the Kaitake-Ngāmotu Ward in the upcoming local election because I want to make a positive contribution to finding solutions to the issues facing our district. These include rising homelessness, the decline of the city centre and the threat to the local fishing and eco-tourism sectors through seabed mining, plus an aging population struggling with the cost of living.

I have experience working in teams, excellent listening skills gained from being a successful acupuncturist, as well as skills in strategic planning with a Master of

Sustainable International Development. I respect all cultures and I want to engage with local iwi about the return of land currently controlled by NPDC that was historically taken as recently as 1968

that could lead to more investment in social and disability housing. I am pro small business and eco-tourism and investing in job creation having worked in the tourism sector in Munich, Germany.

Vote

Ngawai

HERNANDEZ-WALDEN

TE HĀWERA GENERAL WARD

Authorised by Ngawai Hernandez-Walden, ntaawalden@gmail.com

## John Woodward

I'm John Woodward, and I'm standing for Mayor of New Plymouth and as a district-wide councillor. This district is my home. I've raised my family here, built businesses here, and I'm proud to call it one of the best places in the world to live. I also served 14 years in the New Zealand Police, an experience that taught me leadership, accountability, and the importance of working with people from all walks of life. I'm not a career politician. I'm standing because I believe we need strong financial responsibility, open communication, and



**Standing for NPDC. Mayor District-Wide Ward**

a council that truly listens. Rising debt and increasing rates are putting real pressure on families and businesses. I want to ensure New Plymouth is affordable and

sustainable, while protecting what makes our community special. I'm not in this for recognition or legacy — I don't need my name on a building. My goal is simple: to leave this district better than I found it. Together, we can build a future that is financially responsible, community-focused, and thriving for generations to come. I'd be honoured to serve as your Mayor and district-wide councillor. John Woodward – Pro New Plymouth

Andy Whitehead

for

TARANAKI COASTAL COMMUNITY BOARD

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Authorised by Andy Whitehead, 93 Lower Kina Road, Opunake

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standing for

Taranaki Coastal Ward

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Company Director

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Authorised by Bryan Roach, 296 Opua Road, Opunake

NEIL WALKER

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FOR TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

Approved by Neil Walker  
357 High Street, Hawera 4610



LOCAL ELECTIONS 2025 - MEET THE CANDIDATES

Donna Cram

I'm Donna Cram — a South Taranaki dairy farmer, community leader, and strong advocate for sustainable, practical solutions that will support people, improve the environment and the economy.

With extensive leadership and governance training, alongside a lifetime of experience on the land, I bring both practical knowledge and strategic thinking to the table. My husband Philip and I farm at Awatuna, where we've invested in wetlands and extensive riparian planting, enhancing water quality and supporting environmental



Standing for Taranaki Regional Council

resilience while maintaining a productive dairy operation.

As a current councillor of Taranaki Regional Council, I'm committed to transparent, balanced, and forward-thinking decision-making. I chair Taranaki Catchment Communities, and serve on DairyNZ's

Dairy Environment Leaders national committee. I have also served on Dairy Trust Taranaki, and the executive of Taranaki Federated Farmers among other community governance roles.

In 2023, I was honoured to be named Fonterra Dairy Woman of the Year, recognising my dedication to leadership, innovation, and community engagement.

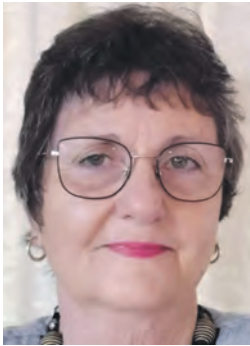
Taranaki is facing big decisions—on water, climate, and the future of our region. I'm standing to ensure rural voices are heard, local solutions are prioritised, and we build a sustainable, thriving future for all.

Vote Donna Cram – Proven Leadership. Practical Solutions. Taranaki First.

Glennys Price.

My first time standing for any Council role, I feel I can contribute immensely for the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board. I look forward to stepping forward in this role, should I be successful.

I'm retired but still keep busy. A team player with a positive and confident demeanour, keen to stand alongside our town as advocate to promote our future and encourage growth. Eltham is where I



Standing for Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

was raised and still reside, with strong links to many local groups. I believe in ensuring communication is key and have always strived

for quality and accountability in a timely manner.

Confidentiality has always been a huge priority, integrity is as important.

My career experiences have always been in the public eye, with many years of banking, travel consultant, law clerk for our local solicitor, and currently Foodbank coordinator and until recently, Presiding member of Eltham Board of Trustees at Eltham Primary. I am a Justice of Peace and Marriage and Funeral celebrant, also on the team for the STDC Revitalisation of Eltham project.



Aarun Langton

As a long-time resident of Ōpunakē, I am seeking re-election as your Taranaki Coastal General Ward Council representative. I have enjoyed representing our community through roles with the Sinclair Events Centre and the Rahotu Domain over the past two terms.

I am a proud life member of both Taranaki Golf and Ōpunake Basketball and continue to participate in both of these sports, both as



Standing for STDC Taranaki Coastal Ward.

a player and a coach.

On Council, I trained and served as a commissioner and sat on the Environment and Hearings Committee, the South Taranaki Council

Kirsty Meynell

Tena Koe

I am Kirsty Meynell and I am standing for the Taranaki Coastal Community Board.

I am an Opunake resident and am on the Committee of the Opunake RSA.

I am a current serving soldier and veteran. My background is in logistics, operations, project and change management and I am trained in continuous improvement methodologies.

I am passionate about our community and own a



Standing for Taranaki Coastal Community Board.

business here. I am excited to see upcoming investments in our coastal towns such as water treatment upgrades, the Opunake Green Space

Dave Stewart

As I approach retirement, I'm eager to give back to the community that has shaped my life. I've lived in Eltham and Kaponga most of my life, raising our children here, and I care deeply about the future of our area.

With more time available, I want to contribute to positive growth and support what matters to local people. I have years of experience as a resource coordinator



Standing for Eltham-Kaponga Community Board.

for a major Taranaki company, where I've tackled challenges, listened to people, and worked hard to achieve results.

Farm, and the Taranaki Coastal Community Board. I was also part of the Environmental Protection Agency's Fast Track Panel, working through consents for solar farm developments.

Outside of Council, I volunteer as a mentor with Wheelhouse and actively support the Taranaki Rural Support Trust.

I am seeking re-election as I'm committed to continuing this work with integrity, energy, and a deep respect for the people and places that make our coastal community so special.

and the Manaia Community Facility. I would like to see local contractors having the opportunity to tender for these developments.

I am also keen to see strategy alignment between the Coast Community Board, STDC and other community support agencies to ensure our goals and priorities are aligned.


With my background and training I believe I offer a critical lens on expenditure. I am able to think outside the box for creative solutions and I am an accomplished networker that can bring people together and get results.

I'm committed to listening, understanding community needs and helping turn good ideas into action. I would be honoured to represent you on the Eltham-Kaponga Community Board and bring a strong, thoughtful voice to the table.

I believe as we as a team learn the position, more and more, we will be able to serve the community to our best advantage.

Votes must be in by midday Saturday October 11.

Remember to vote

**OTE**

# Tim Taylor

For Councillor Eltham/Kaponga Ward

What I stand for:

· Sustainability

· Accountability

· Fiscal responsibility

· Community

What I want to change:

· Health and safety overkill

· Improvements of services

*It would be an honour to serve the Eltham/Kaponga Ward as Councillor.*





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# Aarun Langton

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- Approachable
- Taranaki Proud



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and a rural voice**

Authorised by Aarun Langton, 223 Arawhata Rd, Opunake



LOCAL ELECTIONS 2025 - MEET THE CANDIDATES

Te Aroha  
Hohaia

I love where I live. South Taranaki is awesome because of the generous, committed people who give their time and energy to make our communities special – from parent help at school camps to Saturday sports to business mentors. For twenty-five years, I’ve worked in community development as a skilled consensus-motivated decision-maker. My governance experience ranges from a marae committee to a district health board, overseeing everything from family violence services to iwi



Standing for STDC  
Te Hawera Ward

commercial interests worth over \$110 million. I bring analytical thinking shaped by systems thinking, plus the ability to listen to what’s really meant, not just what’s said.

My PhD in Public Policy examined community governance in Taranaki,

giving me deep insight into how decisions affect people. As a current South Taranaki District Councillor seeking re-election in Te Hāwera Ward, I use political nous, critical thinking and empathy around the council table – skills essential as we face central government reforms to local decision-making. When I’m not in meetings, you’ll find me hanging out with my mokopuna, taking photographs, or clearing traplines around our tupuna maunga. I’m of Taranaki, Te Atiawa and Ngāruahine descent, living in Te Hāwera with husband Greg. I seek your vote to continue serving our district.

Mark  
Bellringer

I am community minded, and an advocate for local government democracy. I believe in strongly supporting our small towns and the farming community which are the heart and soul of South Taranaki. I believe in championing individual concerns and have been a vocal supporter for residents



Standing for STDC  
Eltham-Kaponga  
Ward.

in my past six years as a councillor. I am readily available to the community in which I live. A vote for me is an assurance that you will have a strong voice at the council table. I want to keep rate increases to a minimum, concentrating on basic services, while still providing the opportunity for growth and diversity to make South Taranaki an interesting and pleasant place to live.

Nikki  
Watson

Hi’m seeking your support to be re-elected to the Te Hāwera Community Board for a third term. It was an honour to serve as Chair last term, and I remain deeply committed to our town’s future. While our meetings are formal, I believe the people around the table must be approachable, empathetic, and engaging—qualities I bring to every discussion. Over the past terms, our board has supported many town improvements through funding and collaboration. We’ve also laid early groundwork for larger community-led



Standing for Te  
Hawera Community

projects, including a vision for a multi-leisure domain—designed by the community and ready to be developed further in partnership with future boards and groups. It’s a foundation for something bigger, and I believe the next chapter will be shaped by collective effort.

With a strong understanding of Council processes, I know how to navigate the system to get things done. I’ve consistently worked to ensure local voices are heard while delivering practical outcomes that matter. As Bizlink Hāwera’s Event and Vibrancy Co-ordinator, I support local business, events, and initiatives that bring life to our town. Let’s keep building a connected, thriving Hāwera—together.

Votes must be in  
by midday Saturday  
October 11.  
Remember to vote.

Diana  
Reid

STDC South Taranaki has an exciting future and provides us with a wonderful lifestyle. This requires well informed, transparent and accountable local decision making by people like me who care deeply about our district. If elected, this will be my third term on the South Taranaki District Council representing the Te Hawera Ward. I have learnt a lot about the workings of the rapidly changing local government system and the challenges it faces. This enables me to make considered and sensible decisions on behalf of local



Standing for STDC  
Te Hawera Ward

ratepayers. I have been a trained commissioner on the Environmental Hearings committee and have been the councillor on the Te Hawera Community Board. I am also the councillor on the Cinema Trust and a member of the Taranaki Offshore

Partnership Community Advisory Group. I am very active in the community as a volunteer which allows me to talk to a wide range of people. The questions I ask myself before voting at a council meeting are, is the council spending ratepayers’ money wisely, are we looking after what we already have well and are we meeting the needs of the people who depend on us to deliver clean water, safe roads, waste services, community spaces and efficient infrastructure?

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LOCAL ELECTIONS 2025 - MEET THE CANDIDATES

Moira George

I'm Moira George, and I'm running for New Plymouth District Council to provide responsible leadership and practical solutions. My core message is simple: council must "Stay in Your Lane" and focus on the priorities of the people who live, work, and pay rates here. I support a three-year, inflation-adjusted rates cap. This isn't a soundbite; it's a deliberate strategy to force a pause and allow for a comprehensive review of all



Standing for NPDC Kaitake-Ngamotu Ward

council spending. We must identify savings and end indulgent waste on issues that are not the council's

core business. While we must do the "boring stuff" well - like roads and water - I will also protect the assets that make New Plymouth special, including our libraries, parks, and walkways. I will be a strong advocate for our business community, pushing to reduce compliance costs. It's time to stop the political grandstanding and focus on what matters. As your councillor, I will work hard to ensure our council is efficient and accountable.

Mark Costa

My name is Mark Coster, grew up here in New Plymouth when this place was a vibrant and prosperous part of New Zealand. Went away to University and came back in the 80s, whilst it was still a great place to live, and bring up kids. Sadly it is not that place now. So here it is. New Plymouth has a \$406 million debt and growing, and the 'go to solution' has always been rate increases.



Standing for NPDC District-wide Ward.

All I can realistically promise for my part is a stop to the ideological nonsense and fiscal irresponsibility that has both dominated proceedings around the Council table and been

allowed to permeate within the Operational Arm behind the scenes. Returning the current councillors, who have controlled the voting on issues such as the cycle lanes, the Sportshub, the Walkway extensions, to name but a few, whilst ignoring core Council responsibilities should not be an option. We just cannot carry on as we have done to date. It's that simple. Change is coming, and I intend to be part of it. It needs to happen and happen right now. Vote Mark Coster for District Wide Councillor

Debbie Hancock



Standing for NPDC District-wide Ward.

As Debbie Hancock I'm standing for district wide

council and I share your concerns about double digit rate hikes. My reasons for standing are, having owned a business I realise you cannot run a business like NPDC are doing. It would be bankrupt in no time. We need to clean up the mess the departing council have left us, let's relegate the "must haves" to the back burner until we have our core debt under control. I care about people, and do not want to see good people rated out of their homes through rising rates and water bills. I advocate to have a rating

model that sets rates to our fixed income when we are pensioners. If what I'm saying resonates with you vote number one... Debbie Hancock for district wide. The next issue of the Opunake and Coastal News comes out on September 25. Phone (06) 761-7016 to advertise.

Christine Fabish

I have lived in Inglewood for 50 years, originally from Auckland, married to Kevin for 50 years with three sons and six grandchildren, two who go to Inglewood Primary. We lived in Inglewood, and when the chance came, moved slightly rural on a farmlet, and until last year I was a part time milker, but have now retired. I have served on Plunket Committee when my children were



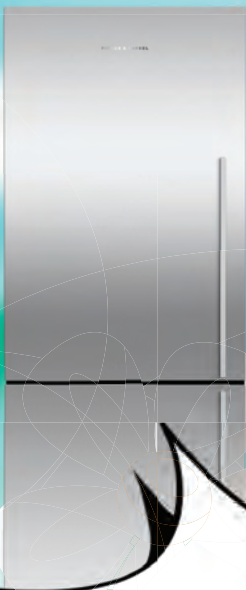
Standing for Inglewood Community Board.

small, was a cub leader and involved in netball playing and umpiring. More recently

Kevin and I are involved in the Dudley District Hall committee. Inglewood district is a great place to live, and I have served five years on Inglewood Community Board, the last three years as chair. By attending as many meetings as I can, as well as other community boards, gives me an overview of the district, by attending workshops which lifts the profile of Inglewood and its surrounding areas. I want to see better value for our dollar and core infrastructure being the main goal

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# From humble beginnings to Taranaki’s largest; The story of Razz Print



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every job that passes through our hands.

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that matter most to our community.

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## Business closure now a daily news story - support local

Business closures now a daily news story - renewed calls for urgent local support

Business closures are fast becoming a daily news story in New Zealand, with new data showing a sharp 26% rise in company liquidations across key industries.

Buy NZ Made is calling for urgent support for Kiwi businesses as closures mount.

“Every day we’re seeing another Kiwi business close its doors, and that’s devastating for owners, workers, and communities,” Buy NZ Made executive director Dane Ambler says.

“But with lower interest

rates providing some relief, there’s also an opportunity to steady the ship - if we act collectively to back local.”

New Centrix data shows company liquidations up 26% year-on-year. The construction sector remains the hardest hit, with 765 closures (+46%), followed by hospitality, with 297 closures (+49%). Hospitality businesses are now more than two times likely to fail as the typical New Zealand business.

Meanwhile, unemployment has risen to 5.2%, the highest since 2020, with 158,000 people unemployed and underutilisation at 12.8%,

highlighting the strain on workers and employers alike.

Buy NZ Made emphasises that the combination of supportive monetary policy and community-driven consumer choices can make a tangible difference to New Zealand’s recovery.

“The story doesn’t end with the challenges - there’s real opportunity here,” Ambler says.

“By backing local now, New Zealanders can help businesses weather the storm, protect jobs, and lay the foundation for a stronger economy.”



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### On this month in history Henry Lawson dies

On September 2, 1922 Henry Lawson died in Sydney, aged 55. He had suffered a fatal stroke. He is famous as a writer and bush poet, with many publications.

His family name was actually Larsen but was changed to Lawson.

For most of his life he suffered from deafness. Originally he had an ear infection making him partially deaf, but by age 14 he was totally deaf.

His first published poem was A Song of the Republic, published in The Bulletin in October 1887. Other well-known poems include The Wreck of the Derry Castle and Golden Gully.

His The Drovers Wife

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has been described as one of the very best Australian short stories, although is somewhat bleak.

His writing involved short sharp sentences, sparse adjectives and honed-to-the-bone description – reminiscent of Ernest Hemingway.

His life was not easy as he became an alcoholic, was poor and suffered from depression. He was jailed for a while at Darlinghurst Gaol.

His many honours include bronze statue (with dog and fencepost) at the Sydney Domain. This was unveiled in 1927.

In 1940 a postage stamp featured Lawson and in 1966 the decimal \$10 paper note featured the writer (later replaced by a polymer equivalent).



# Flower show opens with a hiss and a roar

Queues were already forming on Saturday morning as people waited for the Hawera Horticultural

Society Spring Flower Show to open.

The show, which was held last weekend at the Hawera Community Centre has been a regular feature on the Hawera calendar, along with the Society's Summer Show for over 80 years. In recent years they have added an Autumn Show.

"It's a big show and the public are supporting it well today," commented the Society's long-serving patron and former president Spud Brogden.

He was pleased to see the exhibitors from the likes of Palmerston North and Taupo supporting the show.

"It's positive that outsiders will travel to be here, and it's great for them to have the interest to keep coming."

He was also pleased with what was on show.

"The daffodils this year were pretty early and it's been an easy season to have plenty of flowers."

Spud is himself a daffodil hybridiser of note and still keeps his hand in, although says he only had a "handful" showing this time round.

Also pleased with the show was Society president Paul Lander.

"I'm very very happy with the show. It's brilliant," he said. "It's lovely to see so many people here."

He was pleased with the quality of the entries.

"I think the quality's better than last year. There's not the wind damage that we had last spring. Overall it's been a mild winter, a little bit windy and wet, but quite a nice season.

"I'm really happy with the daffodils. The entries are really great. We had quite a few from out of town." He mentioned Andrew Jenkins who had "come all the way from Taupo."

There were also a lot of entries in the camellia section, which Paul says may have been helped by New Plymouth having hosted the national show three weeks before.

Well-known Coastal Taranaki camellia grower Tony Banks, who was at the Hawera show said he



This year's Hawera Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show was the place to be.

was pleased with how the national show had gone.

"There were about a thousand blooms there."

He said there is a strong group of camellia growers in North Taranaki who enjoy working in with the Hawera Horticultural Society, so they had decided to hold their own spring show in conjunction with the Hawera show.

He pointed to a purple flower which he said had been drawing a lot of interest. Named for Sir Victor Davies, founder of iconic New Plymouth nursery Duncan and Davies it was one of the last hybrids developed by world famous Taranaki camellia grower Les Jury.

"If it's cold or the soil's quite acid it can grow quite purple," he said.

He points to another flower. "This yellow one here you don't see that often. The nice glossy leaves are a feature. It's a native of South-West China and takes about 15 years to flower." He says in China it grows in forest as an under-storey plant. It can't take much frost and is difficult to propagate.

Another person pleased with the way the show was going was first time exhibitor Guy Petingell selling his trellises, privacy

screens and garden furniture. Within a short time of opening he had already sold a covered garden seat made from treated macrocarpa wood from his own garden. He says he had needed some trellising at home, so had decided he could make them himself, and go from there. His oriental privacy screens are proving the most

popular, he said, but he also does "the diagonal ones that nobody makes any more."

The Spring Flower Show seemed the logical place to set up a stall, he said.

"Winter's not been the time to sell garden stuff, but now people are coming out and looking around gardens and thinking about what they want to do."



Guy Petingell and the garden seat he sold within a short time of the show opening.

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# TRC reviews water resilience after major drought

A review of Taranaki’s water resilience and security is being undertaken by Taranaki Regional Council after the region was hit by a severe drought this summer.

Working with the three district councils, government agencies, Venture Taranaki and other stakeholders, the Council study will identify how to better understand the current and future demand for water in the region.

Taranaki had one of its driest summers ever in 2025/26 with some areas receiving less than half of the usual rainfall and climate change is expected to exacerbate water availability for homeowners, businesses and farmers.

Council Director of Environmental Quality Abby Matthews says the review will examine the availability of surface water in rivers, streams and lakes and groundwater sources and how this is used.

“This summer’s drought put water security front and centre when South Taranaki in particular experienced extremely low rainfall over several months,” says Ms Matthews.

“Water security and resilience will remain a major issue for our region as our climate changes so it’s vital we get more information to assist our work supporting livelihoods.

“The rural community is quite rightly concerned about the availability of water, so we’ll be reaching out to tangata whenua and working with the three district councils, central government agencies and stakeholders to scope out a work programme and identify the next steps we need to take.”

The regional council is already reviewing its climate and river flow networks as part of an assessment of its flood monitoring and warning systems. This will be expanded to include soil moisture monitoring to improve indicative data around droughts.

Factors impacting water resilience include current and future water use, water conservation, regional development and water storage, technology and alternative management options.

“With climate change altering our weather patterns and likely to bring warmer, drier summers for parts of Taranaki, we need to understand what demand there is for water and its availability,” adds Ms Matthews.

“This will help inform future discussions about freshwater management and will tie in with future planning for the region.”

# New model opens pathways to farm ownership for Kiwis

Landcorp has launched a new livestock equity partnership opportunity, designed to support equity-building pathways for farm operators and strengthen the future of farming in New Zealand, State Owned Enterprises Minister Simeon Brown says.

“This is a welcomed initiative that directly supports the Government’s priorities to strengthen rural employment, improve farm productivity, and create genuine pathways to ownership for the next generation of farmers,” Mr Brown says.

“By enabling operators to take financial responsibility behind the farm gate, we’re backing high performance and helping unlock the full potential of New Zealand’s farming sector.”

The equity partnership model builds on the State Owned Enterprise’s 2024 introduction of contract farming options for dairy farmers, including sharemilking and contract milking arrangements across four farms: Quarry and Otago in the Central Plateau, Waimakariri in Canterbury, and Ruru on the West Coast.

The first property available for expressions of interest is Mahiwi Farm, a 708-hectare livestock operation located 35 minutes west of Wairoa. The farm offers a strong balance of breeding and finishing country, with clear potential for improved performance.

“This model is about opening the gate and creating opportunities for the next generation of Kiwi farmers. “The benefits extend beyond individual farms. It supports local employment, develops skills in rural communities, and helps ensure that high-performing farms stay in Kiwi hands, contributing to a resilient and productive agricultural sector for the long term.

“By offering equity options, we’re providing real pathways for more New Zealanders to take ownership and shape their future on the land,” Mr Brown says.

# Matuku Muster providing valuable insight

The annual Matuku Muster has returned for its second year, and it’s set to provide more valuable insights into one of New Zealand’s most elusive wetland birds – the critically threatened bittern (matuku-hūrepo or kautuku). This year’s muster coincides with the recent launch of DOC’s Always Be Naturing campaign – during Conservation Week – economy and future. A nationwide initiative run by Love Bittern - a charity organisation and community group promoting protection of the matuku-hūrepo - the Matuku Muster calls for volunteers and community groups to count and observe the cryptic and rare birds in wetlands across New Zealand. The particular focus is listening for the distinctive booming sound made by males. The muster helps identify and address gaps in the known matuku-hūrepo environment and how the birds use those spaces.

The Matuku in flight.





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# Federated Farmers condemns violent comments from Victoria University academic



**Mike Joy.** Federated Farmers is raising serious concerns about comments made by prominent Victoria University of Wellington academic Mike Joy suggesting dairy industry leaders should be hanged.

Joy made the comments in a LinkedIn post last month, suggesting the dairy industry is currently putting babies (and adults) at risk with nitrate contamination of drinking/groundwater.

His proposed solution: “How about we bring back hanging for industry CEOs?” “These extreme, violent and dangerous views are totally unacceptable from a well-known and senior academic,” says Federated Farmers dairy chair Karl Dean.

“Dr Joy is entitled to his opinions, and he has plenty of views that are anti-farming, but suggesting industry CEOs should be hanged has no place in academia or New Zealand society.

“These are clearly the



**Karl Dean.** views of a fringe academic with activist tendencies and political motives - not a credible, level-headed and impartial researcher that the public can trust.”

According to the Victoria

University website, Dr Joy is currently employed as Senior Research Fellow at the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences.

Federated Farmers has formally written to Victoria University vice-chancellor Nic Smith raising concerns about Joy’s conduct and requesting a response.

“We’re taking Dr Joy’s violent and extreme comments very seriously and have a firm expectation that Victoria University will do the same,” Dean says.

“It would be extraordinary if the University failed to take appropriate action in response to this kind of extremist content being publicly posted online. It strikes at the heart of their credibility.

“If a teacher at my kids’ school made comments like this - towards anyone at all - I’d be demanding their resignation immediately.

“Dr Joy must be held accountable.”

## Rural voices must be heard

Rural Women New Zealand is welcoming the Government’s invitation for submissions on the Telecommunications Sector Review.

“Connectivity is essential for rural New Zealand and access to reliable, affordable telecommunications underpins so many of our rural businesses, communities and essential services,” says Nicole Oliver.

“While we understand the need to update regulation to reflect new technologies, we must ensure that the needs of rural communities are protected. Any changes to the Telecommunications Service Obligation (TSO) and the treatment of copper networks must not leave rural customers behind.”

“We support proposals for stronger consumer protections through a binding code enforced by the Commerce Commission

but emphasise that these must account for the challenges in rural areas also, including limited-service options, and vulnerability to adverse weather events and associated power outages,” says Oliver.

RWNZ say they look forward to having its say on the Government’s proposals and advocating for affordable, accessible telecommunications for rural New Zealanders.

## Celebrating the pollination power of honey bees this Bee Aware Month



**A honey bee pollinating a kiwifruit flower.**

*Photo credit: Jody Mitchell.*

This September we are celebrating the pollination power of the humble honey bee.

Honey bees don’t just help pollinate our gardens, they make a vital contribution to New Zealand’s growing horticultural industry, currently valued at \$7.54 billion.

Apiculture New Zealand Chief Executive Karin Kos says beekeepers are seeing increasing demand for pollination hives, particularly as the horticulture sector continues to expand.

“The quality of pollination can make a big difference for many crops including

increased fruit yield and improvement in the nutritional value of fruits and vegetables.

We need a healthy bee population to sustain that growth,” says Ms Kos.

September’s Bee Aware Month is the opportunity to celebrate our hard-working bees and beekeepers as the new season gets underway.

Bee Aware Month is a national educational campaign initiated and co-ordinated by Apiculture NZ. Beekeeping clubs and supporters around the country will be visiting schools and running events.

Honey bees were introduced to New Zealand to help pollinate clover for farm animals to eat.

One third of the food we eat comes from pollination due to honey bees. At least 75% of all flowering plants depend on pollinators for fertilisation.

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Sandford Livestock ~ Spreading Sandford  
Sandford Transport ~ Progress Transport





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Sandford Livestock ~ Spreading Sandford  
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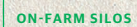
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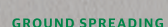
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✉ [taranaki@skyworkhelicopters.com](mailto:taranaki@skyworkhelicopters.com)





## ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTISE







# Summerset Pohutukawa Place Weekly Morning Tea & Tour

**Summerset Pohutukawa Place in Bell Block** offers a relaxing and low-maintenance lifestyle, in a vibrant and welcoming village, with resort-style facilities and a renowned continuum of care. All safe and secure within our fully gated community. A limited number of two-bedroom villas are available now with flexible pricing starting from \$722,400.\*

We know that moving to a retirement village is a big decision. So why not come along to our weekly **Morning Tea & Tour, every Wednesday in September**. See for yourself why our residents love the Summerset life.

**“I was delighted to feel no pressure to make any kind of decisions. Impressed with the units, the staff, and the morning tea!”**

**ANGEVAHN, RECENT MORNING TEA & TOUR ATTENDEE**

**Love the life you choose.**

## Weekly Morning Tea & Tour Every Wednesday in September, 10.30am

Summerset at Pohutukawa Place  
70 Pohutukawa Place, Bell Block  
06 824 8532 | [summerset.co.nz/pohutukawaplace](https://summerset.co.nz/pohutukawaplace)



\*Flexible pricing arrangements subject to bespoke deferred management fee. Price and stock levels correct as at 4 August 2025, only VL026 & VL107 left at this price. Homes sold under licence to occupy, subject to availability. Summerset does not offer rental accommodation. Images are indicative only. Care is subject to availability and eligibility criteria.



Overall South Taranaki  
Paddy Manu (Jnr) Sports  
Person of the year is chosen  
from the Junior Sportsperson



(Athletics), Anja Van Lijf (Athletics) and Judy Guckert (Athletics and the 2025 Winner).

Coach – Hauraki Erb  
(Basketball), Jason  
Cressingham (Athletics),  
Justin Shaw 2 x nominations  
(Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and the  
2025 Winner).

Junior Sportsman —

Tayla Sturgeon (Athletics and Cross Country), Brayden Hughes

(Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and the 2025 Winner), Emma-May Bublitz (Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu), Maddison Sturgeon (Athletics – Harriers – Triathlon)

Senior Sportsperson -  
Ayla Bond (Artistic Roller)

Skating and the 2025 Winner), Daniel Mandengu (Athletics), Eva Langton (Basketball), Richard Brewer (Harriers, Mountain, Cross Country, Road running), Trish MacKenzie (Boxing)

Special Award – A special award was presented to Richard Brewer for his

contribution to the Harriers, Mountain, Cross Country, Road running community since 1978.

South Taranaki Paddy  
Manu (Jnr) Sports Person of  
the year - Brayden Hughes.

*Paddy Manu Jnr Sports  
Awards Trust*

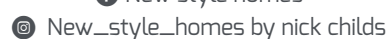
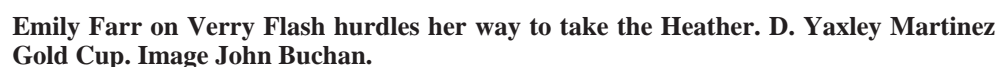
The recent race meeting at the Egmont racing club was a great success says Taranaki Racing CEO Anna Duncan.

Valued sponsors were treated to some great racing. The iconic Julian Family who sponsored the hurdles were thrilled with the races and will be sponsoring again.

The main race was the Heather. D. Yaxley Martinez Gold Cup, and was won by "Verry Flash," ridden by Emily Farr, trained by Kevin Myers, Wanganui.

Anna was very impressed by the new South Island donator Anna Danielson and Kevin Myers was ecstatic with his “gold cup” trophy.

*John Buchan.*



191 Broadway Stratford 4332, Taranaki

Welcome to New Style Homes by Nick Childs Builders - one of the most respected home and commercial builders in Taranaki.

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from out of the blue studio gallery

18 Halse Place, Opunake  
Ph 021 407 424

Open Thursdays to Mondays 1 - 5 pm or by appointment.

Solo Exhibition by New Plymouth Artist Pravina Phillips - 'Perfectly Imperfect'.  
Pravina is a well known quilter, stitcher and book creator. She embraces colour and the explorations of ideas and methods - always arriving at wonderful new expressions and forms  
'Perfectly Imperfect' runs from the 11th September - 20th October.

Upcoming workshops, including those run by Pravina, are listed on <https://fromoutofthebluestudiogallery.com/workshops/>

MĀORI WARDS

A CONVERSATION ON HOW TO NAVIGATE MĀORI WARD REFERENDUMS

HOSTED BY HOLY TRINITY STRATFORD  
This event is designed to help us learn, reflect and have our questions or anxieties answered on the topic of Māori Wards. Jay Ruka, Dean of Taranaki Cathedral, will be sharing his perspective on the history behind the referendum.

WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER  
7:00 - 8:30 PM  
AT HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH  
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# What are Māori Wards – and why they matter

Over the coming weeks, until midday 11 October, we have the opportunity to vote in our local elections for District Council and Taranaki Regional Council representatives. This year we also face an important decision: a referendum on Māori wards - whether to keep them, and with them, a dedicated place for Māori representation around our council tables.

This article aims to support our community to make a well-informed decision. It offers a brief overview to explain what Māori wards are, why they were introduced, feedback from councils and why this vote matters for the future of local democracy.

## A quick history of Wards

In response to local government boundaries being centralised, in 2001 wards were created to ensure



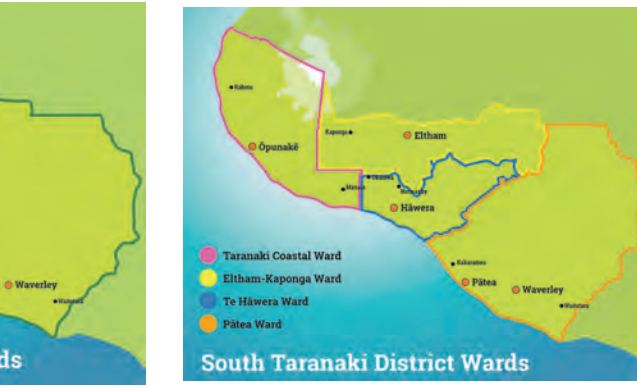
All wards.

local voices were not lost in bigger council structures. This allowed communities such as Taranaki Coastal, Eltham-Kaponga, Te Hāwera and Patea to have dedicated councillors representing their areas. Effectively this has supported the different rural communities to have their voices heard.

For many years, however, the opportunity of the Māori Ward has not been actioned and Māori voices have remained under-represented, despite making up a significant proportion of the population and being our original, indigenous peoples and treaty partners.

In 2021, councils engaged in robust consultation, research, and consideration of their position and obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Local Government Act, which requires councils to improve Māori participation in decision-making. All four councils in Taranaki - South Taranaki, Stratford, New Plymouth and the Taranaki Regional Council - voted to introduce Māori wards. This step brought Māori representation in line with the principle of fair and effective representation for all communities, just as rural wards have done.

## What Māori Wards do



Maori Wards.

Māori wards work in the same way as general wards - they ensure a particular community has a voice around the council table and are there to work collaboratively in the best interests of the whole community.

- Who votes: Only those enrolled on the Māori electoral roll vote for Māori ward candidates.

- No "extra votes": Māori roll voters do not get additional votes; they simply choose a Māori ward representative instead of a general ward one. In some cases, this may mean casting fewer votes overall if a general ward has multiple seats.

- Not a new idea: Māori wards are the local government equivalent of the Māori electorate seats we have had in Parliament since 1867. They are a practical way of giving effect to the Treaty partnership at a local level.

## Why Māori Wards matter

Keeping Māori wards is about fair and inclusive representation. It helps ensure that council decisions reflect the diversity of our community and meet legal and Treaty obligations.

The results so far are encouraging. For example, in

the New Plymouth District, Māori voter participation increased by 22% following the introduction of Māori wards - a clear sign that they help increase the feeling of inclusion within local government processes. When people feel represented, they are more likely to engage, and this has positive social and community outcomes. Councils are reporting back that it's been a really positive and beneficial experience having Māori ward representatives at the decision making table.

Last September, the South Taranaki District Council issued a Media Release where Mayor Phil Nixon said the introduction of Māori wards in South Taranaki has been a positive enhancement to decision-making and enabled the Council to be more effective as a board of governors.

"As residents and ratepayers, Māori (who make up almost 20% of South Taranaki's population) had been underrepresented and disengaged from the electoral and local democratic process for too long. Our move to Māori wards has encouraged more Māori to participate in the governance of our District and means the Council is more representative of our whole community."

Continued next page

Community Environmental Funds  
Te Ringa Mohimohi Taiao

Funding applications open  
1 September – 30 September 2025

We're here to support environmental and sustainability projects with four funds available to our community – Community Climate Action Fund, Te Korowai o Tāne (Planting our Place), The Natural Heritage Fund and Zero Waste Fund.

[npdc.govt.nz/community-environmental-funds](https://npdc.govt.nz/community-environmental-funds)



# Free Composting Workshop Coming to Hāwera

The Friends of Hāwera Parks, in partnership with South Taranaki District Council, are inviting locals to their September activity - a free “How to Compost” workshop.

Join Sustainable Taranaki’s Mieke Verschoor at King Edward Park, Hāwera, on Saturday 13 September from 10am to 12pm for a hands-on session on the basics of composting. You’ll learn what ingredients to use, what to avoid, and how to create a healthy compost mix for your garden. There’ll even be spot prizes up for grabs, thanks to Bunnings Hāwera.

The workshop will go ahead rain or shine, so bring a raincoat just in case.

South Taranaki District Council is committed to reducing waste and encouraging sustainable practices. Composting at home is a simple and effective way to recycle food scraps and green waste,



**Free How to Compost Workshop, hosted by The Friends of Hāwera Parks – Saturday 13 September, King Edward Park, Hāwera, meet at the Observatory at 10am.**

helping to create nutrient-rich compost for your garden. It’s also a great step

toward growing your own vegetables—good for your wallet and the environment.

For more information, email [envirosus@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:envirosus@stdc.govt.nz)

## What are Maori Wards

*Continued from page 28*

“Having diverse opinions at the Council table helps us make the best decisions for all our communities. We are stronger as we work together in partnership for the good of South Taranaki – which is ultimately what we are all here for.”

This view is shared by

councils across Taranaki and the country. Evidence shows that Māori wards strengthen participation, improve decision-making, and can lead to better outcomes for everyone.

No stress, vote yes for Māori Wards

This referendum is about the kind of community we

want to be. Do we want to keep building a future where everyone feels represented and included - or risk going backwards?

Voting YES to keep Māori wards is a vote for fairness, representation, and unity. It honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi, helps councils meet their legal obligations to engage

with Māori, and strengthens the social fabric of our region.

**Have your say**

Every vote counts. Make sure you are enrolled, and cast your vote before midday, 11 October. Let’s show up and be a community of people that value fairness and inclusion, and honour a place for Māori at our local councils. It’s been working well with positive reviews, let’s keep it going.

*Fiona Young*

## Maori Wards Information Evening

Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Stratford will be hosting an evening next week for the public to engage with the ideas around the forthcoming Maori wards referendum in the local body elections. Jay and Erin Ruka from the Taranaki Cathedral (St Mary’s) in New Plymouth are well-known local identities who do a lot of work in the area of Treaty issues and reconciliation through their base at Te Whare Hononga. Jay will be presenting his

perspective on the current state of play, and everyone will have the opportunity to discuss, ask questions and look at the timeline of Maori representation in central and local government.

Although Jay and Erin are well-known in coming from a perspective in favour of Maori wards, they also want to encourage people to come together to express individual viewpoints and genuinely listen to others’ views. Different or opposing viewpoints are welcomed all

round, and the evening will be facilitated within those expectations of respect. The hope is always to learn from the history and from each other.

For further information, contact Rev. Paul Bowers-Mason 0273649274.

Maori Wards information evening. 7.00-8.30pm Wednesday 17 September. Holy Trinity Anglican Church lounge, 52 Juliet St, Stratford.

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**Where:** Arty Tarts Café  
**Date:** Tuesday 7th October 2025  
**Time:** 10:30am -1pm

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**FREE EVENT**

**SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**10AM - 12NOON**

**King Edward Park, High Street, Hāwera.**  
**Meet at the Observatory.**

Learn the basics of composting: the right mix of ingredients, what you can (and can't) compost, plus a hands-on composting session and maybe even walk away with a spot prize! We'll be there, rain or shine – bring a raincoat!

● ● ●

**For more information, email: [envirosus@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:envirosus@stdc.govt.nz)**

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# Standout line up ready to Rock the Bowl this December



L.A.B at Bowl of Brooklands 2022

Andy Jackson Photography

Standout line up ready to Rock the Bowl this December

Rock the Bowl is turning up the heat for the third consecutive year, with UK chart toppers Rudimental joining Kiwi favourites L.A.B and Supergroove as

headline acts at NPDC's iconic Bowl of Brooklands on 29 December.

L.A.B Returning to the Bowl for a third time following a sell-out show in 2021 and packed performances in 2022 and 2025 - L.A.B will

deliver their signature blend of funk, rock, reggae, and soul. Legendary tracks like In The Air and Take It Away promise to deliver an epic atmosphere.

Rudimental UK chart-toppers and festival legends, Rudimental

are set to make their New Plymouth debut with a high-energy set packed with global hits like Feel the Love, Waiting All Night, and These Days. Known for their explosive blend of drum and bass, soul, funk, and house, their performance

– part of a jam-packed 2025 New Zealand summer tour will be a landmark moment for Taranaki fans.

Supergroove Bringing both nostalgia and noise, Supergroove is ready to bring their iconic 90s bangers to the stage. Known for their album Traction and fusion of funk, rock, hip-hop, soul and jazz will get fans grooving from start to finish.

“We’re thrilled to host another Rock the Bowl festival by Trademark Live at our world-class venue,” says NPDC’s Event Attraction and Business Development Lead Neil Fenwick

“Rock the Bowl has become a real summer highlight, and this year’s mix of local and international acts will take

it to the next level – this is what summer in Taranaki is all about.”

Te Puna Umanga Venture Taranaki, GM Destination Brylee Flutey says major events play a critical role in attracting visitors to the region, helping to drive significant economic and cultural impacts.

“We’re proud to support this event via our facilitation of the Major Events Fund and look forward to encouraging out-of-region visitors to make the most of their weekend in Taranaki, and for locals to get behind it too, by encouraging their friends and whānau out of town to book a trip and make the most of it by spending a few extra days here.”



Rudimental from the UK set to Rock the Bowl.

**Do you have any of these symptoms?**

Fatigue	Bad breath
Foggy brain	Insomnia
Hot and shitty	Smelly wind
Headaches	Coated tongue
Depression	Overweight
Constipation	Indigestion
Body odour	



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**Heals the gut**

L-Glutamine is an amino acid which heals the gut. It is especially important for brain metabolism as it sustains mental ability. L-Glutamine has been effective in reducing the severity and incidence of very painful diverticulitis. It reduces sugar cravings, helps in fat reduction and in building muscle.

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**Cleans the bowel**

Psyllium is proven to increase faecal size and moisture. The most common characteristic of stools following supplementation of psyllium are soft, sleek, and easily passable stools. Compared to other laxatives, psyllium doesn't cause wind. Psyllium goes sticky, pulling off the rubbish from the intestinal wall.

**Nutritionally nourishes the entire body**

Barley grass has no gluten as it is from the shoots of the barley plant. It is a natural detoxifier and boosts the immune system. It is also very alkalising to the body attributing to reducing acidity in the body which may cause acidosis damage. An imbalance of an acid/alkali ratio in the body may lead to problems like sleep disorders, cardiac pain, fatigue, constipation and fragile fingernails. Barley is a nutrient rich superfood loaded with vitamins such as all the B Vitamins, Vitamin C, Vitamin E and Vitamin K. Barley contains an abundance of electrolytes such as magnesium, phosphorous and potassium, along with other essential minerals such as zinc, iron and calcium. Barley grass is a powerful antioxidant, containing essential amino acids and beneficial enzymes.

**Bristol Stool Chart**

Type 1		Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
Type 2		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
Type 3		Like a sausage but with cracks on the surface
Type 4		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
Type 5		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges
Type 6		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
Type 7		Watery, no solid pieces. Entirely Liquid

**Your Guide to healthy bowels**

**1 - indicates constipation. We recommend an increase in fibre, hydration and magnesium.**

**3 - indicates ideal stools which are easier to pass.**

**5 - shows loose stools. Indicative of an irritated gastrointestinal tract. We recommend digestive enzymes, an increase in fibre and avoiding wheat.**



# Lysaght Watt Gallery features a creative family affair

The latest exhibition at the Lysaght Watt Gallery is entitled It's a Family Affair and runs from September 7 until November 1. Most patrons will be aware that the Gallery is now located in Te Ramanui o Ruaputahanga at 121 High Street, Hawera.

In an unique exhibition the four artists are all closely related. The exhibitors are Sarah Tullett (jeweller), John Tullett (bronze sculptor), Wayne Morris (mixed media) and Stu Morris painter/printmaker).

The official opening was on Sunday September 7 and huge number of patrons came to enjoy the excellent art while also enjoying a delicious afternoon tea.

Sarah Tullett, who is the sister of John, wife of Wayne and mother of Stu, has been creating jewellery for six



John Tullett with a selection of his outstanding bronze exhibits.

years. She enjoys hitting and shaping different metals such as silver, copper, gold - sometimes in combination with sea shell. Her work is eye-catching and diverse. One outstanding display section featured rings inspired by ancient jewellery. All the

rings were of sterling silver and incorporated such gems as aquamarine, sapphire, amethyst, opal and ruby.

John Tullett is Sarah's brother, brother-in-law to Wayne and uncle of Stu.

John has been an art teacher at New Plymouth Boys High School and earlier attended art school in Christchurch where he became intrigued by the bronze casting process, a lifetime fascination. Many of his exhibits involve bowls. "Not a lot of meaning in a a bowl, he admits, but "making pleasing forms is very satisfying." His exhibits were impressive and impeccable crafted.

Wayne Morris in Sarah's husband, John's brother-in-law and the father of Stu.

Wayne's genesis as an artist has something to do with his childhood, living



Stu Morris with his brilliant oil on canvas painting entitled Comms Tower #3. It was definitely one of my favourites in the exhibition.

near a dump; he located different items there which did not impress his parents.

His first exhibition was in 1981 as a founding member of the Taranaki Artist Co-operative (TACO). His exhibits were created from materials he discovered with the emphasis on recycling. Since the early 1980s Wayne has participated in many group exhibitions. His works can be found in many places including Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and, of course, New Zealand. His exhibits are creatively fascinating to view.

Stu Morris is the son of Sarah and Wayne and the

nephew of John.

Stu is a painter, print-maker and tattoo artist. He has recently returned to New Plymouth after five years in Wellington where he had many exhibitions, both solo and group. His expressionist style allows the exploration of his personal life, and animal motifs from his tattoo designs. Some of his art also reflects his interest in music.

Make sure you find time to experience this unique an diverse exhibition from four talented and related artists.

Rolland McKellar.



Wayne Tullett with his granddaughter Georgina, and one of his intricate creations, Traveller #2.



Sarah Tullett with her display of superbly crafted jewellery.

IT'S A  
FAMILY AFFAIR



SARAH TULLETT  
JOHN TULLETT  
WAYNE MORRIS  
STU MORRIS



JEWELLER  
BRONZE SCULPTOR  
MIXED MEDIA  
PAINTER/PRINTMAKER

7 SEPTEMBER - 1 NOVEMBER, 2025

Lysaght Watt  
gallery

Whare  
Whakairi  
Toi

Te Ramanui o  
Ruapūtahanga  
121 High Street,  
Te Hāwera



## TE AHO POUTIAKI FUNDING APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN NOW

This community rangatahi (youth)-led funding is available for Pātea, Ōpunakē, Eltham, Manaia, Waitara, and West Ngāmotu (including Marfell, Westown, Moturoa, Lynmouth, and Blagdon).

With \$300,000 available, we want to hear your ideas on how best to support these communities from seed to established initiatives, ensuring funding reflects local aspirations and creates a lasting impact.

We've designed the process to be simple and accessible.  
You can apply in the way that works best for you — written, video, audio, or even a phone call.

For more information, please email us at [teahopoutiaki@toifoundation.org.nz](mailto:teahopoutiaki@toifoundation.org.nz) or call us on 0800 7699 471.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER





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Where Picture Framing is an Art  
*We have moved to 33 Gover Street, New Plymouth Phone 06 758 8746*

CHURCH NOTICES



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

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

**Okato Co-operating Parish**  
Okato – St. Paul’s – Sunday Service every 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 10.00am  
Oakura – St. James – Sunday Service every 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 10.00am  
Mid-week open church – Okato – St. Paul’s – Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4.30pm-6.00pm

**Opunake Catholic Church**  
St Martins, Pungarehu: Temporarily closed - no Masses  
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake: 10am every Sunday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**  
90 Regan St., Stratford,  
9:00am Sunday: Breakfast and Study  
10:30am: Breakfast is followed by "Coming Together Worship Service"  
Thursday: Study Group at 2 pm at 96b Brecon Rd., Stratford.  
Contact Rev. John Mattock 027 2039799

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

# School Holiday Program action packed

As the School term draws to an end the Opunake Sports Trust has been putting the finishing touches to its School Holiday Program, due to start 22nd September. It promises to be action packed for two weeks with rangatahi and whānau having the option to participate in sessions across no less than 12 sports.

As well as offering two sessions a day between 10am and 12 noon targeted at youth there are plenty of opportunities for parents and the wider whanau to join in. Tricia MacKenzie, pro box NZ lightweight champion will be running a couple of Hiit Circuit classes aimed at



Basketball.



Volleyball.

parents and on Wednesday’s 3.30-7.30pm the nets will be up for Volleyball, Badminton and Pickleball, along with the courts for Squash; all welcome to have a hit and equipment is provided.

Whilst there will be small fees applied when registering to each session, funding from the STDC Discretionary Fund and the Tu Manawa fund has enabled the Sports Trust to purchase equipment

and for the program to offer skilled coaching for Futsul, Pickleball and Basketball which will compliment the Opunake based expert volunteers that are kindly giving their time to the community.

The School Holiday Program details can be found on the Opunake Sports Trust facebook page or by direct contact with the Sports Coordinator.

# Popular Hawera book fair springs into action

Hawera Genealogy is gearing up for their big annual springtime book fair. Helpers are busy sorting and stocking shelves with thousands of books on a wide-ranging selection of topics - cooking, gardening, hobbies, health, war, history, religion, poetry, plays, music, classics and much more.

Fiction and non-fiction priced at \$2.00. New stock of DVDs and CDs,

all categorised for easy searching. Records, jigsaws, magazines, a big range of books for train enthusiasts. The New Zealand section is always popular – fiction, biographies, history, sports, travel and more.

**There will be in-store specials** - 10% off specialty books. These are at marked prices and include rare and often hard to find books. Books from selected

popular authors bound in sets at marked-down prices. Children’s picture books are only 50c each, while teens can fill a paper carry-bag with junior and senior fiction for just \$1.00 a bag.

So, if you are looking for books on how to care for a donkey, Shakespeare, building a fence or just a great read from your favourite author come along and discover that special book.

Donations of books throughout the year can be dropped off at Hawera Genealogy, 48 Union Street, Hawera on Wednesdays between 1-3pm or arrangements can be made for local collection.

Hawera Genealogy are grateful for the support from the community over the many years of holding their book

fairs. Funds raised have enabled the *Hawera Star* from 1880 to 1935 to be included in the National Library of NZ Papers Past site. A further 15 years will be added early in 2026. Funding has also been contributed to local community projects such as the Victoria Cross Garden and the photo boards at the King Edward Park Observatory.

The Genealogy rooms are open every Wednesday between 1-3pm for the public to get advice on how to research their family history, or call into to see their vast collection of South Taranaki research material. All welcome.

*Thursday 25, Friday 26, Saturday 27 September 2025. 9.30am – 5pm. Hawera Genealogy Building, 48 Union Street, Hawera*



**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**  
22nd September - 3rd October

**JOIN THE GAMES, SKILLS AND DRILLS AT SINCLAIR EVENT CENTRE**

REGISTRATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR 10AM - 12 NOON SESSIONS  
FORMS AND PROGRAM DETAILS ARE ON  
FACEBOOK: OPUNAKESPORTSTRUST OR CONTACT THE COORDINATOR  
PHONE: 0272891844  
EMAIL: OPUNAKESPORTSTRUST@GMAIL.COM

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**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**



# Beautiful Bulls



New Zealand Farmers Livestock agents Simon Payne and Bryan Goodin at the Annual Burmeister sale on Monday.



GOT COWS  
THAT  
AREN'T  
QUITE... ALL  
THERE?

The Burmeister Annual Bull Sale on September 8th the sale was a complete clearing of 66 bulls, the 2 year olds averaged \$3150 and the yearlings averaged \$2404.

HJ&K MEGAW & FAMILY Bull sale will be held at 190 Foreman Road, Tikorangi-Waitara  
MONDAY 15TH SEPT 2025 AT 11:30.



## ANNUAL ON FARM SERVICE BULL SALE

**HJ & JK MEGAW & FAMILY**  
190 Foreman Road, Tikorangi-Waitara  
**10th Annual Sale**  
**MONDAY 15TH SEPT 2025 AT 11:30**

### THE LINE UP 315 BULLS COMPRISING:

- 35 x 2yr Owner Bred Hereford Bull
- 20 x 2yr Angus Bulls
- 190 x 2yr Jersey Bulls (all Virgin Bulls)
- 10 x 2yr Ayrshire Bulls
- 10 x 2yr Friesian Bulls
- 10 x 2yr Murray Grey Bulls
- 10 x 2yr Shorthorn Bulls
- 30 x Yearling Jersey Bulls

**To further protect your farm:**  
**All bulls grazed for past 12 months.**  
**No dairy grazers.**

- Free grazing 1st Dec
- BVD free & vaccinated
- Deferred payment until 20/11/2025

**Spot prizes and lunch provided**

**Enquiries Contact NZ Farmers Livestock Vendor Agent - Simon Payne 027 241 4585**  
**Steve Quinnell 027 552 3514**  
**Grant Hobbs 027 477 7406**  
**Bryan Goodin 027 531 8511**  
**Stephen Sutton 027 442 3207**  
**Vendor Hayden Megaw 027 440 9888**  
**Or your local NZ Farmers Livestock Agent**  
**Instagram: @megawfamilybulls**  
**Facebook: @Megawfamilybulls**

**NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK**

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<b>Workmates</b> 1hr 42mins   M Fri 12 Sep 7PM	<b>Light of the World</b> 1hr 31mins   PG Sat 13 Sep 1PM   Sun 21 Sep 7PM
<b>Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale</b> 2hr 2mins   PG Sat 13 Sep 7PM   Sun 14 Sep 1PM   Sat 20 Sep 7PM	<b>The Naked Gun</b> 1hr 25mins   M Sun 14 Sep 7PM
<b>Kangaroo</b> 1hr 47mins   PG Fri 19 Sep 7PM	<b>Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie</b> 30mins   TBC Sat 20 Sep 1PM   Fri 26 Sep 1PM
<b>The Bad Guys 2</b> 1hr 44mins   PG Sun 21 Sep 1PM   Fri 26 Sep 7PM	<b>Dora: Mermaid</b> 55mins   TBC Thu 25 Sep 1PM

**Workmates**  
Drug use & offensive language | 1hr 42mins | Rated: M  
**Fri 12 Sep 7PM**

**Light of the World**  
Violence | 1hr 31mins | Rated: PG  
**Sat 13 Sep 1PM**

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www.silverfernfarms.com

Bruce Thompson  
027 445 5285 or  
Nigel Corbett  
027 453 7602  
www.anzcofoods.com

ANZCO, AFFCO, and Silver Fern Farms are working with CoastalCare to help you take care of your "special animals", donating proceeds to CoastalCare Health Trust to help us with the funding we need to repaint the building.



What's On Listings

**ONGOING**  
**Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake:** Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.  
**MONDAYS:** **The Barnabas Centre Exercise and Social Morning:** St. Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 027 379 6844 or Ian 027 622 4878.  
**Beginners Social Dance Classes:** Central School Hall, New Plymouth, 7pm.  
**TUESDAYS**  
**Opunake Walking Group:** Every Tuesday 10am. Meet outside Club Hotel on Havelock St. Phone Margaret 027 477 5600 for more info if needed, or just turn up.  
**Pungarehu Golf Club Twilight:** Tee-off between 4.30 & 6.30pm.  
**Opunake District RSA:** Meet 1st Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm at the Opunake Fire Station. Financial Members are welcome to attend.  
**WEDNESDAYS**  
**Coastal Young Farmers:** Meet 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Butlers Reef Bar & Cafe, Oakura.  
**Lisa Keen Audiology at Coastal Care, Opunake:** Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676  
**Okato & District Historical Society open every Wednesday:** At the Okato Community Trust Hall, 47 Cumming St, Okato. phone Meg on 06 752 4566.  
**Opunake Embroiders Guild:** Meet 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10.30am-3pm at the Opunake Business Centre, Napier St, Opunake. Just come along or phone Sheryl 06 761 8769.  
**Okato Market:** In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5.30pm.  
**Free singing experience with Taranaki Harmony Chorus:** Meet every Wednesday at Inglewood Mamaku Centre, 7-9.30 pm Phone Helen 021 296 0700.  
**THURSDAYS**  
**Egmont Euchre Club:** Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8337 or 06 761 8607.  
**Taranaki Country Music Hall of Fame, Manaia:** Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.  
**FRIDAYS**  
**Eltham Business Association Friday Markets:** 9:30am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.  
**Beginners Social Dance Classes:** Oakura Hall, 6.15pm..  
**Hawera Country & Variety Music Club:** Held every 2nd & 4th Friday monthly. Held at Hawera Pipe Band Hall, 89 Collins Street, Hawera @ 7pm. All welcome. Supper provided.  
**AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 27**



Tui Ora  
Heartlands Hub  
Napier Street,  
Opunake  
11am – 2.30pm

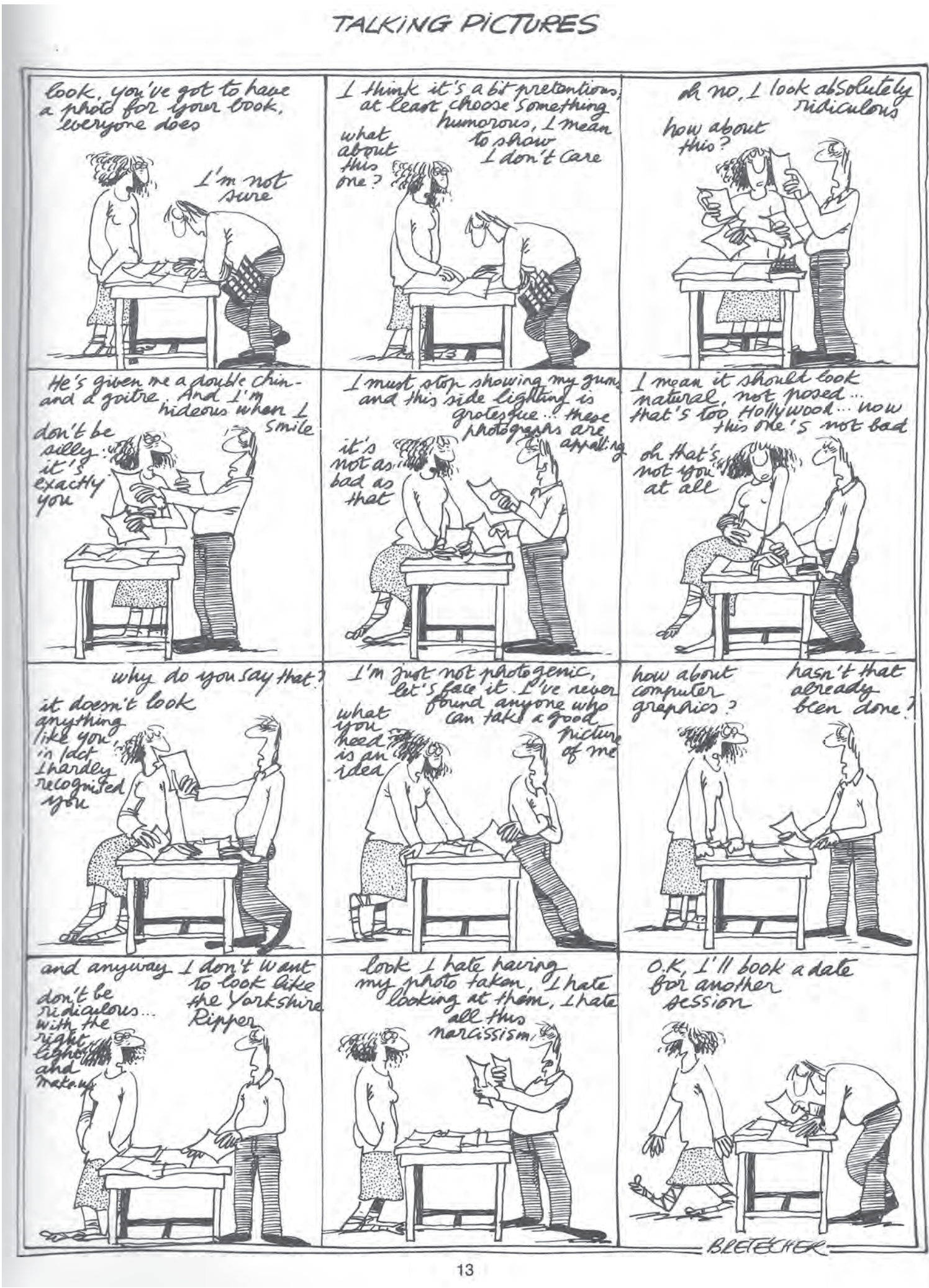
NO  
APPOINTMENT  
NEEDED

**DROP IN CLINIC | 18 SEPTEMBER**

Our friendly nurses can help with:

- Childhood and adult immunisations
- Flu vaccines
- COVID boosters
- Cervical screening self-tests
- Hepatitis C screening

**TUI ORA**



**Harmony of Hues Exhibition:** At the Village Gallery, Eltham.  
**SEPTEMBER 7 TO NOVEMBER 1**  
**Its a Family Affair exhibition:** Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera.  
**SEPTEMBER 11 & 12**  
**CardiAction Heart & Artery Screening:** CoastalCare, Opunake.  
**SEPTEMBER 11TO OCTOBER 20**  
**Solo Exhibition Perfectly Imperfect by Pravina Phillips:** At from out of the blue gallery, Halse Place, Opunake  
**SEPTEMBER 15**  
**Coastal Taranaki Health Trust AGM:** Community Lounge, CoastalCare, 2pm.  
**SEPTEMBER 13**  
**How to Compost Workshop:** King Edward Park, Hawera, 10am-12pm.  
**SEPTEMBER 16**  
**Cold Creek Community Water Supply Ltd AGM:** Pihama Cricket Club, 7.30pm.  
**SEPTEMBER 22 TO OCTOBER 3**  
**Opunake School Holiday Programme:** See ad and article for details.  
**SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27**  
**Hawera Genealogy Book Fair:** 48 Union St, Hawera. 9.30am - 5pm.  
**OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 9**  
**Taranaki National Art Awards:** Sinclair Event Centre, Opunake. See ad and article for details.  
**OCTOBER 7**  
**Opunake Pop-up Travel Shop with Helloworld:** Arty Tarts Cafe, 10.30am-1pm.



PUBLIC NOTICES



Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust  
Notice of 2025 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust will be held on Saturday 11 October 2025 at Pūniho Pā, State Highway 45 commencing at 10.00am.

AGENDA

1. Karakia

2. Apologies

3. Confirmation of 2024 AGM minutes

4. Chairperson Reports

(a) Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust

(b) Taranaki Iwi Charitable Trust

(c) Taranaki Iwi Holdings LP

(d) Taranaki Iwi Fisheries Ltd
5. Audited Financial Reports

6. Appointment of Auditor

7. Annual Goals

8. General Business

This year’s Annual General Meeting will be livestreamed. If you wish to participate via the livestream you will need to register so a link can be sent to you. To register for the livestream link or for further information including copies of documents to be presented at the AGM please contact Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust office, Ngāmotu House, L4/139 Devon St West, New Plymouth, Ph (06) 751 4285 / 0800 83 52484 or via email: admin@taranaki.iwi.nz.

Jacqui King  
Chairperson  
[www.taranaki.iwi.nz](http://www.taranaki.iwi.nz)

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**DRY FIREWOOD.** \$99 per metre plus cartage. Ph 021 068 3700.

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

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

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

THE NEXT  
ISSUE OF OCN  
WILL BE OUT  
ON THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 25

FOR SALE

**AB & DM SYBRANDY CONTRACTING LTD** - Available Now - Firewood , Screened Topsoil & BRANDY’S BOTANICALS BARN-Indoor Plants, Home & Giftware, Seeds & More. 6m3 Split Pine \$480.00, 6m3 Split Mac \$600.00 supplied & delivered Hawera, Normanby, Manaia areas - other areas may incur small delivery fee. Orders and Payment can be made by phoning Andy 0274456464 or calling into Brandy’s Botanicals Barn-15 Livingston Rd Hawera.-WINZ Quotes, Afterpay & Eft-pos avaiabel at the Barn.

SITUATIONS VACANT

OPUNAKE & COASTAL  
NEWS  
We are looking for people to deliver  
through Hawera fortnightly on a  
Thursday.



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Opunake &  
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Delivery people  
needed for  
Hawera  
township

Ph 06 761 7016

HAWERA GENEALOGY &  
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

BOOK  
FAIR

Thursday 25th,  
Friday 26th &  
Saturday 27th  
September  
9.30am–5pm  
Hawera Genealogy  
Building  
48 Union Street, Hawera  
(between Nelson &  
Wellington Streets)



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OPUNAKE & COASTAL  
NEWS  
06 761 7016



Coastal Taranaki Health Trust  
A.G.M.

CoastalCare Health and Community Centre  
September 15 2025, 2pm  
in the Community Lounge

All welcome – come along and see the changes we have made internally and the plans for the next phase of this.

Email: [info@coastalcare.co.nz](mailto:info@coastalcare.co.nz) Phone: 06 761 8488



GREYPOWER  
NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION INC  
GREY POWER SOUTH TARANAKI

Members meeting  
15th Sept 10am  
Senior Citizens Hall  
81 Victoria St Hawera  
Meet the Mayoral candidates.

22nd Sept 7pm  
Meet the Council and Community  
Board candidates  
81 Victoria St Hawera.  
Public are welcome to attend  
these meetings.



THE NEWSPAPER  
TARANAKI  
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OPUNAKE & COASTAL  
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**2015 Ford KUGA ECOBOOST A**  
LOW KMs NZ NEW SUV  
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Windows, Turbo, AWD, 1.6, Petrol, Auto, 53kms



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**2013 Mazda 3 GLX**  
Electric Mirrors, Spoilers, Cruise Control, Stability  
Control, 2.0, Petrol, Auto, 156kms



**\$11,995**

**2017 Mazda CX-3 GLX**  
POPULAR STYLISH SUV  
Cruise Control, Reversing Camera, i-Stop, NZ New,  
Sports Mode, Keyless Start, 2.0, Petrol, Auto,  
193kms



**\$15,995**

**2012 Toyota RAV4**  
POPULAR NZ NEW SUV  
Cruise Control, 4WD, NZ New, VVT-i, 2.4, Petrol,  
Auto, 171kms



**\$12,995**

**THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:**  
**2017 Honda CIVIC RS SPORT**  
Electric Parking Brake, Heated Seats, NZ New, Turbo,  
Daytime Running Lights, Leather Seats, Factory Sub,  
Sunroof, 1.5, Petrol, CVT, 50kms



**\$26,995**

**2009 Toyota COROLLA GX**  
NZ NEW  
Stability Control, Electric Mirrors, VVT-i, FWD, 1.8,  
Petrol, Auto, 166kms



**\$8,995 SPECIAL**

**2022 Kia Stonic GT Line**  
STYLISH SPORTY HATCH  
Parking Sensors, Roof Rails, Turbo, Sports Mode,  
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NZ NEW 7 SEATER 4WD  
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SUPER TIDY HANDY HATCH  
Tinted Windows, Factory Body Kit, VVT-i, Monsoons,  
Spoiler, Petrol, Auto, 133kms



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**2008 Mazda 3 SP23**  
SPORTY NZ NEW HATCH  
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Control, VVT-i, 2.3, Petrol, Auto, 149kms



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7 SEATER ALL WHEEL DRIVE  
Driving Lights, Stability Control, Tow Bar, 6 Cylinder,  
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Alloy Wheels, Electric Tailgate, Auto Headlights,  
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