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**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

# Questions raised over cost of new library

Due to open at the end of November, Hawera's library and culture centre has become the centre of a costing stoush. After making an Official Information Act request to the South Taranaki District Council the New Zealand Taxpayers Union say the cost of Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga has ballooned two and a half times from \$8 million to \$20.1 million.

The South Taranaki District Council say the original \$8 million figure was only ever a "concept price" arrived at seven years before tenders had even been called for.

"This has been on our mind after Prime minister Chris Luxon's comments from the Local Government New Zealand Conference about trimming the fat," says NZ Taxpayers Union Local Government spokesperson Sam Warren. "I think he got it right this time."

"South Taranaki residents are going to be paying for this centre, which they didn't ask for, long after the mayor and councillors are thrown out. With a 11.1% rates rise locked in, funding would have been better put towards paying down debt, or prioritising other key areas. Ratepayers have already told council they want the focus to be on roads, water and rubbish, it's time for New Zealand councils to take note."

South Taranaki District Council chief executive Fiona Aitken says the \$8 million dollar estimate was an early concept cost estimate done in 2015, at a time when no firm costings had been prepared and almost seven years before Council went out to tender.

In May 2022 the tender was awarded to Livingstone Building Ltd for \$15.5 million.

"The tender price reflected the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, the increases in inflation and the difficulty in getting both supplies and skilled tradespeople at a time when demand in the construction sector was so high," says Aitken.

"The additional \$4.6 million the NZTU included were for additional things such as the land acquisition, demolition of previous buildings, fit out, landscaping and professional fees for things such as architects, consents, engineers and the like. These costs, while part of the overall project, were always separate from the actual build.

"It's always good to have



Cost of construction gone from an \$8M estimate to \$20M.



Council being disingenuous says Bob Clark from Opunake.

an organisation like the Taxpayers Union keeping Council's on their toes, but on this occasion, they got it wrong."

She says there will be no effect on rates as the project had been funded from a combination of external funding, including the Government's Regional Development Fund (\$4 million) and Toi Foundation (\$2.8 million), and the use of the Council's Long Term Investment Fund and Council Reserves.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon says the project is a key part of the council's post-COVID economic growth and Hāwera town centre revitalisation strategy.

"The new facility will not simply revitalise - it will transform the town centre. The modern, multi-functional, community facility will provide residents and visitors with a wide range of services, information, cultural and educational resources. These include a library, community meeting rooms, art gallery, I-site visitor centre, café, and public toilets. Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, will not only be a community and visitor

hub, but it will also be a catalyst for driving change and increasing investment in the town centre."

Former South Taranaki District councillor Clem Coxhead says that when he stood for the mayoralty in 2019 he came out with a statement that the cost for the new library would be over \$20 million.

"I was summoned to the CEO's office and told that the price would be \$8 million regardless, and that I should stop making such statements," he said. "It was supposed to take 18 months to build. Now it's been seven years and it's not complete. They are building a massive structure that's not going to be of benefit to everyone but it's going to be paid for by



\$8M was only ever a concept price says council chief executive.



An artist's impression of Hawera's new library and cultural centre.



Former mayoral candidate says I saw it coming.

everyone. My own regret is that more of us councillors should have taken a stand on it."

Bob Clark from Opunake is critical of how the Council came up with the original estimate.

"It's a bit disingenuous to not include the cost of the land acquisition in the initial pricing," he says. "Obviously if you are taking money out of the LTIF it's going to have an effect on other projects and you're going to have to borrow or take money out of other projects. What are they going to do with the existing library? Possibly they might put staff in there, but it's obviously not a good building to put offices in. It's a tall building and it's hard to heat. What are they going to do with the I-site centre? Are we going to end up with a couple of empty buildings?"

Eltham businessman David Hancock says "the horse has bolted."

"All I can say is that it's disappointing, but it's happened and there's no point whining about it," he says. "I hope it will be a success but I feel a bit sorry for business owners in Hawera especially if they own a café as I understand there is going to be a café there."

"Hawera is not the only Council that's done something like that in the hope that it will generate income for the town. I don't know what the Hawera Library is like, but in Eltham our Library's lovely. I'm not someone who thinks all the money is being spent in Hawera. I just think they should be spending money with great care."



A key part of the town's revitalisation says mayor.



# Letters to the Editor

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www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Editor: Bernice McKellar

Journalists/Sales: Rolland McKellar, Bryan Kirk

Advertising/Production: Vanessa Smith

Production/IT: Shane Butler

Delivery: Thursday, fortnightly

Registered as a newspaper.

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of New Zealand



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

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

## In reply to High Tide, Opunake

I’m not sure where you have been...under a rock looking for paua perhaps.

There are too many invalid points to deal with, so I’ll just do basics, from one local to another.

There were many advertised meetings at the local fishing clubs and halls, these were advertised in papers and on social media, and radio.

The racial slur about some getting chits is a load of rubbish. Have you seen these “chits”? If so a copy would be good, or the name of the person issuing them.

Yes I’m sure poaching still goes on.....it’s illegal to speed but many still do.

Hopefully education may make those people think

more about the bigger picture.

Marine biologists and other suitably qualified people were heavily involved in the planning stages, and in the ongoing concerns regarding shellfish and crayfish numbers in the area.

There were many opportunities for people to voice concerns, at meetings, written submissions to government, (there were submissions, for and against, that were lodged and dealt with accordingly).

Comments such as “we have never run out before” show a real lack of understanding of our diminishing kaimoana stocks. Do we wait until there is nothing left, leaving no hope of rejuvenation, or do we work hard, sacrifice a little now and ensure a sustainable fishing future?

Keen fisher  
Okato

## Silence

I am writing a response to Roger Morris’ letter regarding the silence on Palestine. What a brilliant precise piece.

Factual, thought provoking and carefully crafted, explaining the situation.

I would like to add food for thought on his summary.

Background to silence means consent proverbial saying, late 14th century; translation of a Latin tag, ‘qui tacet consentire videtur [he who is silent seems to consent]’, said to have been spoken by Thomas More (1478–1535)

Simon and Garfunkel wrote Sounds of Silence 1964.

Silence like a cancer grows And in the naked light, I saw

Ten thousand people, maybe more

People talking without speaking

People hearing without listening

People writing songs that voices never shared

And no one dared Disturb the sound of silence

“Fools” said I, “You do not know

Silence like a cancer grows Hear my words that I might teach you

Take my arms that I might reach you”

But my words, like silent raindrops fell

And echoed in the wells of silence

In 1938 My parents were not silent when Chamberlain said Peace in Our Time, but many were and Poland was invaded.

After World War II there were still ration books and children told don’t play on bombsites. Many bombs

Continued on page 5.

## ADELPHOS

Relationships can be hard. But the closest ones are the hardest because they take more ongoing energy, particularly family relationships. In the last fifty years, ever-changing cultural values and societal influences are continually redefining the makeup of modern families. Today’s family has become more diverse and adaptable.

As New Zealanders we see a variety of family structures, besides the more traditional 49% nuclear family of two parents living with their children (Kiwi Parenting Report, 2024). Some family makeups are: blended families, single parenting, same-sex, stay at home dads, two-income families, childless families, grandparents and other

relatives raising children. Surrogacy, IVF and adoption create even more family structures. No matter how the family is structured it all boils down to relationship connections.

Positive connections within families still hold the key to healthy relationships. William Glasser, an American psychiatrist who developed Reality Therapy and Choice Theory, recognised seven connecting and disconnecting behaviours that can help or hurt relationships:

- Connecting behaviours are: 1.) Listening. 2.) Supporting. 3.) Caring. 4.) Trusting. 5.) Negotiating 6.) Accepting 7.) Encouraging.

Disconnecting behaviours are:

- 1.) Criticising. 2.)

Complaining. 3.) Blaming. 4.) Bribing. 5.) Punishing. 6.) Threatening. 7.) Nagging.

As a Family Court relationship counsellor in Auckland for 13 years, I’ve often discussed Glasser’s behaviours with clients during our 2,750 sessions. These commonsense connecting and disconnecting behaviours can be easily learned and recognised with practice and becoming aware of both types of behaviours. It’ll be a learning curve though. For example, if you hear yourself criticising an angry family member, stop; try listening more carefully. Ask an open-ended question (I mean don’t use questions requiring a one word yes or no answer) about their complaint: “What things bring you to

that conclusion, Trevor?” Keep the dialogue moving to create a supportive and respectful atmosphere with your body language and tone.

Whatever type of family we are in, words truly matter. So much so that Jesus reminds us that “... everyone will have to give account...” for their words (Matthew 12:35-36, NIV). Which connecting words and behaviours can we choose to practice within our own family? At the end of the day, we each have the ability and responsibility to choose.

Adelphos

P.S. There are no perfect families as you know.

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# Coastal Gems for sale

## Gisborne Terrace Home warmly aglow

By Kathryn Mary Stanley

When Dallas Green opens the front door of 40 Gisborne Terrace he ushers visitors into a welcoming haven. Once inside this solidly built brick home, there is an inviting feeling of warmth.

Conrad Kuriger, formerly an Opunake resident, built this home in 1996 with meticulous care to detail and a high standard of workmanship. So when Dallas Green, a Licensed Real Estate Agent with Robert Angus Real Estate Limited, was asked to sell and market this property, Green was all smiles. Conrad Kuriger won the Silver Award in the same year in the House of the Year Award. To this day the dwelling is in mint condition and it has been well maintained.

This house is known for its interesting design and high standard of interior materials, Green commented. "I have no doubts in recommending this to a family or retired couple for spacious and comfortable living," he added

### Dazzling Mirrors

Once visitors are inside the front door they are treated to two dazzling mirror displays. These create a light and bright dazzle to reflect pot plants in the centre. A previous owner of the property was well known for her colourful garden outside. This is a stunning way to bring Mother Nature inside particularly during cold winter months.

Sunshine and warmth are captured in the architect's plan for this three-bedroom house. The kitchen and open-plan dining and lounge areas all face north. The dining area opens out onto a small patio which could be a relaxing place to sip a coffee and

read a magazine. The good weather streams in all these rooms, as well as lighting up the master bedroom.

This similar feeling of comfort and wellbeing is reflected in the cream wallpaper, richly coloured axminster carpet and velvet curtains in a soft, mushroom shade.

### Kitchen a joy to work in

The kitchen features large windows which open out onto Tasman Street. Jones and Sandford, of New Plymouth, can take the credit for making this kitchen. It would be a joy to work in with its large pantry, lots of shelving and many cupboards. There has been much attention to including space for a dishwasher, modern washing up and sink area, and electric oven and cooktop.

The kitchen colour scheme is the neutral cream which would be an excellent contrast with bright curtains or blinds at the kitchen window.

Good storage is one feature of the master bedroom with its large wardrobe. There is plenty of space for a queen sized bed and furniture. While the house occupies much of the 506square section, the master bedroom is still a private place. The windows are screened by curtains but they still allow the daylight to stream inside.

The second and third bedrooms are easily large enough for family members or visitors. One bonus of this house is the huge storage room complete with deep shelving. This would be ideal for putting away suitcases, household cushions, and outdoor folding chairs. It makes for a harmonious life when there is a separate

room to hide away large possessions. So the rest of the house does not become cluttered and untidy.

### Spa bath

One bathroom with a bath and shower and vanity unit can be shared by everyone. The bath is a special, spa bath model, designed for relaxing times. The separate toilet has the convenience of a small hand basin.

Walk along the hall and there is a laundry with washing machine and shelving. This efficient area to work in and it is away from the rest of the house.

*Continued page 4*



Dallas Green enjoys meeting Coastal people and talking real estate.



**ABOVE:** Conrad Kuriger built this family home which enjoys a warm northerly aspect facing the sun.

**BELOW:** The open plan rooms include the kitchen which opens out into the large dining area.



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# Coastal Gems for sale

Continued from page 3

The laundry is one part of the one-car garage which has an electric door. This gives the

owner access to the rest of the house. It is really on a rainy day when you can bring the car inside and then take the shopping into the house.

Outside the garden has a large vegetable box which has been built high enough to prevent the need for bending at ground level.

The section is set out in lawns but a keen gardener could plant a colourful array of succulents and small shrubs next to the house.

## Dallas Green – so keen on Coastal living

Dallas Green has brought his heart to the Coast again.

In 2009 Green looked north and he moved to Auckland where he bought an engineering business.

Now the qualified Sales Representative for Robert AngusReal Estate Limited in New Plymouth, Dallas Green has returned to the lands of his younger years.

Later this business was relocated in Matamata where he enjoyed the Waikato life for four years.

Broadly smiling, Green admits to being 66years old and he was born in the Opunake Cottage Hospital.

But our manga always lures our sons and daughters home to Taranaki. Green set up an engineering business in Bell Block in 2020. He decided to close the business once he took up real estate.

That makes Green a “Coaster. Marion and Stuart Green, Dallas’ parents, farmed 2,200 acres up the Kahui Road. Despite the good times and fond memories of a happy childhood on the farm, Greens eventually sold the property. The land was later purchased as grazing blocks.

A born salesman and a man with a quick business sense, Green says he enjoys helping people find a good home.

Green took up chicken farming in Inglewood for 17 years.

“A home is a person’s biggest investment and I’m here to show someone that buying can be trouble-free,” says Green.



This dazzling feature of mirrors in the hall is designed to show off precious pot plants.



The airy lounge looks out onto the garden.

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The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is coming out on October 3. Get in early if you want to be in it.



## Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2.

were still being defused. How do I know? I was born in London.

My mother was a midwife all through the Blitz (Blitz after the German word blitzkrieg ("lightning war")). My father placed on Artillery guns along Thames.

My aunts were ambulance drivers. My mother took in not just Polish refugees but anyone who was homeless including children.

Lest we forget. 'He who is silent seems to consent.'

Lesley Dowding  
Okato

## New Library

The Taxpayers Union [I subscribe] reported on the 5th September 2024 that a cost of \$20.1million for The New Library, Information Centre and Art area in Hawera, Te Ramanui o Ruapūtaha. This is an increase of \$12.00m over the 2015 concept plans and cost estimates of \$8.00m.

STDC replied that the cost in 2022 was \$15.50 million, (Taranaki Daily News 12th September 2024). An increase of \$7.50m (93.75%).

The difference of \$4.6m [\$20.1m less \$15.50m] is perhaps the cost of the land, site clearance, consultants and internal costs. I suspect that the asset register in the STDC books of account will record the total cost of the project at \$20.1m plus any further increased costs.

It was perhaps a little

disingenuous for STDC not to include the land acquisition costs etc.

Notwithstanding the above comments it was a probable "no brainer" in 2015 to proceed with the project. After all the Provincial Growth Fund was providing circa \$4.00m and the Taranaki Community Trust [now TOI Foundation] \$2.8m. For the rate payers a no-cost community asset. The obvious downsides being the existing library, information centre and the Lysaught Gallery becoming vacant.

So:

- A 93.75% cost increase
- Vacant spaces adding to the existing vacant spaces
- A need to borrow or fund an additional \$7.5m
- No longer a "no-cost" community asset

Were pause or reset buttons considered?

Bob Clark  
Opunake

## To all South Taranaki Grey Power members

In answeringing South Taranaki Grey Power's article I'm hoping I haven't upset anyone. If I have I do apologise. I'm fully aware of what the New Zealand Grey Power Association has always lobbied on behalf of all elderly people in our country regardless of whoever was the government.

Now not only am I supporting Amanda Clinton-Ghodes and Bali Haque's extremely hard work for what they have been doing for the wellbeing and welfare for our elderly but I also know them well because they, like me all belong to the New Plymouth Labour Party and we're all on the executive committee.. I myself once belonged to Social Credit under Bruce Beetham who was born in New Plymouth and the Alliance Party under Jim Anderton, so I do know about politics, and I've been a member of New Plymouth Labour for seven years.

In 2017 Labour's Housing Minister stated he'd reinstated all councils as promised to help pensioners having been funded through Central Government, but it's believed he quickly found this task much bigger than he ever imagined. Our Labour Party was formed in 1916 and later became the government with Walter Nash as PM who once lived in New Plymouth, so this political party has been in parliament longer than the National Party, as they were formed in 1936.

As for David MacLeod he is extremely lucky to still be MP for New Plymouth.

So I hope this article has answered your article. I do hope South Taranaki Grey Power members support our Labour Party now and in the future. Plus I hope my article finds all members in excellent health

Cheers for now

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth.

## Oeo School

I pass the place often but the school stays empty.

A South Taranaki School, Oeo Primary School lies empty and abandoned by school kids on an exciting property.

The school was built in 1910 and was provided for the community kids to get an education locally until 1988 when the powers that be at the New Zealand Government closed it.

It has stayed empty ever since waiting to be used.

This beautiful school building and property in a rural setting empty of children or adult group's chatter alike for 35 years wasting away when New Zealand is in an accommodation shortage.

In 1988 the local community fought to keep the school open but failed.

Then another fight arose: who owns the property and the land it sits on and what will come of it?

In 1991, a hapu member, Bob Manuirirangi purchased the school building for NZ\$1.

In 2015, he and his wife were adjudicated bankrupt and that seemed to be where the fight began again.

I believe the school property now belongs to the Ngaruahine Iwi.

The question which needs to be asked and answered, what is this former school to be used for the future? Such a wonderful building for many opportunities but it seems just waiting to fall down.

Ian McAlpine  
New Plymouth

The Opunake and Coastal News has been advised that Ngaruahine do not own the Oeo School-ed.



Oeo School.

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From left. WI members. Sheila Hagan, Pauline Clough, Daphne Holley (standing), President Sue Muggeridge (sitting at the table).

## Te Kiri WI

Te Kiri Women's Institute held a mystery bottle auction at our September meeting to raise funds for Opunake Fire Brigade after enjoying a great talk about the brigade from Beau Le Prou at our August meeting. With members winning things

from vanilla essence to wine; walnuts to chocolates and sauces, great fun was had. Auctioneer Daphne Holley, also our secretary, extracted \$250 from members for the Opunake Fire Brigade.

Judith Armstrong

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# Growers spring to the fore

Local gardeners were not deterred by erratic seasonal weather if entries in the Hawera Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show are any indication.

“It’s a beautiful show and I’m really happy,” Society president Paul Lander said. There were about 600 entries at the two-day show which was held at the Hawera Community Centre on September 7-8.

“It’s about the same number as normal but the mix is different,” he says. “There are less daffodils and more cut flowers.” He stops and points to one exhibit.

“It’s amazing they’ve kept the flags on those dutch irises,” he says. “I’m amazed at the quality despite the weather we’ve had with the windstorms, as well as the thunder and lightning which didn’t help.”

Paul says the Spring Show is always a bit smaller than their Summer Show which is held during the peak of flowering.

“Spring is the season when you have the decorative plants. The ones that lose their leaves and come back to life.”

Most exhibitors are local, although some come from further afield, including one from Eketahuna. This year the winner of the daffodil section came from



Hawera Horticultural Society President Paul Lander admires dutch irises.

Palmerston North. “We’re lucky to have specialist growers who come some distance with their daffodils,” says Paul. “Daffodil breeding is something of a dying art, but it’s been around for a while. There are a lot of different types. There are double daffodils which you wouldn’t think would be a daffodil. It’s amazing with hundreds and hundreds of years of breeding what you can come up with.”

Among those enjoying the show was longstanding Hawera daffodil grower Spud Brogden who is also the Society’s patron. “There’s plenty of colour and there are several entries in each class which makes for good competition,” he says. “From here it looks as though there are pretty good entries in everything. Some of the specialist plants are

really lovely.” What has the season been like?

“It’s been very patchy. There have been lovely summer-like days with no wind, and then the next day there would be pouring rain. It’s been changeable so much.” An early season has meant a lot of plants had finished flowering, he said.

Horticultural Society member Phylis Malcolm who was one of the judges was also there in her capacity as President of the Manaia Women’s Institute. The Society had invited the Institute to set up a stand in the foyer promoting some of the projects they have been involved with. They also had a floral standing arrangement made up of various spring flowers including irises, clivias and freesias.

“It’s just to brighten up the foyer,” says Phylis. “We put

it together last night.” Among those inside the hall selling their wares were Kathy and Peter Keddle. Kathy who is a trained plant propagator has spent most of her life in the nursery trade. She likes to specialise in the more unusual things you wouldn’t find in a garden centre and has built up a collection to match. “A lot of my favourite bulbs come from South Africa,” she says.

Seven years ago they made the shift from Hamilton. “My parents were born and bred in Patea. The climate’s better here and the soil is a lot better for gardening.” Shortly after the show opened she had already sold all her chrysanthemums and her more unusual bulbs were selling well.

Peter was there selling cacti, something he has always had a lifelong interest in.

“Years ago, when I was still at school, I had a big collection in our sunroom when we lived at Napier,” he says. “It began when I got a packet of seeds from someone.”

He says a lot of cacti are cross bred which produce an interesting range of colours. Paul Lander says this year the show has benefited from funding from the Toi Foundation.

“I’m really happy with the show. It’s a credit to all the helpers and the people who have exhibited. This is an amazing facility, amazing place and amazing people.”



Peter and Kathy Keddle.

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# BFC-103 pulls in online crowd from near and far

Bobbie Katene has carried on his winning way after defeating Lenuasi Tueli at the BFC-103 Barbwire Fight Club night in Stratford.

Bobbie's cruiserweight fight was the main card at the event which was held upstairs at the Stratford TET Event Centre on September 7. That morning it was announced that the Fight Night was a sellout. A boxing ring had been set up and a crowd of around 300 were there to watch the six fights. With fighters from Opunake-based Barbwire Boxing and Fitness and Hawera-based Safari Boxing both well represented, their supporters were out in force. Also watching the fights was an online audience, who by registering on the website could vote on who they thought had won the fights. James (Batman) Langton of Barbwire Boxing which organised the event said there was a peak of 1500 online views. Viewers tuned in from as far afield as Australia, the United States, South Africa, Vietnam and Germany.

Katene who boxes out of Barbwire Boxing went into the fight having won four of his last five fights. Tueli, representing Ronin, had made his name as a kick boxer and had his boxing record was one win from one fight.

Katene dominated the first two counts with referee Blair Reid beginning the count on his opponent more than once.

"In the second round Katene knocked his opponent to the floor and the referee got as far as eight in the count.

In the third round things evened up a bit with Tueli



Lenuasi Tueli (left) eyes up Bobbie Katene.

having Katene against the ropes at one point.

In the end though, Katene was the winner, taking both the online vote and a unanimous decision from the judges.

Bobbie said it had been "a mean fight" and he had stuck to his game plan.

"I knew he was going to put up a fight. He got a good knee-down in the second round, but he had a lot of stamina and could take a hit."

The much anticipated rematch between Leilani Leatherby and Soifuaseese Ailapeta did not go ahead because of injury. In their previous fight in Auckland Leatherby had won by a unanimous decision.

There were emotional scenes following the heavyweight bout between Anton Vaoga of Safari Boxing and Charles Rudd, co-founder of The Stable Boxing and Fitness in Horowhenua-

Kapiti which was elevated to the main undercard. The online vote gave Vaoga a 52%-48% edge before it was announced that the judges had awarded the fight to Rudd by a unanimous decision.

There were cheers as Rudd performed a haka inside the ring. Trent Kiri who was MC for the night noted that Rudd had gone into the ring after having fought the previous night. Rudd paid tribute to James Langton and Barbwire Boxing.

"They are bringing the game here," he said. "They are always bringing the game here to Taranaki. I fought last night, but I had to come here back to Taranaki."

Vaoga paid tribute to his opponent.

"I can't say a bad word about Charlie. What he's done for men, for the community and for the people."

Referee Blair Reid stopped the opening fight between Barbwire Boxing's O.G. Robinson and Safari's Lennox Benjamin in the

third round, with the fight being awarded to Benjamin.

Online voters later chose the fight that came next as the fight of the night, with Charlie Ainsworth of Safari taking on Ngatariki Ropitini of Taniwha Maori.

"Wow what a fight ladies and gentlemen," enthused Trent Kiri. Online voters favoured Ainsworth while the judges opted for Ropitini by a split decision.

The light heavyweight matchup between Barbwire's Hamish Row and Safari's Jonathan Gous featured two contenders having their debut fights. From the start of the first round both fighters came out swinging.

"What a dogfight. There's some tough contenders here tonight," said Trent Kiri.

Gous got the online vote 60-40% and a win from the judges due to the referee stopping the fight in the third round.

"The one match where the judges had no input was the featherweight exhibition

fight which saw Otto Katene take on fellow Barbwire boxer Paw Maming, with Maming taking the online vote and the win.

"From all the fights we've had over the years I felt that these were some of the best fights I've seen on a show," says James Langton. "We're now seeing the benefits of having repeat fighters showcasing their boxing skills."

He says he was pleased with the way the online voting went, although there are still some areas of improvement needed.

"Generally the public do vote for who they think genuinely won," he said.

He was pleased with Katene's performance.

"There was a lot of pressure on Bobbie to be the main show. He showed a lot of maturity beyond his years, and he showed very well against an experienced fighter who came up from Wellington to win by a unanimous decision."

He acknowledged Tueli's toughness. "He picked himself off the canvas twice, so you have to take your hat off to him."

He says he will be approaching the fighters who won their events at BFC-102 (held in Opunake earlier this year) and BFC-103 to fight at BFC-104, the final event to be held on December 13 at a venue yet to be determined.



Paw Maming declared the winner over Otto Katene.

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# The true measure of our society

Last week, I attended a workshop with members of our disability community—a meeting that should never have been necessary. These dedicated organisations, individuals, and whānau, who would much rather be caring for their loved ones, had felt compelled to march up New Plymouth’s main street just days earlier. Their message was crystal clear: protesting wasn’t their preferred choice, but the government’s cuts to disability support had left them with no choice. As I listened to their stories, I could feel the weight of their frustration and anger. All of this unfolded against the backdrop of our celebrations for the Kiwi Para athletes showcasing their incredible talents at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Yet, even as we



GLEN BENNETT MP

cheered these remarkable achievements, a stark reality loomed large for people living with disabilities here in New Zealand. The National Government’s recent decisions have dealt a series of devastating blows to our disability community. The gutting of Whaikaha, the Ministry of Disabled People, is perhaps the most symbolic of these short-sighted moves. By dramatically

reducing its functions and shifting responsibility for disability support services to the Ministry of Social Development, the government has effectively silenced the very voices that should be at the heart of decision-making. The pausing of the Enabling Good Lives programme has taken away the autonomy and choice that disabled people fought so hard to gain. Tightened restrictions on residential care homes have left many without suitable living options. They

limited flexible funding, severely restricting the types of services and equipment disabled people could access and significantly reduced carer support. They removed disability support funding for programmes during school hours, cutting programmes that are often tailored to the specific needs of the child and offered only during the day. This is something I’m hearing loud and clear from our Taranaki disability community. We must remember that the

true measure of our society lies in how we treat our most vulnerable members. By this standard, the current government is failing spectacularly. The progress made under the previous Labour government towards a more inclusive and supportive society is being rapidly undone. As we applaud our Paralympic heroes, let’s channel that same spirit of determination into fighting for the rights and dignity of all disabled New Zealanders. They deserve more than just

our cheers – they deserve our unwavering support and a government that values their contributions and needs. It’s time to hold this administration accountable and demand a return to policies that truly enable good lives for all.

*Glen Bennett  
Labour List MP based in  
Taranaki  
Spokesperson for Economic  
Development & Associate  
Energy*

# The untapped resources we all have



BARBARA KURIGER MP  
TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

The New Zealand farming family justifiably claims to be among the most technologically advanced in the world. Our farmers and those who support them excel at just about everything we do, whether it is soil sciences (the subject of my last column), stock management, environmental protection or the myriad of other matters that make up modern farming. Our agricultural universities are world-renowned for turning out world-class graduates and cutting-edge research. We have much to be proud of.

So, it is with some surprise and not a little concern that I detect a despondency among some farmers because they believe they are not being supported or resourced to a level they would like, or that farming is not rebounding from years of government neglect as quickly as they want. Regarding the “neglect” aspect, all I can and will say is something like that takes time to fix, but at least we now have a government that is—well—fixated on fixing it—a government of farmers for farmers. Concerning support and resourcing, there is a cause for hope there. There is a lot of work being done on farming by our universities, researchers and scientists to improve farming practices. More than just hope, there is a wealth of technology, advice, and financial and other support readily available right now for farmers. It’s there, waiting to be utilised. Most of us can access stock

and station agents—they are good and a given. But there is other information out there—freely given. Our big agricultural federations are excellent sources. Look at the Dairy NZ, Beef+Lamb, Lincoln University, and Horticulture New Zealand websites. There is a wealth of resources and research (sometimes called knowledge hubs) on them. I am frankly astounded at

what I found on them. The information they provide may not exactly be the most riveting bedtime read—at least to my mind. But it is, to my mind, untapped and under-used. Have a look next time you are online.

*Barbara Kuriger  
MP for Taranaki-King  
Country.*



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# Students enjoy Japanese experience

The Opunake students got to experience Japan's rich culture and heritage as well as its impressive modernity. Coming from a community of under 2000 people, landing in Tokyo was quite an experience for the students, but they were buzzing with excitement, eyes wide and eager to see everything. Our epic 12-day journey from our wee kura on the coast to awe inspiring Japan had begun.

We started the trip with a rip-roaring 1st XV game at Tokyo High School. Even though they were jetlagged and melting in the 30 plus degrees heat, they still put on a valiant effort. We had several other sporting events with a winning game of rugby at Toyota Sports Centre against Eitoku High School, along with two basketball games against Hieizan High School.

To inspire our young athletes, we took them to see the Māori All Blacks and the Tall Ferns in action. The students' former coach, Eva Langton, was playing for the Tall Ferns, so the mana and pride they experienced was exaggerated due to this real-life connection. Our ākonga (students) showed their appreciation for the Tall Ferns with a haka that rose the roof on the Ariake Arena.

Without a shadow of a doubt, the biggest highlight of the tour was sharing cultures with the schools we visited and their incredibly hospitable and high energy students.

One of the more memorable experiences for the students was a cultural exchange with Toyota Technical High School.

We played games, performed karakia, waiata and haka, taught the Japanese students poi and shared some of our kupu (words).

In return, the Toyota Technical High School students did a presentation about their school in English



"How they honoured us with kai, koha and kindness was not missed by any of the Opunake students."

and gifted our students personalised name badges they had made themselves, which was such a special touch.

delicious Japanese cuisine, sumo challenges, arm wrestles, dodgeball, tug of war and hundreds of group selfies built a foundation

students. Not to say that the theme parks, TeamLab, temples, Tokyo Sky Tree Tower, Spa land and shopping up



"Each and every one of them was an ambassador for not only our kura and town, but Aotearoa."

Our students were dumbstruck by the resources available on the campus. The fusion of traditional culture and modern skills being taught also really impressed them.

for friendships across the Pacific. The amount of effort our exchange schools put into our visit and how they honoured us with kai, koha and kindness was not missed by any of the Opunake

a storm wasn't exciting and eye-opening, too.

The TeamLab experience highlighted how Japan is a frontrunner in global technologies, with four huge immersive artworks allowing students to wander through beautiful digital representations of nature. While they were all really impressed, it was noted by several students that representing the natural world with technology would never replace the beauty of the real thing.

I am so hugely proud of all of our tamariki. They held themselves with mana and dignity, honoured the customs and spiritual places they encountered, were humble in their interactions, but also played their sports with enthusiasm, good grace,

huge energy and humour.

Each and every one of them was an ambassador for not only our kura and town, but Aotearoa.

This trip will live on in the memories of all. It has opened the eyes of many of our tamariki to the opportunities out there for young people who have dreams, values, ambitious attitudes, and are willing to grow beyond the bounds of Aotearoa and develop into good citizens of the world. To all who helped realise this life changing tour, ka mihi matou ki a koe, we thank you all.

Andrea Hooper-Carr  
Principal  
Opunake High School.

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# A shop for All Sorts

Murray and Bernadette Forsdyke were tired of tripping between Kapiti Coast and their Opunake holiday home so they decided to make the shift to Opunake permanent. That was last year. Two weeks ago they opened Licorice, the latest addition to the town's shopping scene.

"We set it up as a shop to complement other businesses in Opunake so that the local community and visitors don't have to travel out of town for anything they need," says Bernadette. "No fancy website, just old-fashioned customer service. One of our main goals is retail with respect. If you have a budget of \$10 or a budget of \$510 you will receive the same level of customer service."

The name Licorice is emblazoned above the door. Above it are the words "Purveyors of All Sorts."

Bernadette says she is a "self-confessed sugar baby."

"I had in mind the colour of licorice. I wanted to create a dark vibe but have a bit of fun," she says.

While they do sell licorice items, including that traditional favourite the licorice strap, they sell other things as well,



Bernadette Forsdyke has recently opened Licorice on Tasman Street Opunake.

like homeware, gifts, baby goods, ladies' clothing, personal care and skin care products to name but a few. In the short time they have been open, their licorice stocks have actually run out and had to be replenished twice.

Bernadette likes to promote

local products including pottery from Inglewood or baby goods from Hawera. She also has some of the bigger brands, including some items which have not been previously available in Opunake.

She points to a range of greeting cards put out by

their daughter in Kapiti which combine animal illustrations and te reo.

A recent visit to the Auckland Gift Fair means

punters will have a lot more to look forward to in the weeks and months ahead.

Bernadette says she has been involved in sales all her life, but this is the first time she has had her own business.

"We came to Opunake by chance," she says. "Murray came to deliver a motorcycle

were coming up here every couple of weeks and the trip back to the Kapiti Coast was getting harder and harder because we loved it so much. We decided to make it our permanent home last year, and it was all because of the community."

She says they saw opening the shop as a way of giving



Hats anyone?

and he was really taken by the whole area. We had been looking for a little holiday home and Murray put in an offer without telling me. We

back to the community. She and Murray refurbished the shop together, rescuing, recycling and reusing what they could from

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around the area, including work benches, cable reels and shelving. Murray is involved in other things but occasionally steps in to give Bernadette a break.

Customers have told them about some of the uses their shop had been put to in former times. They have had members of the family that ran a fruit and vegetable shop here drop by. Others remember coming here when it was a dance studio or a video store. It appears that originally it was a bakery, Bernadette says.

She is looking forward to more visitors coming into town as the year moves on.

"I would like to think there will be lots of people over Christmas and I'm looking forward to meeting these people. With the quality of local retailers we have, people shouldn't have to leave Opunake for anything."

# Can I swim here? report card released

Lakes and beaches generally have the best water quality for swimming in Taranaki, a new report has confirmed.

Taranaki Regional Council has released its report for the "Can I Swim Here?" monitoring programme for the 2023/24 season.

From November to March each year the Council tests water quality at least weekly at 41 popular swimming spots, with the results available online.

The annual report highlights that beaches were usually safe to swim while the region's lakes and rivers were more prone to pollution. The results were similar to the previous year.

Council Director - Environment Quality, Abby Matthews, says that while water quality is generally good in Taranaki lakes, some do occasionally experience cyanobacteria blooms, also known as blue-green algae or algal blooms.

"While bacteria levels are generally low, some of our lakes experience potentially harmful algal blooms, which can make people and dogs sick if they come into contact with or ingest the algae. It's important lake users stay alert to this risk."



Taranaki Regional Council has released its report for the "Can I Swim Here?" monitoring programme for the 2023/24 season.

Water quality was generally good at our beaches, with 83% of water samples safe for swimming.

Rivers continued to experience challenges affecting water quality, with 31% of samples indicating water was safe to swim at the time of sampling, 27% indicating levels of E. coli were slightly elevated and

caution should be taken, and the remaining 42% unsuitable for swimming.

Ms Matthews says that rivers are susceptible to pollution, particularly after heavy rain.

"The main sources of contamination in rivers come from animals, leaky septic tanks, urban stormwater and at some sites

birds are also a contributing factor. Basically, when it rains, faecal matter washes into rivers increasing the health risk for anyone coming into contact with that water.

"Our message to swimmers and recreational water users is to stay out of the water for three days after heavy or prolonged rain. This summer

you'll see the return of our awareness campaign that aims to help people make informed decisions before they dive in."

Ms Matthews says the Council and community have been working hard to reduce contamination through measures such as riparian planting and fencing and improving effluent

management and other farm practices.

Following a busy period of community consultation, the Council is drafting a proposed Land and Freshwater Plan which will provide the framework for measures to reduce pollution and improve the health of rivers and lakes in the region.

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# More Kiwis suffer from respiratory disease than previously thought

The number of New Zealanders suffering from respiratory disease is far worse than previously thought, with around 1 million Kiwis affected, a new report shows.

The Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ has released the 2023 Impact of Respiratory Disease in New Zealand report which reveals one in five Kiwis are affected by a respiratory illness. The previous report, released in 2021, found that figure was 1 in 7 (or 700,000).

Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ chief executive Letitia Harding says the new findings show just how many families are impacted by chronic and

serious lung conditions. "These numbers are not just statistics - they represent our whānau and our tamariki, who are struggling to breathe every single day."

"These numbers also tell a story of a child missing school or a parent waking up in the middle of the night in fear, having to rush their child to the hospital."

This new data fuels the Foundation's mission to advocate and educate for better respiratory health for all, Ms Harding says.

Foundation Medical Director Professor Bob Hancox says it is clear that respiratory disease continues to cause a great deal of suffering in Aotearoa.

It is the third leading cause

of death in New Zealand, accounts for 1 in 11 hospital stays, and costs the country \$8.4 billion per year.

However, despite these grim statistics, New Zealand has made some progress, Professor Hancox says.

Hospitalisations from asthma and COPD have already exceeded the Foundation's target of a 25% reduction by 2025, he says.

"This likely reflects the improvements in prevention and care of these conditions that the Foundation has been advocating for years."

"However, we must acknowledge that far too many people still suffer unnecessarily from conditions that could be prevented or treated more effectively."

Report lead author Dr Lucy Telfar-Barnard, a University of Otago Wellington senior researcher at the Department of Public Health and member of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, says access to new data meant that we now know the true scope of respiratory disease in New Zealand.

However, she points out that the data also shows the positive impact Covid restrictions had in reducing respiratory disease rates and hospitalisations for our most at-risk populations.

"While we're not suggesting a return to those

extreme measures, there are practical steps we can take like staying home when sick, keeping our flu vaccinations up to date, and ensuring good ventilation in our homes,

schools, and workplaces." The Foundation produces the national guidelines for asthma and COPD. These provide health professionals with evidence-based best

practice recommendations for the diagnosis, assessment, and management of patients with these respiratory conditions.



New Zealanders suffering from respiratory disease is far worse than we thought.

## Gardening with Palmers Gardening Centre



Lavender attractive to bees and to humans

Lavender is looking gorgeous here at Palmers and attracts bees which we like very much. Lavender is ideal in containers, for a flower bed, or even as a hedge. There are three groups of lavender – stoechas (Mediterranean), angustifolia (English), dentata, pinnata, pedunculata (French). Lavender stoechas Major and Bee Brilliant are Palmers best sellers with an abundance of rich dark purple flowers putting on a show from early spring through summer with strong stems and brilliant flower heads. Lavender stoechas is better suited to Taranaki's humidity.

sunlight and well-drained soil. Lavender will not survive being waterlogged. To keep bushy, prune regularly by removing spent flower spikes. Only trim by a third and not into the wood or this will kill your plant. Feed with slow-release fertiliser three or four times a year. Lavender Munstead and Lavender Lady are

varieties of English lavender, available at Palmers as small plants in punnets. These are good for edging. Lavender Munstead looks especially lovely planted beside a gravel path. At Palmers, Lavender dentata is part of our herb range as many people choose this variety for medicinal or therapeutic purposes.



Plant lavender in full sunlight and well-drained soil. Grow lavender this summer.

## Choose the right healthcare for you and your whānau



### Care at home

Info.health.nz  
Advice and information on general wellness, colds, flu and Covid, minor injuries and skin issues.



### Healthline

0800 611 116  
Free health advice and information 24/7 from trained nurses and other health professionals.



### Pharmacy

Advice and treatment  
Medicines and vaccinations, help to treat minor illnesses, over-the-counter treatment.



### GP or Doctor

Appointments with a doctor for general wellness, high fevers and rashes, injuries, mid to long term healthcare and all vaccinations.



### Accident urgent medical centre

Out of hours or urgent care if your GP isn't available, for urgent injuries or if you're feeling very unwell.



### Emergency department

Call 111 if it's a life threatening emergency  
Go immediately if you have chest pain, difficulty breathing, severe bleeding or severe pain.

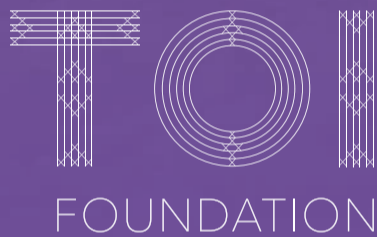


## Palmers

NEW PLYMOUTH  
Growing Great Gardens  
IN TARANAKI

●●●●●●●●●●  
OPEN 7 DAYS, 9 - 5

PALMERS NEW PLYMOUTH,  
680 DEVON ROAD, WAIWHAKAIHO  
PH: 06 758 7455



TE AHO  
POUTIAKI

**Do have an idea for a project that could make a real difference in Pātea, Manaia or Ōpunake?**

**We want to hear from you!**

**Toi Foundation are always exploring innovative ways of granting.**

**Together with an amazing group of young people from South Taranaki, Te Aho Poutiaki has been formed to fund some community-focused projects in Pātea, Manaia and Ōpunake.**

**We are contributing \$50,000 to each township towards people and places.**

**HOW TO APPLY**

**Here's what you need to do:**

Tell us about your awesome project or idea by filling out the form in the booklet and dropping it off, email us your project outline or fill out the easy survey online. We will then get in touch with you.

Applications will close on the 22nd of September 2024.

**You can write your application, provide a video or audio file, whatever is easiest for you.**



or



or



Complete the section in the booklet

Email us a text video or audio file

Scan this QR code and apply online

**Let's work together to contribute to a more vibrant Pātea/Manaia/Ōpunake community for generations to come!**

**Mauri ora!**

**Contact Us**

If you have any questions about this kaupapa, you can contact us at:

**E. teahopoutiaki@toifoundation.org.nz or info@toifoundation.org.nz P. 0800 769 9471**

# Explosives all about managing risk

Len Pentelow from Oaonui has been busy blasting. A huge rock on a farm in Puniho Road, Oaonui protruding above the surface in a paddock had proved quite unmovable. Len who is a licensed shot fire qualified to deal with explosives, says the rock was sitting in sandstone and they were unable to dig it out or move it. "The only solution was to blow it up." The complicated process involved firstly exposing the rock. Next holes are drilled in the rock and explosive inserted before a charge is fired which detonates the explosive. Len who previously

farmed in Kina Road Oaonui said there were a lot of rocks in the Puniho-Okato region from the eruption of Mt Taranaki, some so large the only way to deal with them is to blast them into smaller manageable pieces. He does a number of controlled explosions a year. It's all about managing risk he says. Once you could buy explosives and detonators over the counter. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks however things tightened up and stringent regulations were introduced which meant you had to be qualified to use explosives.

Len says he decided to attend a course at Reefton Polytechnic, the only place in New Zealand at the time awarding qualifications in explosives, and he recalls the experience which had its amusing moments as well as some salutary lessons. There were around 30 on the course and four different instructors, he said. "Just before we got underway with the course we were told that anyone wearing fluorescent clothing was to return to their car and take it off as it had the potential for creating static electricity which can set off detonations." It was an ominous start said Len recalling all these men from councils and the Department of Conservation assigned to do the course decked out in this flash gear, nervously returning to their vehicles to take it off.

"I had just a pair of blue overalls and gumboots," says Len who was the only one from a farming background there. The first part of the day was about rules and regulations. The next day they went to a quarry where they got to set up explosives and set up charges. Among the instructors was an observer from Work Safe who had suffered explosive injuries which had put him in a wheelchair. He was in the background throughout watching their competency in handling explosives. At the end of the day he singled out people who he thought were not competent in handling explosives safely. Some were so nervous, couldn't stop shaking, said Len laughing at the memory. "By their actions and reactions he could ascertain they weren't competent." They failed the practical course. It was an interesting experience and Len who qualified with flying colours has been safely using explosives around farms in Taranaki ever since. He has a fund of funny stories of his experiences with explosives. He recalls once having to explode a huge rock which was in a paddock near the junction of Puniho Road and the Surf Highway. There was a risk that the fragments of rock could end up on the highway so Len, having set things up, decided that as an extra precaution the road should be closed. He dialled 111 and spoke to someone in Wellington who thought he was about to immediately, without further warning, set off the explosion. A local female cop who received the 'urgent' message while driving soon arrived. She knew nothing to do with explosives and was also clearly terrified that they were about to be detonated. "I was in the paddock and she was on the other side of the road as meanwhile a few other curious onlookers had arrived. She put on the siren," said Len who then, proceeded to detonate the explosion.



Alex drilling the last hole into the rock, not into his father's head (who doesn't look too happy about it)! Len is at right.

It was all over in a second and he recalled with amusement the relieved cop with one arm on the post impressively clearing the fence to join him.

## DEATH BY GELIGNITE – OAONU RESIDENT KILLED

"A sad accident occurred at Oaonui resulting in the instantaneous death of a well-known resident. It appears that he was preparing to go fishing and it is said that he was inserting a cap into some gelignite for the purpose of obtaining herrings as bait, when an explosion took place and he received the full force of the discharge in his body, which was terribly mangled, while his right arm was blown off. He left a widow and three children, the youngest child being only a few days old."

— Taken from a newspaper report.

Properly executed by a licensed shot fire as Len is, it's a safe process although in Oaonui's centenary school booklet there was a newspaper report of someone who had miscalculated the danger and paid the price.

**Agricultural Explosives**  
Licensed HSNO Accreditation  
**Rock Blasting**  
and Agricultural Land Work

**Len Pentelow - Ph: 06 763 8489**



The large rock which has been exposed by digging a trench around it.



The moment of the blast.



The end result, the rock blown into manageable pieces which were subsequently buried.

**JSL**  
Juffermans Surveyors Ltd

**Allen Juffermans**  
Surveyor  
Juffermans Surveyors Ltd

Prospero Place  
STRATFORD  
06 765 4122

South Taranaki offices are at:

Te W'anake The Foundry,  
High Street, HAWERA  
06 278 4135

32 Ridgeway Street, WHANGANUI  
06 345 0333

www.jsl.nz | info@jsl.nz

# Old prefab transformed

Opunake High School students farewelled the old prefab which they had transformed into a comfortable two-bedroom home on Thursday morning.

It's been quite a project for the students who initially advertised for a client interested in having the finished project. The client, a couple have had input into the design, cladding and floor plan as the project has progressed paying for the alterations as the project progressed.

It was basically an empty classroom said Michael Griggs, Head of Trades at Opunake High School who has overseen the project with assistance from Phil Hooper, teacher tutor at Opunake High School, Paul Brooks - a retired builder and Kenneth Short an ex-builder now farming. "Everything's brand new," said Michael adding the former unused prefab that used to be at the back of the High School Hall now has two bedrooms and two bathrooms, one an ensuite. The "full renovation" had included recladding and adding new windows. It's also insulated to the new

standards including both wall, ceiling and under floor insulation. A heating system will be installed when the building is on site.

They began the project in March last year with anything from 10 to 15 students working on it two days a week.

Year 12 student Caleb Pattison who is planning to do a building apprenticeship said the project had had its "ups and downs" and said he had learnt a lot. "It'll be a fantastic head start to my building apprenticeship that I'm starting soon," he said. The most challenging part of the job was the cladding he commented adding "It just sucked working in the cold."

The brand new looking comfortable home has been transported to Radnor Road near Midhurst where it will be piled and the internal work will be completed.

It's the fourth build the programme has completed and they are currently working on two smaller projects (cabins).

The Head of Trades added it had been a pleasure to work with these students and see the tremendous growth they go through in their knowledge and skill set



From left Kayden Price, Michael Griggs, Caleb Pattison and Bailey Feek standing proudly in front of the new home about to be transported from Opunake to Midhurst.

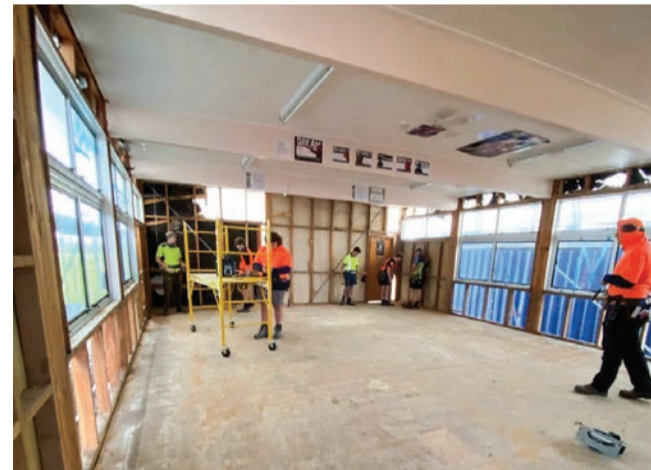
within the construction trade. Personal growth, attitude, teamwork, self-management and resilience were all qualities the project fostered, said Michael. "We try to

provide these students with as realistic a taste of what is expected out on the job site," he continued adding the aim is to assist them on their journey to becoming "work ready" before they apply for jobs.

The programme along with other areas of learning within the school such as Workshop and Gateway have assisted many students in gaining jobs and apprenticeships not only in construction but in the engineering, mechanical and electrical industries to name some, he said.

"We would like to thank the South Taranaki District Council's Mayoral Task Force for Jobs (MTFJ) for their support over the last couple of years and also Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration, Taranaki Building Limited and Elkay Roofing Ltd."

Michael said if someone is interested in building with the school they should make contact through the school office.



The old prefab.



From left Ryan Buhler, Phil Hooper, Connor Forsyth, and Caleb Pattison. looking at plans of the intended building work.

**Elkay Roofing LIMITED**

Liam Kupe  
 Ph: 0272106939  
 Email: elkayroofingltd@gmail.com  
 197 Parihaka Road, Rd35, Pungarehu

**carley**  
 Plumbing & Gas Limited  
 027 354 7883  
 tom@carleyplumbing.co.nz  
 PLUMBING GASFITTING DRAINLAYING HEATING

**T B L**

**TARANAKI BUILDING LTD**

Local Builder  
 Shaun Stanley | Ph 0278 186 385

# From near-death experience to quest for awareness

An airborne lung infection left 6-year-old Lara Mead fighting for her life, with her mum being told to prepare for the worst.

Mead, now 28 years old, remembers being rushed to hospital one night after she was misdiagnosed as having croup.

“What I actually had was pneumonia, and I shouldn’t have been sent home.”

“My mum rushed me back to hospital as I started turning blue.”

Mead’s family lived in Hawera, so she was flown to Starship Hospital in Auckland and her mum was told that she was unlikely to survive, she says.

“I was pretty much on my deathbed.”

“I spent six weeks in Starship - five of those weeks on life-support. I needed dialysis.”

“I had viral pneumonia, septicaemia and I had a superbug.”

When she recovered, she was told she had bronchiectasis as a result of the damage to her lungs caused by pneumonia.

Bronchiectasis is a chronic condition where the airways are permanently damaged, scarred and often filled with mucus.

It is estimated that over 8,000 New Zealanders live with severe bronchiectasis, and approximately 132 people die from this condition



Lara Mead raising awareness and support others living with respiratory conditions.

annually.

Mead’s recovery was long. “I had a year off school recovering from what happened and I had to learn to walk again due to being bedridden for so long,” she says.

There is no cure for bronchiectasis - it’s a lifelong condition - so Mead is making it her mission to raise awareness and support others living with respiratory conditions.

“Living with bronchiectasis is tough, but what’s even harder is the lack of awareness about the condition,” Mead says.

To do this, Mead has joined the Laps for Lungs campaign for Breathe Better September.

“I want to do this to show people they are not alone.”

Asthma and Respiratory Foundation Chief Executive Ms Letitia Harding says Lara’s courage and determination is inspiring.

“Her story highlights the critical need for greater awareness and understanding of bronchiectasis and is a stark reminder of the challenges faced by those with lesser-known respiratory conditions.”

“Through campaigns like Laps for Lungs, we hope to bring more attention to these conditions and ensure people get the support they need.”

## New improved timetable

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**  
for NPBHS, NPGHS,  
FDMC & SHGC boarders

# Southlink

Coastal bus service

## ŌPUNAKE - NEW PLYMOUTH

Effective 1 May 2024

Ōpunake to New Plymouth (Mon-Fri)		AM	PM
Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	6.55	1.30
Rahotu	Plunket Rooms	7.08	1.43
Pungarehu	Opposite Town Hall	7.13	1.48
Okato	Carthew St. (opp. Sinclair's)	7.25	2.00
Oākura	Oākura Hall	7.35	2.10
New Plymouth	Spotswood College*	7.50	2.25
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	7.57	2.32
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	8.00	2.35

New Plymouth to Ōpunake		AM	PM
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	11.30	5.05
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	11.33	5.08
New Plymouth	Spotswood College*	11.40	5.18
Oākura	Oākura Hall	11.50	5.20
Okato	Sinclair Electrical, Carthew St.	12.00	5.30
Pungarehu	Town Hall	12.10	5.40
Rahotu	Four Square	12.15	5.45
Ōpunake	Dreamtime	12.28	5.58
Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	12.30	6.00

Friday only		PM
New Plymouth	FDMC	4.25
New Plymouth	NPGHS	4.40
New Plymouth	SHGC	4.45
New Plymouth	NPBHS	4.55
New Plymouth	Egmont Street	5.05
New Plymouth	Liardet Street	5.08
New Plymouth	Spotswood College (pick-up only)	5.18
Oākura	Oākura Hall	5.20
Okato	Sinclair Electrical, Carthew St.	5.30
Pungarehu	Town Hall	5.40
Rahotu	Four Square	5.45
Ōpunake	Dreamtime	5.58
Ōpunake	Bus stop, Napier St	6.00

\*Spotswood College - AM drop off only & PM pick-up only

**KEY**

- Bus stops
- Opunake to NP return
- i-Site Puke Ariki

Southlink Coastal service is operated by Pickering Motors Ltd with support from Taranaki Regional Council

**BUS BETTER WITH Bee**

SCAN TO VIEW FARES INFORMATION





# Dear diary, I'm thriving in my new home, just like the strawberries

## Love life on your terms.

At **Summerset Pohutukawa Place** there are fewer chores and more choice. So if you're done with gardening, you can hang up your gloves. But if you're a big fan of getting amongst the flowerbeds, there's a community of green-thumbs just waiting to meet you.

Two-bedroom homes are available with flexible pricing from just \$722,400.\* Plus, for a limited time, you could also treat yourself with \$10,000 cash back.†

## Love the life you choose.

### Show Homes Open Book a private appointment

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



**Summerset**  
RETIREMENT VILLAGES

\*Flexible pricing arrangements are subject to a bespoke deferred management fee. Price and stock levels correct as at 22 August 2024, only Villa 113 left at this price.

†For terms, conditions, exclusions visit [summerset.co.nz/pohutukawa-place-offer](https://summerset.co.nz/pohutukawa-place-offer)

All Summerset homes are sold under a licence to occupy and are subject to availability. Images are indicative.



# New kerbside collection service starting 1 October

## ...are you sorted?



# OLD BIN TAKE BACK

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Do you want to keep any/all of your old bins?**

**YES**

Bring them in from the kerbside after your final collection at the end of September. They can no longer be used for the new rubbish and recycling collection.

**NO**

**Make sure your old bins are empty**

If there is any rubbish in them, they will not be picked up.

**YES**

**Do you live in Eltham?**

**NO**

**On your first red week's collection day, when you bring your new bins in from the kerbside, put your old bins out**

They will be collected over the next couple of days, but need to be out overnight as the contractors start early.

If you missed the first round, a second sweep will be done on your next red week. Your old bins need to be out the night of your normal collection for next work day removal.

**YES**

**Put your old bins on the kerbside at night on Monday 30 September**

for removal on Tuesday 1 October. Please leave them out until they are removed.

A second sweep will be done on your next red week. Put your old bins on the kerbside the night of your normal collection for next work day removal.

**When's my first red week?**

## What else you need to know

The old bins will be picked up the next weekday after your collection day.

(e.g. my normal collection day is a Tuesday, my old bins need to be out on the kerbside on Tuesday night ready for removal on Wednesday (or the Sunday night if your collection is on a Friday).

Please keep your bins out on the kerbside. While the intention is for the bins to be picked up the day after your normal collection, it may take two to three days to collect with the bigger runs.

There will be two sweeps during the month of October.

If you don't put your bins out, you are responsible for disposing of the bins.



**Check your food scraps bin**

Make sure you've found the Guide and calendar in your food scraps bin.

**Ōpunakē Transfer Station Hours changing from 1 October**

From 1 October, the Ōpunakē Transfer Station opening hours are changing to

**9am - 12noon  
Wednesdays,  
Saturdays & Sundays**



Have you downloaded the **Antenno app**? We'll be sending weekly reminders straight to your cellphone!

[www.southtaranaki.com/antenno](http://www.southtaranaki.com/antenno)



**When's red week?**

You can either check your calendar, or you can go online to find out your zone, your collection day and what bins are next to go onto the kerbside

[www.southtaranaki.com/collectionday](http://www.southtaranaki.com/collectionday)

# Old Bin Take Back

South Taranaki residents have an opportunity to keep their current kerbside collection bins, or to have them removed.

South Taranaki District Council Solid Waste Officer Louise Campbell says the current solid waste contractor EnviroNZ, who owns the bins, has come up with a plan for removing the old set of kerbside collection bins which will be surplus after 1 October.

“If you want to keep any or all of your bins, you’re able to do that,” says Louise. “Just know that they can no longer be used for the new rubbish and recycling collection because they don’t fit the new trucks lifting mechanism.”

For residents who would rather their bins be removed, it is as simple as getting those bins, empty, and to the kerbside at the right time.

“All you need to know

is your collection day and when your first red week is,” says Louise. “You can find your collection day on the sticker on the side of your new bins, your first red week on your collection calendar (which can be found in your food scraps bin) or all of the above information online at [www.southtaranaki.com/collectionday](http://www.southtaranaki.com/collectionday)”

“All you need to do is put your old bins out on the kerbside at the same time as

you bring your new bins in on your normal collection day on your first red week of the new system, and they will be removed the next workday or a day or two afterwards if it’s been a big run. So please leave them out until they have been removed. The bins will be collected over the two red weeks in October, so there’s another opportunity if you miss the first round,” says Louise. “The bins need to be

put out the night before as the bin removals are starting really early in the morning, earlier than the rubbish collection starts, so we’re asking residents to simply take their new bins in and put their old bins out.”

“If you live in Manaia, Kaponga or Eltham, please put your bins out the night of Monday 30 September for removal on Tuesday 1 October”.

If residents want their bins

to be removed, these need to be completely empty otherwise they won’t be picked up.

Please head online to [www.southtaranaki.com/bintakeback](http://www.southtaranaki.com/bintakeback) to see an easy-to-follow flow chart for what you need to do, or if you have any other questions please contact the Council Customer Services Team on 0800 111 323.

## What you can put into your yellow-lidded recycling bin

**Firm plastic containers with numbers 1, 2 and 5 in a triangle**

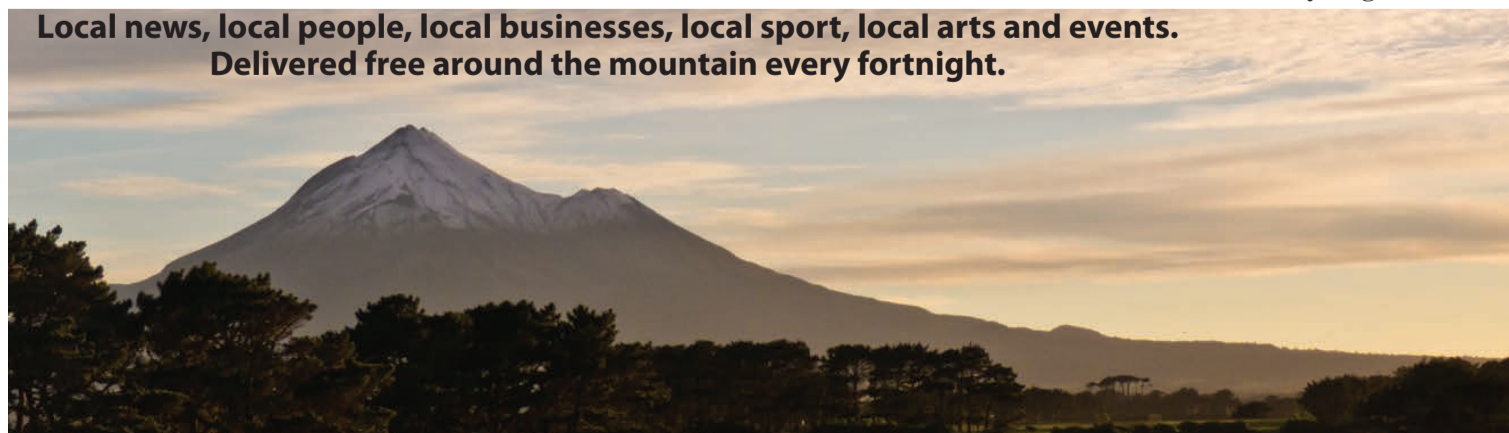
- Clear soft drink and water bottles
- Aluminium cans
- Egg cartons
- Tin cans (labels can stay on)
- Paper and cardboard

## He Kohinga Ipu Para Your kerbside collection

- Hangarua Recycling
- Ruapara Landfill
- Karaehe Glass
- Para Tipu Greenwaste



Our Local refuse and recycling collectors.



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

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accounts@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Phone 06 761 7016  
23 Napier St, Opunake

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## STOP PRESS A great use for your old bins



Cutting the bottom off the bin.



Drilling holes in the sides.



Voila. Chris with his new compost bin.

If you are wondering what to do with your old recycling rubbish bins, Chris Fuller from Opunake has come up with an innovative idea to transform the bins into functional compost bins.

He is passionate about the health of our whenua (land) and has helpfully explained how to do this.

Simply cut the bottom out of bin, a skill saw is ideal for this job. Then drill four or five 10mm holes around the middle of the bin on each of the sides.

The holes allow the bin to breathe and function properly in the process of breaking down green waste and food scraps.

And hey, hey presto you now have your very own ready to use compost bin.

This will help reduce waste going to landfill and also provide vital nutrients for your gardens.

The rule of thumb is to not put meat scraps, bones, grease, whole eggs or dairy products in your compost as this causes odours and they decompose slowly and attract rodents.

Chris has contacted the South Taranaki District Council - who don’t necessarily want the bins back though will pick them up if you don’t want them - and the Council is fully supportive of the idea.

If you need help converting your bin or need advice please feel free to contact Chris and he will be happy to help. His phone number is 027 338 7463

**What you can put into your yellow-lidded recycling bin**

✓ 1 ✓ 2 ✓ 5

Firm plastic containers with numbers 1, 2 and 5 in a triangle

✓ Clear soft drink and water bottles

✓ Aluminium cans

✓ Egg cartons

✓ Tin cans (labels can stay on)

✓ Paper and cardboard

**He Kohinga Ipu Para  
Your kerbside collection**

Hangarua Recycling

Ruapara Landfill

Karaehe Glass

Para Tipu Greenwaste



Our Local refuse and recycling collectors.

MIND MATTERS

The problems of reporting child abuse



DR. ROBERT SHAW

Blueprint". A research paper was authored by economists Sherilee Kahui and Suzanne Snively. They estimated that the cost of child abuse and intimate partner violence could be up to \$7 billion a year, with a cumulative cost each decade potentially reaching \$80 billion. The economists continued to refine their methodology and identified several sources of these costs: (1) The cost of pain, suffering, and premature mortality attributable to violence is \$3.6 billion. (2) The annual direct health costs from treating victims is \$377.3 million. (3) Costs associated with police, court, Corrections, legal services, child protection, victim support, and perpetrator programmes add up to \$836.7 million. (4) Productivity costs such as lost wages and days off work are \$954.1 million. (5) Costs to the economy from benefit payments, ACC payments, and lost tax revenue are \$582.3 million. (6) Changes in consumption patterns, such as the higher cost of living for women who live alone to escape violence, cost \$705.5 million. These costs make me question the current government's efforts to

reduce spending. The work of the Glenn Inquiry suggests how the nation can save money and reduce harm to individuals. It remains relevant today. This edition of MIND MATTERS explores some aspects of child abuse reporting and offers suggestions along the way, specifically from the perspective of a separated parent. I occasionally speak with people who are concerned about recognizing the signs of child abuse and wonder what actions they should take. Most of these individuals are separated parents worried about what might be happening in the other parent's household. This is always a challenging topic. What actions you should take when you find concerning marks on your child? Many separated parents think first of the police or immediately ask the other parent (who usually sees the enquiry as an accusation and does not respond well). In my view, the best course of action is to take the child to a medical practitioner. Doctors and nurses are experienced in assessing marks on children. They

may set your mind at rest, or record evidence and help you with the next step. Most will be mindful of "The Ministry of Health Family Violence Assessment and Intervention Guidelines" which you can see at [https://www.tewhaturora.govt.nz/assets/Our-health-system/Preventative-Health/Family-Violence/family-violence-assessment-intervention-guideline-jun16\\_0-1.pdf](https://www.tewhaturora.govt.nz/assets/Our-health-system/Preventative-Health/Family-Violence/family-violence-assessment-intervention-guideline-jun16_0-1.pdf) Sometimes children say things that can make a parent fear child abuse. If this occurs it is important that you respond properly. Do not panic, listen to the child and accept what they say. Try to write down their exact words and not what you think they might mean. Do not ask the child questions, however tempting this might be – leave the enquiries to someone who has been professionally trained and whose observations will be taken more seriously by the authorities. Take care to calmly reassure the child and tell them that they did the right thing talking to you. It is seldom a good idea to interview your children about your concerns. If they say something which you think is significant, you may easily be misled. Children sometimes say what they think adults wish to hear. They are not lying, but rather they are trying to cooperate with you by saying what appears to be required. What is worse, by asking questions you could make it more difficult for a qualified person to gain useful information from the child. I have encountered cases where a parent has interviewed the child and a few days later a grandparent makes their own enquiries of the child. It is crucial that a qualified person engages with the child as soon as possible. It

may be necessary to keep the child away from the person you suspect may be the abuser. The safety of the child must always be your primary concern, but try to remain calm and show the child that you know what to do. This can be easier said than done. If you believe your child is in immediate danger, you should contact the police or notify Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children. These agencies can assess the child's safety. Do not be afraid to report abuse. Section 15 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 states: "Any person who believes that any child or young person has been, or is likely to be, harmed (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), ill-treated, abused, neglected, or deprived may report the matter to the chief executive (of Oranga Tamariki) or a constable." Section 16 of the Act provides protection against any civil, criminal, or disciplinary proceedings as a result of making a report under section 15, as long as the report was made in good faith. One final point that concerns me is that much domestic violence is witnessed by children. Seeing or hearing violence directed at others is a form of violence for the observer. Such experiences can damage children, and this can begin as early as the third trimester of pregnancy. The fear of the mother becomes the fear of the baby. Adults sometimes bring up in counselling the violence they witnessed in their homes many decades ago.

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results of the analysis indicate that the annual cost of family violence in New Zealand is at least \$1.2 billion. This is more than the \$1.0 billion earned from our wool exports in 1993/94, nearly as much as the total amount of \$1.4 billion spent on the Unemployment Benefit and around half of the \$2.5 billion earned from forestry exports". These figures relate to about thirty years ago. They demonstrate that apart from the human tragedy that violence precipitates, there is a very significant taxpayer interest in reducing domestic violence. A decade ago, the Glenn Inquiry in 2014 commissioned a study to determine the economic cost of violence. Their final report was titled "The People's

Methane emissions up 20 per cent in 20 years

The Global Methane Budget 2024 highlights that global emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide, are rising at an accelerating rate due to human activities. The budget is produced by international research partners as part of the Global Carbon Project and covers 17 natural and human-induced sources and shows that methane has increased by 61 million metric tonnes per year.



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The move to Māori wards has encouraged more Māori to participate in the governance of our District.

# South Taranaki District Council unanimously votes to keep Māori Wards

At an extraordinary council meeting, South Taranaki District Councillors voted unanimously to retain the District's Māori Wards at the 2025 local authority election.

The Council had previously agreed to introduce Māori wards in November 2020, but a recent law change,

the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024, meant the Council was required to revisit its decision and either disestablish the Māori Wards or agree to hold a binding poll.

The new legislation

was introduced following the previous Labour Government's removal of the right to demand a poll for Māori wards if 5% of electors requested it.

South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon expressed frustration at the requirement to revisit a decision which already met the requirements of the old legislation.

"Our Council made the decision to introduce Māori wards in 2020, prior to the Labour Government removing the right to demand a poll. At the time

a demand for a poll was received, but the demand did not meet the required 5% elector threshold and was not required."

"While we acknowledge the Coalition Government's desire to restore the right to binding referenda, we feel strongly that any council that made a decision on Māori wards and fully completed the legislative process prior to the Labour Government's changes, should not have been made to go through this costly, time consuming and politically divisive process

again."

Mayor Nixon says 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."

"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."

## New research points to Covid's animal origins

New research into the origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has added to the growing evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic was sparked by the introduction of infected animals into the Huanan Seafood market in November 2019. On January 1, 2020, after the animals were removed and just hours after the market was closed, investigators from the Chinese CDC sampled floors, walls, and other surfaces at the market. A new analysis of these data has landed on a shortlist of animal species, such as raccoon dogs and civets, that could represent the virus' most likely intermediate hosts

before it then spilled over into humans. The data can't prove whether these animals may have been infected, but this research provides a clear list of the species that most plausibly could have carried the virus, and genetic information that could now be used to help trace where the potential host animals came from.





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# New CEO at Horticulture New Zealand

Kate Scott has been appointed chief executive officer of Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ).

Ms Scott has been working in agribusiness for 20 years and has significant experience in resource management, environmental policy and planning and stakeholder engagement.

She is currently executive director of environmental consultancy Landpro, chairs the New Zealand Rural Leadership Trust and is deputy chair of Thriving Southland.

Kate was a Nuffield scholar in 2018 and was a

recipient of the Rabobank Australasian Emerging Leader award last year.

Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts (Geography and Political Science) degree from Victoria University. She completed the Leading Professional Service Firms programme at Harvard Business School and the Institute of Directors Governance Development Programme.

Barry O’Neil, chair of HortNZ, says Ms Scott is a strong and effective leader, a collaborative relationship builder and a practical problem solver.

“The calibre of candidates



New CEO at Horticulture New Zealand Kate Scott.

for the CEO role was exceptional. Kate stood out for her energy and ability

to not only deliver on our strategy and priorities, but also look for opportunities

for wider collaboration.

“She is also experienced in leading organisations and

people, fostering a strong sense of team and enabling those she works with to succeed.

“I am confident Kate will navigate the sector’s complexities and be able to unpick and understand the key issues while remaining focused on delivering results that will make a difference for growers and the wider horticulture industry.”

Mr O’Neil also paid tribute to departing chief executive Nadine Tunley.

“Nadine has been amazing in the CEO role. She has always been connected, always looking for the best horticulture and organisational outcomes, and encouraging us to find a better way of working.”

“She led us through some really tough times, including the pandemic, the labour crisis as a result of the closed borders and Cyclone Gabrielle. We wish her all the best for the next stage of her career.”

Michelle Sands, HortNZ general manager strategy and policy, will stand in as interim chief executive until Kate Scott starts on 17 October.

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# Farms nearly back in black

The outlook for dairy farms this season is better than anticipated, as emphasised in the latest DairyNZ Econ Tracker update.

DairyNZ’s head of economics, Mark Storey, explains that in the previous June 2024 Econ Tracker forecast update, DairyNZ predicted a relatively challenging season ahead due to high expenses, however, conditions seem to be improving.

“In the past few weeks, we

have seen the combination of declining interest rates, and improved farmgate milk prices, which creates a more favourable outlook for New Zealand dairy farmers,” explains Mark.

“These changes are likely to provide dairy farmers with greater financial flexibility than initially projected for the 2024/25 season.”

Prior to these announcements, DairyNZ’s latest Farmer Perceptions

survey already showed most farmers feel confident in the financial sustainability of their business, with 60% feeling very confident, while only 10% feel less confident.

“Many farmers will continue to feel relief following these recent announcements on the farmgate milk price and interest rates, having experienced several seasons with tight profit margins. Although, there is still a

slight cash deficit on average for dairy farms which reflects that interest costs are still high.”

When considering these changes, DairyNZ’s latest farm financial forecast on the Econ Tracker shows the national breakeven forecast sitting at \$8.09 per kg/MS, while the forecast average payout received has increased

Continued page 23.

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# Genetics collaboration driving resilient dairy

Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) is embarking on a groundbreaking project aimed at breeding heat tolerant and disease resistant dairy cows for Sub-Saharan Africa, in collaboration with the global leader in precision breeding, Acceligen, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The initiative seeks to address food insecurity in the region by providing high-performing dairy animals to help grow sustainable dairy markets, contributing to improving human and animal welfare.

It will combine LIC's expertise in breeding efficient dairy cows for pasture-based systems, with Acceligen's cutting-edge gene editing capabilities to produce animals that can produce more milk than native species.

Speaking about the initiative, LIC Chief Executive David Chin emphasises the benefit of this global collaboration.

"This is a big one for LIC and we are proud to be involved. Collaborating with Acceligen allows us to work with the very best in the world, whilst showcasing

our advanced breeding capability to global markets.

"The initiative supports us to stay at the forefront of the latest technologies and is an opportunity to leverage international expertise with positive benefits for the dairy sector.

"As a leader in pasture-based dairy genetics and a farmer-owned co-operative, LIC supports dairy farmers to navigate their unique challenges and, in particular, provide them with the right tools to breed the most sustainable and profitable herds, now and into the future.

Gene editing technologies could help give farmers even more tools to improve their productivity and efficiency – and that's something we have to explore," says Chin.

Embryos bred from LIC's world-class pasture based genetics will be sent to the United States, where Acceligen will perform gene edits on the stem cells. The embryos will then be transferred into dams that will give birth to gene edited sires. The bull calves will be transported to Brazil for rearing. The semen will be collected from these sires and sold into Sub-Saharan African markets through a developed distributor network.

Locally, the New Zealand Government has committed

to legislative change to enable the greater use of gene technologies, ending the effective ban on gene editing by the end of 2025. Chin says LIC is actively looking at the science and viability of adopting such tools for New Zealand farmers.

"As an organisation, we continue to explore gene editing as a breeding technology to ensure the co-operative stays current with this area of science so we can understand how the sector may adopt it in the future.

"LIC is supportive of tools that can enhance the productivity of the dairy sector and we are ready to adopt new technologies to meet the demands of a

changing world."

The project is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with a budget of \$5 million USD (\$8.3 million NZD). The organisation invests heavily in agriculture development to support farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa in their efforts to sustainably raise healthy, productive animals.

"LIC is a globally connected business and this is a truly global collaboration," says Chin.

"We're excited to learn from the best, help advance science and innovation in herd improvement, and improve outcomes for farming communities."



The project combines LIC's expertise in breeding efficient dairy cows with cutting-edge gene editing.

## Farms nearly back in black

Continued from page 22.

to \$8.84 per kg/MS.

"We have seen farm working expenses increase slightly, driven by increases in key operational areas such as electricity, irrigation, wages, and repair and maintenance costs. Although the reduction in interest and increase in farmgate milk price significantly outweigh these minor increases, improving the overall financial position of most farmers" says Mark.

With a lot of attention around the interest rate changes in recent months, the September 2024 quarterly update of the Econ Tracker provides a deeper analysis into what interest rate changes and timings could mean for dairy farmers this season.

"The alternative scenarios we explore show how the timing of interest rate reductions can influence the discretionary cash position

of farmers. We see clearly that earlier rate cuts would result in greater cost savings and a stronger cash position, compared to reductions made later in the season," says Mark.

"For example, if the interest rate drops from 8.25% to 7.50% by December 2024, compared to dropping to 7.50% by March 2025, it would improve the cash position of the average farmer by \$5,675 for the current season, relative to the alternative (three months later) scenario."

This scenario analysis provides some insight into what interest rate cuts could mean for the remainder of the 2024/25 season but are not to be relied on.

"The improved liquidity from improved interest rates and expected farmgate milk prices can be used to address deferred payments from the previous season, such as repair and maintenance costs, or to pay down short-term debts, ultimately contributing to a more stable and sustainable financial outlook."

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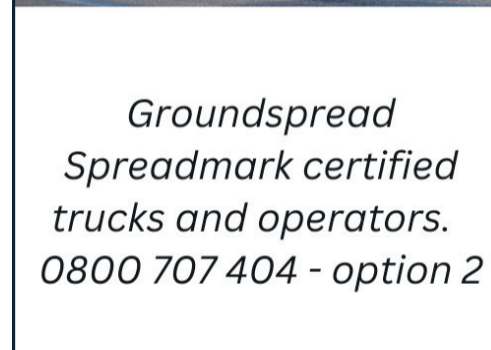
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# Rural Women call for more mental health support

Rural Women New Zealand is calling for more mental health support for rural communities, following an impassioned plea in Parliament by ACT MP Mark Cameron. “We want to offer our heartfelt support to Mark Cameron for having the courage to stand in Parliament’s debating chamber and share his whanau’s grief after

recently losing his son to suicide.” Rural Women New Zealand Board Chair Sandra Matthews says. “The more we acknowledge and talk about these issues the better, as we know our rural communities are doing it really tough. “There’s a wide range of issues at play in rural communities at the moment ranging

from communities experiencing significant job losses from the closure or scaling back of major local employers, to public sector job losses in the regions,” she says. “We also have communities grappling with the ongoing impacts and slow journey to recovery following Cyclone Gabrielle and the North Island extreme

weather events; various communities facing ongoing drought; as well as farmers affected by low market prices at the same time as rising input and living costs. “We welcome the Government continuing to rollout mental health support to primary and intermediate students in Hawke’s Bay and Tairāwhiti.

“We also applaud the recent Government announcements to increase support for drought-affected communities and increase funding for Rural Support Trusts. “Rural communities rely on volunteers and we know people are overwhelmed and at the risk of burnout from the plethora of issues they are

having to face. “With Mental Health Awareness Week just around the corner, we urge the Government to continue to invest in providing increased resources and access to rural mental health services, including counselling and medical assessments.

# Dynamic duo lift national croquet cup

Two young croquet players from Hawera have lifted a national title for their school. On September 2-3 Year 11 students Morghan Meldrum and Gus Buhler represented Francis Douglas Memorial College where they are boarders and won the School Sport NZ Golf Croquet Tournament. At stake was the Adie and Karl Haswell Cup which was last competed for in 2019 when Cashmere High School in Christchurch won it. COVID-19 and a lack of schools wanting to take part

meant the tournament had not been held since then. Eight teams from around the country took part in the doubles tournament which was held at the Epsom Remuera Croquet Club as part of Tournament Week. Two of these teams, Francis Douglas Memorial College and Stratford High School came from Taranaki. This was the first time a team from Taranaki won the title, although Te Kiri King and Isobel Tong representing Hawera High School were runners-up when the Cup

was last competed for in 2019. Morghan took up the sport a year and a half ago when he was a student at Hawera High School. Ricardo Pintor from the Park Croquet Club who is a teacher at the school had put out a call for any interested students. Morghan’s mother Brenda encouraged him to give it a go. Since then Morghan has been playing his croquet out of the Park Croquet Club. Morghan and Ricardo have won a tournament in Palmerston North and last year Morghan went to the Under-21 Golf Croquet championship in Ashburton. When the School Sport NZ Golf Croquet Tournament came up he asked his good mate Gus if he would like to team up with him. Until then Gus had not played any croquet apart from occasionally accompanying his friend to the Park Croquet Club. “I came down here to see how far I could smash the ball back and forth,” he said. The tournament comprised round robin matches followed by the knock-out stages. After the initial matches Morghan and Gus were second on the table behind the combined Kaitaia



Morghan Meldrum, Gus Buhler and the Adie and Karl Haswell Cup.

# Applications Open for Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

Applications for the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund are now open and close on Tuesday 1 October at 5pm. South Taranaki District Council Funding Advisor Sara Dymond says applications to the Rural Travel Fund can be made by rural sport club teams and rural school club teams in South Taranaki, whose members are aged between 5 and 18 years. “The fund is available

to support those in rural communities with financial assistance for transport so that they can participate in local sports competitions,” says Sara. Further information and application forms can be found online at [www.southtaranaki.com/funding](http://www.southtaranaki.com/funding), at the Council Administration Building, Albion Street, Hāwera, from your local LibraryPlus or by emailing [funding@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:funding@stdc.govt.nz).

College- Taipa Area School team. That night they got a pep talk via video from Te Kiri King, one of the 2019 runners-up who had been following it on livestream. “He said we told you to swing your mallets,” recalls Morghan. The next day they won both their quarter and semi-finals 7-0 before facing Maruawai College from Gore in the final. The Maruawai team

comprised a brother-sister combination and was the only team from the South Island. On their way to the final they had knocked out the table-topping Kaitaia College-Taipa Area School side. Morghan and Gus defeated them 7-3. They say they would be interested in defending their title next year. Gus says he

is considering joining the Park Croquet Club, and that his father who had been following the games on livestream would be interested in taking up the game himself. The other Taranaki team at the tournament, the Stratford High School pairing of Cohen Jones and Fynn Byers finished sixth.



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# Paying with your face: ready or not?

Imagine walking into a store, picking up your items and paying just by looking at a screen. This is already a reality in China thanks to facial recognition payment technology, but how do people on the other side of the world feel about it?

A study by researchers from the University of Auckland and Queensland University of Technology explores the factors that could make or break this payment method's success.

Facial recognition payments use biometric data—specifically facial features—to complete transactions. The technology captures your facial image at checkout and links it to your bank account.

For consumers, it can offer convenience and speed. However, the study suggests that widespread adoption faces significant challenges.

The researchers say the success of facial recognition payments hinges not just on the technology itself but on how well it satisfies basic human needs: competence, autonomy, and relatedness.

For people to embrace this technology, they need to feel confident in using it (competence), in control of their decision to use it (autonomy), and connected or comfortable with the idea



## Facial Recognition technology.

(relatedness).

One interesting finding, say the authors, who undertook in-depth interviews with 20 participants, was people's apprehension regarding overspending and compulsive shopping.

One interviewee said facial recognition payment technology "could be bad because then I've got no way of saying 'I don't have money on me.' That is when you always have an open purse ... Yeah, sadly, facial recognition is always there."

The researchers also found that people are more likely to try using their face to pay if they feel it won't be a hassle, and if they haven't had previous negative experiences with similar

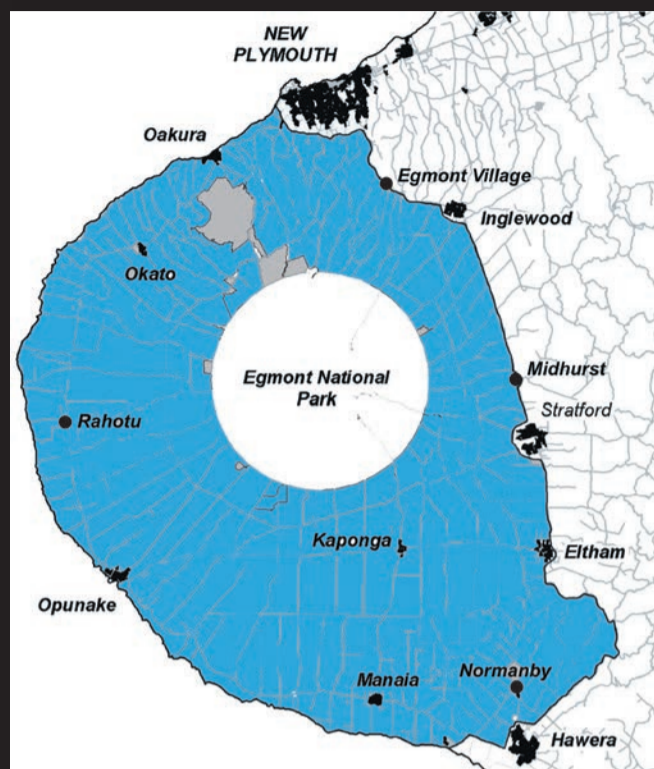
facial recognition tech.

"Imagine you're in the supermarket looking at the screen to pay, but it's not working, it's not recognising you," says co-author University of Auckland Associate Professor of Marketing Laszlo Sajtos.

"So, you're moving your head from side to side, up and down. This can be really embarrassing for some people, and if it happens once, there's less interest in trying again. Some people might lose confidence in the technology altogether."

The study suggests that retailers need to provide support services—like having staff on hand to assist with any issues during the initial rollout.

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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

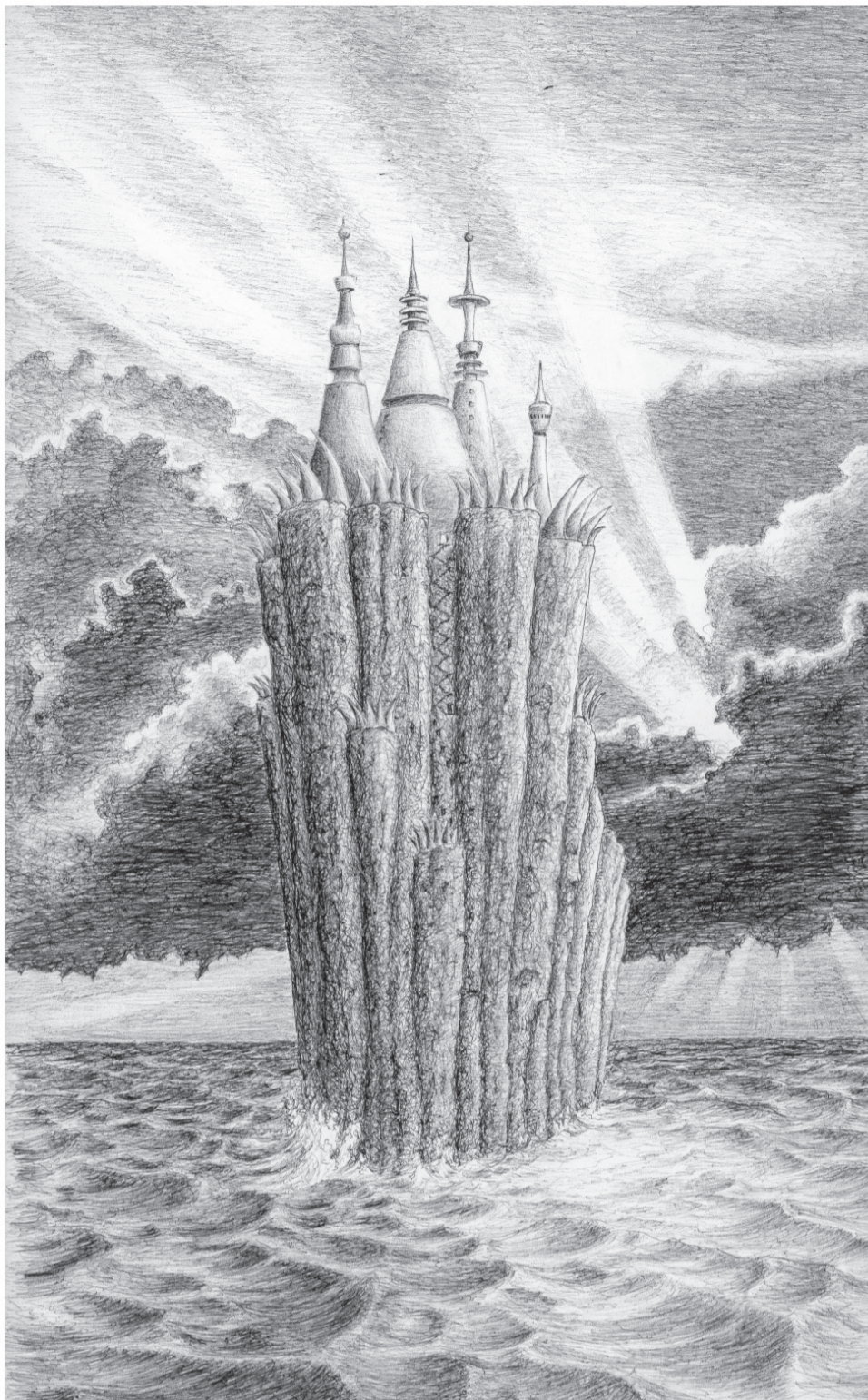
## Your Guide to healthy bowels

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.

# A double treat at Lysaght Watt



Vertical

Derek Hughes

Photography enthusiasts are in for a treat with two photography exhibitions opening at Lysaght Watt Gallery this week.

In one half of the gallery, New Plymouth Photography Club Print Exhibition shows selected images from the New Plymouth Photography Club (NPPC) monthly competitions and showcases members' work in both colour and monochrome photography.

The exhibition aims to foster a sense of community and appreciation for visual storytelling and educate viewers about photography as an art form.

Visitors to the gallery can 'explore diverse photographic styles and themes, from landscape to portraits.'

The Club says it 'welcomes new members and throughout the year, arranges guest presentations and outings allowing members to learn from experts and explore new perspectives.'

NPPC meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7.45 pm in the West Baptist Church, 144 South Rd, Spotswood, New Plymouth.

Alongside and in the second half of the gallery, well-known New Plymouth photographer, Derek Hughes, presents Vertical, with a selection of works that are 'predominantly focused on nature but do feature a few images that include the influence of man.'

Derek reflects that 'photography is about the play of light and texture and

lines and shape' and says 'it is also about being in the right place at the right time to capture the light.'

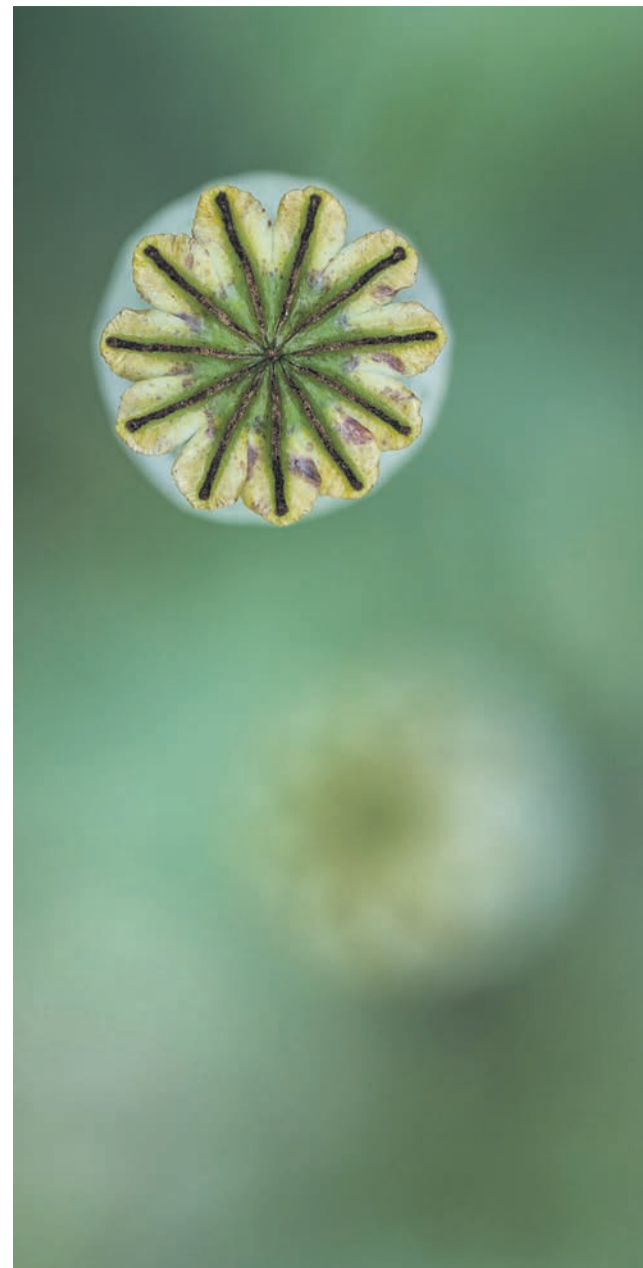
Also sharing part of the space, Kelly Dobbs presents Shadows and Secrets: Fantasies in Ink and featuring six pen and ink works.

Kelly was inspired some years ago to explore the concept of an ominous,

mythical castle, adjacent cliffs amid a stormy environment and with an elevated perspective 'as if flying above the scenes.'

Kelly hints 'there are indeed secrets in the shadows and when carefully observed, a number of faces and body parts may be found within the cliffs and oceans.'

Lysaght Watt Gallery is open Monday – Friday,



Shadows & Secrets Fantasies in Ink. Kelly Dobbs

10am – 4 pm and Saturdays, at 4-6 Union St, Hāwera. 10am – 1 pm and is situated

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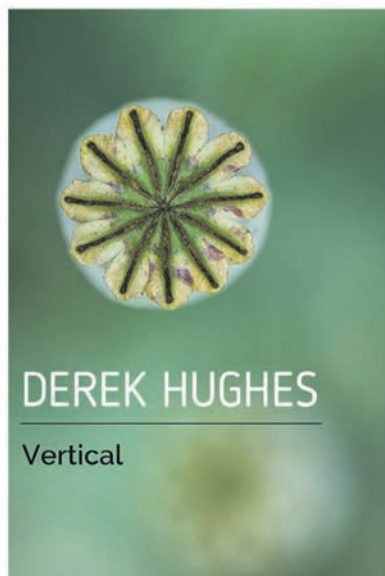
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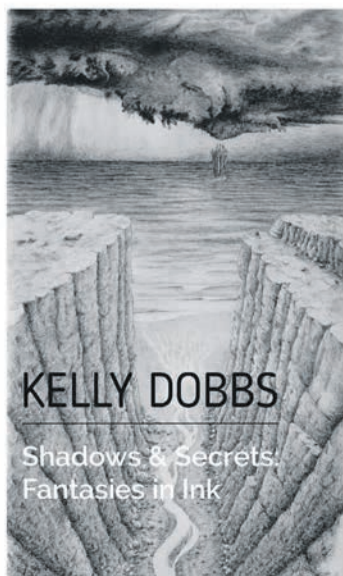
**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**



DEREK HUGHES

Vertical

16 SEPTEMBER - 12 OCTOBER 2024  
OPENING EVENT: 3PM SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2024



KELLY DOBBS

Shadows & Secrets: Fantasies in Ink



New Plymouth Photography Club  
*Print Exhibition*  
16 SEPTEMBER - 12 OCTOBER 2024

# Songmen to perform on the coast

An Okato Plunket fundraiser supported by the Okato District History Society are bringing the Songmen to the coast.

The Taranaki Songmen have evolved as a men's vocal group over the past two years, transforming from the old-style Taranaki Male Choir into a group with character, dynamism and a manly love for singing.

Their director is Julian Raphael, a community musician with over 30 years experience working with vocal groups, and he arranges and composes music specifically for the group.

This year they have been working through a range of New Zealand songs that span the centuries with songs about gold mining, fishing and sealing together



See Taranaki Songmen in concert this Saturday.

with some up to date songs about social justice and a lament over the poor state of Taranaki driving.

Julian's love of music and his unique approach to singing has inspired many.

Collecting folk songs and

in particular sea shanties revitalises the importance of recording history through song for the next generation to enjoy.

Sea shanties were work songs or chants sung by the crews of sailing ships to help

co-ordinate their efforts as they hauled on the halyards or tramped around the capstan to raise the anchor. In the 19th century shanties were commonly heard aboard vessels sailing to and from New Zealand and around the coast.

The Songmen will be performing at Hempton Hall.

This year the hall is 120 years old. The interior is stunning with a beautiful designed curved wooden ceiling. The timber came from Duckers' brothers Mill Upper Newall Road. They were also musicians. The floor was designed for dancing. The hall was opened in 1904.

The hall was built in memory of Thomas Hempton, a young trooper who died in 1900 in the Boer War, South Africa. His mother donated the land in his memory.

The Okato District History Society are proud

to be involved in a concert of this standard, bringing history alive. Come and hear this unique sound, tap your feet and feel the walls echo the past.

Door sales \$10 all to Plunket.



**Okato Spring Music Concert**  
**Taranaki Songmen**  
*in concert*  
**Sept 21st 2pm**  
**120 years Hempton Hall**  
**Okato**  
 Welcome act  
**Coastal Musicians**  
*Tone Rangers*

*Fundraiser Child safety gates for Okato Plunket*

**Entry \$10 per person under 12 free**  
**Okato & district historic society**

Organiser Lesley Dowling [lesley.t.dowling@gmail.com](mailto:lesley.t.dowling@gmail.com)

## Buses free for World Car Free Day

Bus travel will be free across Taranaki on Friday 20 September, as Taranaki Regional Council celebrates World Car Free Day.

The annual event, recognised by more than 2000 cities worldwide, encourages people to leave their cars at home and embrace sustainable travel options, promoting a cleaner and healthier future.

World Car Free Day officially falls on Sunday, 22 September, however public bus services do not operate on Sundays.

The Council's Transport Engagement Manager, Cheryl Gazley, says the Council decided to celebrate a couple of days early so everyone could get on board.

"By marking the event on Friday, we hope that everyone has the chance to experience the convenience

and benefits of bus travel, helping to reduce pollution and congestion in our region."

On Friday 20 September, all urban Citylink, school Citylink, Connector, Your Connector and Southlink bus services will be free for all passengers all day. Bee Cards, which are normally \$5, will also be available free from all retailers.

Ms Gazley says that these services, which collectively transport more than 3,000 passengers daily, are key to making this initiative widely accessible.

"This is both a small thank you to regular passengers and an incentive for new passengers to give buses a go and experience the ease and many benefits of public transport.

"We hope people take advantage of this free offer

and join us on board this World Car Free Day. No need for a Bee Card or a cash fare, just show up, hop on board and get to where you need to go."

World Car Free Day encourages communities to consider sustainable alternatives to private vehicles for daily travel. By offering free bus travel and free Bee Cards the Council aims to inspire residents to explore eco-friendly transportation options, reduce their carbon footprint and contribute to a greener future for Taranaki.



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**Ride the BUS on US!**

**20 September 2024**

**CAR FREE FRIDAY**

Taranaki Regional Council

**No Bee Card? No cash? No worries!**

Just jump onboard the **Southlink Coastal and go**



Daniel Crowley, Carrfields Stock Agent.



Brent Espin and the Carrfields team running last year's event at the Stevenson sale.

**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**

2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays of the month Mass at 6pm.  
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

**9th ANNUAL YOUNG IN-MILK  
FRSN/FRSNX COW AUCTION**

**A/c TROY STEVENSON**

**Date:** Friday 4th October 2024

**Address:** 437 Patiki Road, Pihama, South Taranaki

**Start Time:** 11:30am (Undercover, Gourmet BBQ lunch provided)

**bidr** will be available for online bidding

**COMPRISING:**

165 x young Friesian / Friesian Cross In-Milk Cows  
BW282, PW365, RA100%

**DETAILS:**

TB C10 - Mycoplasma Bovis not detected and BVD negative  
All cows in-milk, milked twice daily in rotary shed  
Herd Tested 26th September 2024 with information available soon after  
Strict selection policy all young cows mainly 2-4 year olds,  
including a CRL top Friesians Heifers DNA Profiled and A2 Verified

**AUCTIONEERS NOTES:**

Due to a very robust selection process, this 9th annual offering will be the  
highest that has been presented. All cows personally guaranteed by our  
vendors offering 1-week soundness trial. Cows are milked to supply calf milk  
then offered for auction. Young and all sound, these cows will come forward  
in good condition ready for mating. We totally recommend these cows.  
Annual buyers have commented on the high standard of cows offered  
previously.

**PAYMENT TERMS:**

**Deferred Payment, due 20th January 2025**

Immediate Delivery

**OUR VENDORS:**

Troy Stevenson

**M:** 027 469 7636

**CARRFIELDS LIVESTOCK AGENTS:**

**Vendors Agent**

Brent Espin

**M:** 027 551 3660

Daniel Crowley

**M:** 027 215 3609

Daniel Hornby

**M:** 027 636 2090

Tim Hurley

**M:** 027 414 6756



# Performing Arts Collective



Showcasing the PAC's talented multicultural flair; dancing, singing, fashion and music from around the world.

Head along to this family friendly event that provides an opportunity to talk with performers, watch multi-ethnic entertainment, learn of the collective's services and

enjoy photo opportunities with performers. There will be a diverse selection of entertainment on offer to showcase the PAC's talented multicultural flair; dancing,

singing, fashion and music from around the world with multigenerational participation and involvement. A celebration of creativity, family and

community not to be missed. At The Plymouth International Hotel, Saturday 28th September, 1 - 4pm. Koha entry.

**THE PERFORMING ARTS COLLECTIVE**

**EXPO**

28 Sep 2024 @ Plymouth Intl Hotel  
1:00 - 4:00 pm, koha entry  
Entertainment | Info booths | Photo ops

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More info:

## Cute Kune Kune



Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park will be open in the School Holidays 11am to 4pm NO EFTPOS.

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

<b>Thelma</b> 1hr 38mins   M Thu 19 Sep 7PM   Sun 29 Sep 1PM	<b>Beetlejuice Beetlejuice</b> 1hr 44mins   M Fri 20 Sep 7PM   Sat 21 Sep 7PM
<b>Inside Out 2</b> 1hr 36mins   PG Sat 21 Sep 1PM	<b>Midass Man</b> 1hr 36mins   E Sun 22 Sep 1PM
<b>Speak No Evil</b> 1hr 46mins   R16 Sun 22 Sep 7PM   Sat 28 Sep 7PM	<b>We Were Dangerous</b> 1hr 23mins   M Thu 26 Sep 7PM
<b>Harold and the Purple Crayon</b> 1hr 30mins   PG Fri 27 Sep 7PM   Sat 28 Sep 1PM	<b>Ghostlight</b> 1hr 55mins   M Sun 29 Sep 7PM

**Thelma**  
Offensive language | 1hr 38mins | Rated: M  
Thu 19 Sep 7PM

**Beetlejuice Beetlejuice**  
Violence, offensive language, horror & content that may disturb | 1hr 44mins | Rated: M  
Fri 20 Sep 7PM

Some of the regular services:

- TAYLOR DENTAL PRACTICE**  
Every Tuesday, Thursday and 2nd Friday
- LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY**  
Every Wednesday
- ACTIVE + PHYSIOTHERAPY**  
Monday & Thursday 9am - 3.30pm
- NZ POST, NZTA & STATIONERY SHOP**  
Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm
- COASTAL PRINTERS**  
Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm
- TARANAKI CHIROPRACTIC**  
Every Wednesday
- COUNSELLORS**  
Gwenyth Richards 06 278 6399  
Alex Jones 021 0816 3248  
Robert Shaw 022 020 9779
- MATTHEWS OPTOMETRISTS**  
1st Thursday of the month
- TARANAKI PODIATRY**  
2nd Wednesday of the month
- HIP**  
Every Monday and Tuesday
- LY BEAUTY**  
Every Tuesday  
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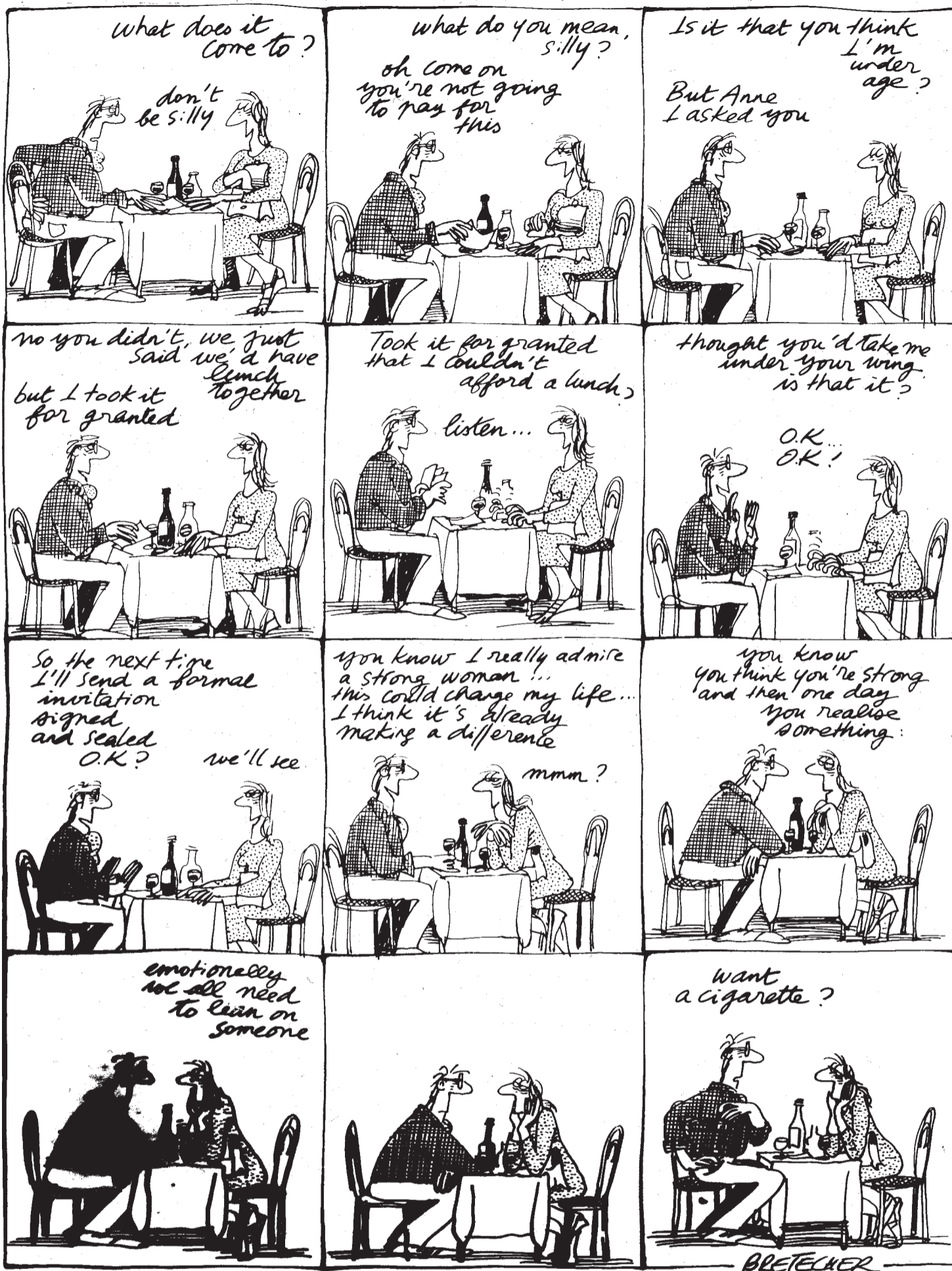
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Health and Community Centre  
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For a full list of services & happenings here  
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or visit us at [www.coastalcare.co.nz](http://www.coastalcare.co.nz)  
CONTACT ARETHA LEMON  
Facility Manager on 06 761 8488

What's On Listings

AMAZON



**ONGOING**  
**Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake:** Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.  
**MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake:** Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025.  
**Hawera 4 day old Calf Sales:** At A& P Showgrounds. 12pm.  
**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. Contact Helen Braithwaite 0274 825 108.  
**FRIDAYS**  
**Eltham Business Association Friday Markets:** 9:30am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.  
**Singer Songwriters, New Plymouth:** Last Friday of the month at Little Theatre, 29 Aubrey St, NP from 7-11pm.  
**AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:**  
**Monday:** Burger special \$15, Happy Hours 3pm- 6pm; **Tuesday:** Pork ribs \$20, Pool Tournament 7pm; **Wednesday:** Pizza night 2 for \$24, Poker night \$30 buy in; **Thursday:** Steak night for \$20, Poker Night \$27 buy in; **Friday:** Pensioners lunch \$15, Lamb Shank \$20; **Saturday:** Chicken Schnitzel \$20; **Sunday:** Roast night \$20 Complimentary dessert for dine in customers.  
**NOW TO OCTOBER 8**  
**Ma Wai Ke Atu - A creative collaboration from students of Taranaki Schools:** Puke Ariki Museum, New Plymouth.  
**NOW TO OCTOBER 13**  
**Te Kitenga o Hina Exhibition:** Puke Ariki Museum, New Plymouth.

HAWERA GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

# BOOK FAIR

Thursday 3 Oct, Friday 4 Oct, Saturday 5 Oct  
 9.30am-6pm  
 Hawera Genealogy Building  
 48 Union Street, Hawera  
 (between Nelson & Wellington Streets)  
 Also open for book sales every Wednesday 1-3pm

Fiction/Non Fiction \$2.00, Children's 50c.  
 Large Print \$5 a bag, Mills & Boons \$5 a bag; Junior & Teen fiction \$1 a bag,  
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**AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 21**  
 Art by Dimphy & Arno: The Village Gallery, Eltham.  
**SEPTEMBER 16 TO OCTOBER 12**  
 New Plymouth Photography Club Print Exhibition; Exhibitions from Derek Hughes and Kelly Hobbs: Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera..  
**SEPTEMBER 20**  
**World Car Free Day Free Bus Travel in Taranaki:** See ad and article for details.  
**SEPTEMBER 21**  
**Okato Spring Music Concert:** Hempton Hall, Okato. 2pm.  
**SEPTEMBER 24**  
**The Performing Arts Collective Expo:** Plymouth International Hotel, 1-4pm.  
**OCTOBER 3 TO 5**  
**Hawera Genealogy Book Fair:** Hawera Genealogy Building, 9.30am-6pm.  
**OCTOBER 4**  
**9th Annual Stevenson Cow Auction:** 437 Patiki Rd, Pihama. 11.30am.  
**Singer Songwriters Opunake:** At Lakeside Theatre, Layard St, Opunake. Doors open 6.30pm. 7.30pm start.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**SPORT NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND**

Applications for financial assistance under the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund are now open.

The fund is open to sports clubs and school teams with young people aged between 5-19 years who require assistance with transport expenses to regular, local sporting competitions.

Application forms are available from all South Taranaki LibraryPlus centres, the Council Administration Building on Albion Street, Hāwera, or the Council website [www.southtaranaki.com/funding](http://www.southtaranaki.com/funding)

For further information please contact:  
Governance Team Leader  
0800 111 323  
[funding@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:funding@stdc.govt.nz)

Applications close **Tuesday 1 October 2024 at 5 pm.**

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**.DEEP LUNG** support from Harker Herbals in Waipu, very helpful for this horrible cough going around. The Health Shop in Centre City 06 758 7553.

**HAWERA BUDGET** Advisory Service. Heartland Services office, 21 Napier Street, Opunake every second Tuesday from 9am. Coastal Care, Opunake, every second Wednesday 9am to 12pm. Appointments are necessary, Please phone 0800 333 048 to make them. Facebook page: Hawera Budget Advisory Service. Email: [info@hawerabudget.co.nz](mailto:info@hawerabudget.co.nz)



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[clare.moss@hughson.co.nz](mailto:clare.moss@hughson.co.nz)

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF OCN WILL BE OUT ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 3**

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

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LOW KM's  
2WD, Stability Control, Auto Headlights, Tow Bar,  
2488cc, Petrol, 6 Spd Manual, 69kms



**\$24,995**

**2017 Nissan QASHQAI TI**  
TOP SPEC, NZ NEW, LOW KM's  
Alloy Wheels, Heated Electric Leather Seats, 360  
Degree Cameras, Auto headlights & wipers, NZ  
Navigation, 1997cc, Petrol, CVT, 72kms



**\$22,995**

**2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross**  
LOW KM's, NZ NEW SUV  
Adaptive Cruise Control, Tow Bar, Heated Electric  
Leather Seats, Turbo, Tinted Windows, Collision  
Avoidance, 1499cc, Petrol, CVT, 29kms



**\$24,995**

**2008 Mitsubishi LANCER**  
SPACIOUS NZ NEW WAGON  
Cruise Control, MIVEC, Body Kit, Alloy Wheels,  
Tiptronic Auto, 2378cc, Petrol, Auto, 186kms



**WAS \$7,995, NOW \$6,995**

**2007 Toyota Blade**  
SPORTY HATCH  
Keyless entry & ignition, Spoiler, Tinted Windows,  
Electric Seats, Stability Control, Driving Lights,  
2369cc, Petrol, CVT, 199kms



**\$8,995**

**THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL:**  
**2017 Mazda CX-5**  
NEW SET ALLOY WHEELS  
Blind Spot Monitoring, Tinted Windows, i-Stop, Sports  
Mode, Keyless Start, 12cc, 129kms



**WAS \$17,995**  
**NOW \$16,995**

**2009 Honda Jazz 1.5S**  
NZ NEW SPORT  
2WD, 5 Door Hatch, Cruise Control, Spoiler, VTEC,  
1496cc, Petrol, Auto, 139kms



**\$9,995**

**2021 HYUNDAI VENUE**  
FUN VENUE!  
Auto Headlights, Heated Steering Wheel, Roof Rails,  
Parking Sensors, Cruise Control, Lane Departure,  
1591cc, Petrol, Auto, 32kms



**\$23,995**

**2021 Haval Jolion LUX**  
HIGH SPEC, LOW KM's  
Collision Avoidance, Driver Monitoring System,  
Heated Electric Seats, Turbo, Descent Mode, Sports  
Mode, Alloy Wheels, 1497cc, Petrol, Auto, 44kms



**\$24,995**

**2008 Toyota YARIS**  
ONE OWNER, LOW KM's  
5 Door Hatch, Alloy Wheels, Driving Lights, VVT-i,  
1495cc, Petrol, 4 Spd Auto, 116kms



**\$9,995**

**2016 Holden Captiva LT**  
7 SEATER, 4WD  
Driving Lights, Side Skirts, Keyless Entry & Ignition,  
Descent Mode, Roof Rails, 2597cc, Petrol, Auto,  
94kms



**\$17,995**

**2016 Mazda Cx-5 GLX**  
POPULAR NZ NEW SUV, Alloy Wheels, i-Stop,  
Electric Parking Brake, Keyless Start, Sports  
Mode, Traction Control, 1998cc, Petrol, Auto,  
127kms



**\$18,995**

**2011 Toyota HILUX DC UTE**  
TIDY 5 SPD, T/DSL  
2WD, Nudge Bar, Tonneau Cover, Alloy Wheels,  
Tow Bar, ABS Braking, Reversing Camera,  
2982cc, Diesel, Manual, 255kms



**\$18,995**

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



**LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED**

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