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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Driving home the vaccination message

She was pretty sick, said Bianca Ruakere of her eleven-year-old daughter who got COVID recently.

She was ill for a week with a high fever. She's had one vaccination but if she'd had a second, she might not have got so ill, added Bianca who, with her husband, also had to self-isolate over the period. "It was quite hard to watch."

The daughter of former Opunake doctor Tony Ruakere, Bianca who is Communications Manager with Tui Ora, was at Opunake's Event Centre on March 27 along with other health professionals as part of a drive to get people vaccinated.

They were particularly concerned about children getting vaccinated and also Maori people whose vaccination rates were lagging behind the national average.

"It's a concern particularly as their vaccination rates across the board are still low for Maori," said Bianca. She puts it down to their not going to GPs because of cost and sometimes lack of access is also a problem.

The COVID vaccination was more recently opened up to children between the ages of five and 11 who are eligible for two doses of the vaccine, 8 weeks apart but not the booster vaccine.

There was still however suspicion about the vaccine and their role was to often sit down and have an education session with parents and reassure them it was safe, said Bianca who added that all ages were vulnerable to the virus. A baby was recently diagnosed with COVID in Taranaki.

One lucky boy, Jayden Young, by correctly answering various questions, had won \$800.

He and his sister were



At the Vaccination Drive, held at the Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Event Centre, Opunake are, from left, Tama Tamatea, Lisa Zame and Bianca Ruakere.

among the first to turn up for the vaccine.

The Drive In vaccination day with representatives from Tui Ora, the Taranaki District Health Board Te Aranga, who work on behalf of the eight Taranaki iwi, and Pinnacle Midlands Health all present was a concerted effort to get people vaccinated. A week earlier they had 108 people

through a similar day at Waitara.

Several months ago Bianca and Kerry Walsh, Alternative Education Tutor at Opunake High School, went door to door in Opunake which she said was very successful.

"We had a lovely time. People were really nice," said Bianca adding it wasn't a hard sell with people being interrogated as to whether

they were vaccinated.

"We did pick up quite a few people," she said, among them the mobility impaired. That was when the deadly Delta variant was peaking.

Though generally the health symptoms are a bit less severe with the more recent Omicron variant, it is "more contagious" and "more transmittable," said Bianca.

The dismal tally of daily deaths being recorded at the time of going to print, average age late 50s, indicates Omicron is also deadly. "The long term effects of COVID is not known," said Bianca citing some of the worrying symptoms dubbed Long COVID which can persist for months after contracting the virus.

There's also the worrying prospect of new variants

arising in the future.

Tui Ora are also involved in providing food packages, hygiene packages and medication for people isolating at home. "Not everyone has people at hand to call on."

Of vaccination, Bianca says emphatically, "It's the best chance you've got of preventing serious illness." She also adds with people ending up hospitalised "The whole (health) system is put under strain," which has happened overseas with people in ICU and HDU.

Numbers being hospitalised were still rising as of March 27. (The TDHB has since reported that they believed the peak in Taranaki had come around March 29.) "Every day we get an update on how many



Ready and awaiting.

Continued on page 5



Letters to the Editor

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

Orimupiko Marae, Kaitiaki and the Rahui

Let's do this in two parts.

First the Marae Kaitiaki. The marae has not been used in over four years because of renovations. In that four years only 20% of the work has been done. At that rate of progress it will take another 16 years to complete the job. One generation will have missed out on the marae experience. No school visits, no cultural things, nothing at all. We have Kaitiaki acting like headless chickens. No plans for today, tomorrow or the future. This rubbish has gone on too long and needs to be sorted now. You should be ashamed of what you are doing.

My suggestion to you is this. Do an audit now to make sure no funds have been misappropriated, then call a special meeting and resign. Put a new committee in that have some enthusiasm, pride and respect for their iwi. It's time to see life at the marae and tamariki running around, learning and having fun.

Poaching has and still is going on and has been for years. Face up to the fact that the only way this can be stopped is by more fisheries officers or police doing spot checks along the coast on all tides. And recruit more honorary officers through the proper channels.

I have spoken to two people that have each been given permits for 200 paua. That is 20 times the legal limit. To me that is legal poaching. No one needs or should be allowed to get that amount.

I don't have to sign this, but I will tell you that I was playing indoor bowls at the marae back in the day when it did not matter who you were or what colour gumboots you wore. As long as you took them off at the door you were

most welcome.

*Disgraceful
Opunake*

Support our two Labour MPs

Of course National MP for Taranaki-King Country Barbara Kuriger is having a pot shot at our Labour Government, so my question to her is what would her so-called great National Party have done in the same circumstances? Absolutely nothing at all, as our country would have come to a standstill.

I am supporting Labour's whanganui MP Steph Lewis as she has stated this country has worked extremely hard to help and support our low and middle income workers, and every business in this country, plus the war between Russia and Ukraine has had an extremely huge effect and impact on oil costs, not only in our country, but throughout the whole world, yet still people don't understand this at all.

Our New Zealand businesses and agricultural sectors shouldn't keep on attacking this government because of this virus, which would eventually hit our country, as most countries throughout the world have been affected far greater than us. I know our government is very slowly lifting its sanctions on many things, but at the same time all of us must still be somewhat careful otherwise we could end up back where we started.

So I wouldn't listen to what National is saying about our great government, but keep listening to our two MPs from New Plymouth and Whanganui, and when voting in the Tauranga by-election begins, there may be another vital seat for Labour.

*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth*

ADELPHOS

Basketball is a great sport for kids to play. It has become quite popular, established and successful around the Coastal area and much of that thanks to the Opunake Basketball Association. I have done a bit of basketball coaching in my time. And I used basketball in my counselling with teenagers too. I usually had a mini basketball hoop on my wall and a little ball that kids could try to get through the hoop. It was a great way to get kids to calm down and move the focus off strong negative feelings.

A common metaphor I used when working with teenagers was that of the basketball. I would ask kids what happens if they bounced a basketball

that was not full of air. They often looked at me as if I was a bit thick and gave a standard answer that the ball wouldn't bounce properly. Then I would move the question to what would happen if I bounced the basketball that was full of air? The standard answer was that the ball would bounce well. Then I would produce the metaphor. Resilience means to be able to bounce back from the challenges and hard stuff of life, like a basketball that has lots of air in it. That was when the poor kids realized I had not lost my marbles and had something important to reveal. I don't remember any kid not understanding that metaphor.

Mountain triathlon raises questions

An issue has raised its head regarding an event planned to operate during Easter, which involves cycling legs up the narrow and very busy road to Dawson Falls on Saturday and Egmont Road to North Egmont road end and return, then a running leg into the Egmont National Park Mangorei Track to Pouakai Hut. One of many questions which is being asked is how has the Department of Conservation allowed a professional triathlon event to take place in the Egmont National Park especially on Easter Saturday when the Department of Conservation were very aware of the numbers of people park-users using the Mangorei Track last Easter?

My personal concern is regards to park-users and professional guiding services such as Mt Taranaki Guided Tours during this time, and asking the Department of Conservation whether this event has a concession or permit to operate in the Egmont National Park, and has the appropriate audited safe plans to operate in the park?

*Ian McAlpine
New Plymouth*

Visit from Sir

On this month in history Russia wins the space race

On April 12 1961 the Soviet Union beat the USA to launch the first person into space. The cosmonaut was Yuri Gagarin, who was in a Vostok 1 rocket and spent one hour 48 minutes in space. He also became the first person to orbit the Earth, which took 108 minutes.

Yuri, who was also a pilot in the Soviet Air Force was promoted to Major (He had

been a Senior Lieutenant).

Sadly on March 27, 1968 on a training flight in a MiG-15UTI crashed near Kirzhach with co-pilot Vladimir Seryogin and both were killed. Born on March 9, 1934, Yuri was just 34 years of age.

Yuri's final resting place is the Kremlin Wall, Necropolis.

again let's take time to reflect on our relationships with God, others and ourselves and how much air we have in our metaphorical basketball. Will our faith stand strong in adversity?

This Easter, our third since Covid struck, we remember that Jesus died for our sins: to make us whole and give us everlasting life. Jesus, being fully God and yet also fully human, had a journey of resilience while on earth. He shows us the way to God the Father through His cross and resurrection. Jesus came for you.

Have a happy safe Easter and enjoy the chocolate.

Adelphos

Letter from the churches of Opunake

As a small town in Taranaki we are fortunate to have four churches to cover all kinds of worship – there is one thing that bonds us which is the love of God our Father who gave His only Son Jesus as a sacrifice so that we can have eternal life. I would say that is a very good reason to bring us together. We have a message of hope from each church. Please read it and know that God is alive and well and loves each one of us.

Easter, the empty tomb, the resurrection, the excited disciples. Life conquers death, loving forgiveness overcomes hate. Humanity can accept victory over oppression and injustice if we live the faith and hope of Jesus.

Jesus' journey of faith, hope and love was blighted by his truth not being accepted, his teaching being rejected. Jesus' journey of faith, hope and love was challenged by unjust arrest, humiliation, torture, crucifixion and death.

The journey's destination though was resurrection, Jesus' faith and hope in his Father was fulfilled, on the third day he rose from the dead.

As we live Easter we need to ask ourselves, "Do I (we) leave Jesus in the tomb or do I (we) embrace his victory, his resurrection, do we open our hearts and minds to this brother and friend as he wants us to".

Jesus promises to be with us on our journey, at the cot and the cemetery, at the family table and the workplace, at



Walking in Opunake remembering Christ's crucifixion

the sick bed and the healthy participant in life, at the confused and despairing times and the emotional, mental and spiritual wellness times.

Jesus is always with us, urging us to accept the gifts of faith and hope. Those gifts that Jesus had in his heart and mind as he died. On Holy Saturday those first disciples were lost, faith and hope buried with Jesus. On Easter Sunday their hearts and minds were opened to resurrection, to life, to love, faith and hope restored.

Today we open our hearts and minds to the reality that humanity and creation's destiny is assured.

The Catholic Church

Easter is approaching and for Christians around the world it is a great celebration of the Life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through faith in Him we all can have hope. Hope for a better future, something we all need in these turbulent days. Amidst the challenges of pandemics, conflicts and the ever-changing world

around us we can share a conviction that God is Sovereign, he is with us. That the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning, great is His faithfulness, and that is our hope.

May you be blessed this Easter

*Jennie McCullough
Mission Enabler St Pauls
Opunake*

Our theme picture for Lent at St Barnabas is the 'Girl

with a Red Balloon' (Banksi) with the caption 'When the Power of Love, overcomes the Love of Power, The World will Know Peace' (Jimi Hendrix).

We live in very troubled times. Jimi Hendrix' statement and the phrase from our Lord's Prayer have never been more relevant,

".....Your Kingdom Come on Earth as in Heaven". We so look forward to Peace, Justice and Mercy. To God's space (Heaven) joining our space (Earth). Easter is the

celebration of that very thing. We join with God and have our eyes opened to the futility of the Love of Power and furthermore we have been given a vision of The Power of Love.

May we all grasp the vision and journey toward Knowing Peace.

Rev. Ian Sargent: St Barnabas

On Good Friday morning the combined Churches will walk through the streets of Opunake carrying a cross. Why a cross? Why commemorate someone dying on a cross? Well the answer is that there was no greater act of love in history. God sent his own son to die for us all. 'God commendeth his love toward us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us' [Romans 5.8.] He didn't wait for us to get our lives cleaned up and sorted because without him that wasn't going to happen anyway. He extends his mercy and forgiveness to us now, - as we are.

However he also rose again to life on the third day to prove that he had power over death and sin and the devil. The same power of the Holy Spirit by which he rose again can be in us to overcome all the sin and weights that hold us back and will allow us to come into a right relationship with God.

We welcome you to join with us to show our gratitude and thankfulness for Jesus laying down his life that we could have new life in him.

The Wave Church

Regarding sponsorship

It is not the policy of the paper to mention sponsors in articles in the Opunake & Coastal News.

It is not because we are mean spirited but because we are running a business and, like any business, have costs associated with putting out the paper. This includes editorial costs including writing articles and covering stories, proof reading contributions, production

costs which include making up adverts, putting together the paper and printing and distribution costs.

There is always competition for the advertising dollar and of course sponsorship, like the Internet and other media gobbles up money businesses who wish to promote themselves have. It also puts a lot of pressure on local business who are frequently approached for

sponsorship by a multitude of community organisations and groups who think they can reward sponsorship by giving them a 'free' mention in the paper.

We hope people understand this from the point of view of the Opunake & Coastal News.

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Editor

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Works to be undertaken at Opunake Lake and Waiaua River

The South Taranaki District Council has announced that work will be carried out to stabilize the embankment Opunake Lake and the Waiaua River.

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (February 24), heavy rains in February scoured the edges of the Waiaua River taking out two large pines and a hunk of the bank separating the river from the lake, raising concerns about the future of the lake itself in the event of another major weather event.

South Taranaki District Council (STDC) operations manager property and

facilities, Phil Waite said work would begin to remove tree debris and stabilize the embankment.

“A large pine tree on an embankment separating Opunake Lake from the Waiaua River fell into the river,” said Mr Waite. “This caused damage to, and a narrowing of, the embankment between the lake and the river.”

Following investigations by Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) and STDC officers it’s been agreed to remove the tree from the river, along with 6-10 other pine trees growing on the embankment.

This will reduce the risk of



A fallen tree will be removed from the Waiaua River.

more trees falling into the river and will relieve pressure and weight from the embankment.”

Mr Waite says at the same time the water level of the lake will temporarily be lowered.

“This will help avoid the possibility of compromising the embankment any further and enable us to work

with the key stakeholders to investigate and design a longer-term solution to protect the embankment.”

Boundary shakeup for New Plymouth district

New Plymouth District voters will see changes to how they vote at this year’s election, after the independent Local Government Commission gave the green light to new voting boundaries.

There will be the first-ever councillor representing Te Purutanga Mauri Pūmanawa (Māori ward) and a new Community Board to give an extra voice for the residents of Puketapu-Bell Block. The Commission upheld proposals to keep the total number of councillors at 14 with nine councillors elected in new wards and five elected at large. The Mayor is also elected at large.

76 pieces of public feedback were received on the proposal, with 47 responses backing the changes.

“All our elected representatives do a great job going into bat for their

residents and we know some will be disappointed with the decision, but we had to balance the need to give all our people a strong voice while keeping costs affordable, our governance team at a reasonable size, and the Local Government Commission has acknowledged that,” says New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom. “Mana Whenua, with a dedicated councillor, will make our decision-making more robust as we oversee a \$185 million budget, \$3.5 billion worth of assets and 16 different business units for our residents.”

On October the 8th this year, voters will elect: a mayor, six councillors in Kaitake/Ngāmotu ward (New Plymouth city to Ōkato), one councillor in Kōhanga Moa ward (Inglewood and surrounding area), one councillor in North Ward (Waitara to Waitomo District Council border), one councillor in the Te Purutanga Mauri Pūmanawa (Māori

ward) and five councillors at large (across the whole district).

Voters outside New Plymouth city area will elect five Community Boards, each with four board members and a local Councillor: Clifton (Tikorangi, Urenui, Ōnaero, Tongaporutu), Waitara (Waitara, Brixton, Lepperton), Inglewood (Inglewood, Egmont Village, Tarata), Kaitake (Ōākura, Ōmata, Ōkato) and Puketapu-

Bell Block.

Every six years councils across New Zealand have to consider their representative make up and the electoral boundaries that determine who you can vote for every three years.

Currently, 10 councillors are elected from the City ward, two each from the South-West ward (Inglewood/Ōkato area) and the North ward (Waitara to the Waitomo District Council border).



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Driving home the vaccination message

Continued from page 1.

people are in hospital in Taranaki," said Bianca.

"It's a time to be cautious," she warns, adding that with restrictions lifting, wearing masks and social distancing are so important.

"We have a duty to ourselves and to others to keep each other safe."

Tui Ora will be back at the event's centre on Thursdays from 12noon to 6pm and will be offering MMR (measles, mumps and Rubella – German measles) and influenza vaccines as well as for COVID-19 starting from this week on April 7. No appointments are necessary, people can just walk in.



Welcoming all to the Drive in Vaccination day in Opunake.

Great grandfather died in the 1918 flu

For Tama Tamatea who works for Pinnacle Midland Health in New Plymouth and was in Opunake as part of the vaccination drive, the day had a special significance. He lost his great grandfather in the 1918 influenza. Tama, who grew up in Opunake, recalls his father Merv talking about his own grandfather and how he died in the 1918 flu.

Tama said the collaboration of the various health providers in the Drive in Vaccination day in Opunake, as well as pushing

vaccination, had also been useful in improving Maori health and helping access to whanau.

While Auckland had peaked they were still getting 600 cases on average a day in Taranaki, said Tama*.

Programme Manager Lisa Zame, who was also in Opunake as part of the vaccination drive, said that at the end of last year the vaccination figures for Opunake were "quite good" but were not so good in the surrounding rural areas.

Vaccination was particularly crucial with the

mandate rules changing. "You get better protection through vaccination," she said. She urged everyone to "keep up the mask wearing and social distancing" and encouraged children and tamariki to get vaccinated. Children can spread it, she added. "If you're vaccinated you're less likely to spread it."

She also added kids don't observe social distancing and general hygiene like adults hence the need for their being protected by the vaccine.

*At the time of interview

Bianca recalls when there were three resident doctors in Opunake

Bianca, now living in New Plymouth grew up in Opunake until the age of 12 and had fond memories of her time in the town describing it as "the best time" and "a great place to grow up."

She had lots of memories of the former Rugby Club rooms – where Opunake's Event Centre now is.

She recalls when her father was on call going out when somebody was sick. Also, she remembers the halcyon days when there were three resident doctors in the town. The three medical practitioners were "a diverse group" she said. Along with her father, there was Dr Paula McKellar, who believed in visiting people in their homes and was also "a great trail blazer" and Dr Gunatunga. The three doctors worked happily together out of the former medical centre which was "full of patients" she recalled whenever she called in.



Memorial in New Plymouth near Ngamotu Beach to the people who died in the 1918-19 influenza epidemic.

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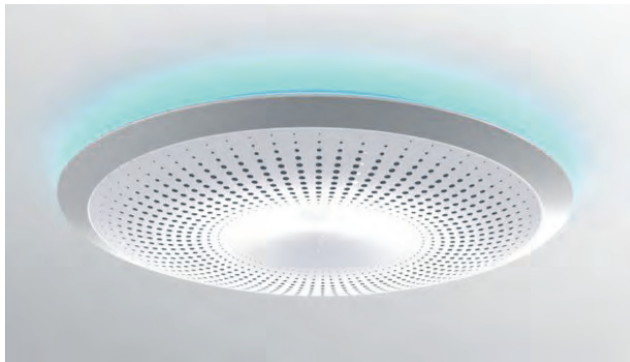
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Working smoke alarms are vital

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A modern smoke alarm.

your chimney cleaned and making sure your fire box is in good order. Not only does soot accumulate in the chimney causing them to catch fire, but birds have a habit of building nests over the spring and summer.

Making sure your fire box is in good repair will also ensure your fire burns more efficiently and puts out more heat.

Our three recruits have been busy putting in extra training over the last couple of months, in preparation for their seven-day recruit course in Rotorua. If you are thinking about volunteering with us, give me a ring on 027 4173319 or contact us through Facebook, at "Opunake Volunteer Fire & Rescue"

Callouts over the last month have included several serious crashes, one of which required heavy extraction equipment from New Plymouth Central Fire Station. Please make sure you are aware of your speed and surroundings when on the road.

Our other calls have been to powerlines sparking and attending two small scrub fires.
Ngā mihi

Andrew Pentelow (CFO)

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New Zealand's top 10 stolen cars

The Mazda Demio takes the dubious honours of being New Zealand's most stolen car, according to AMI. Of the 12,000 insurance claims AMI received for vehicle thefts over the past three years, the humble Demio accounted for 10% of claims, despite only making up 1.5% of the country's fleet.

Rounding out the top 10 of New Zealand's most stolen cars are the Mazda Atenza (Mazda 6), Nissan Tiida, Subaru Legacy, Mazda Familia, Subaru Impreza, Toyota Hilux, Ford Courier, Subaru Forester and Honda Civic.

Regionally, Auckland had the highest number of vehicle thefts with 39% of all claims, despite holding only 31% of the national vehicle fleet. With 4,489 claims over the past three years, Auckland experienced almost double the amount of vehicle thefts as the runner up region, Canterbury, which had 2,074 claims. AMI's Executive General

Manager Claims, Wayne Tippet says the data serves as a reminder to take security precautions and check your insurance details are up to date.

"While we'll always be here to assist our customers, it's good to be aware of some simple things you can do to reduce your risk, particularly if you own one of the models more likely to be stolen.

"Our claims data shows that many cars are parked out on the street or outside someone else's property for the night when they are stolen. Where possible, park down a driveway or inside a garage, and double check your car is locked. If there isn't any off-street parking available, try to park your car in a well-lit area, like under a streetlamp."

Mr Tippet also strongly recommends vehicle owners check if their car has a factory-fitted immobiliser, or if they can install other preventative security measures.

"Here in New Zealand,

our vehicle fleet has a high proportion of imported, second-hand cars and many of them aren't fitted with immobilisers. If your vehicle can't, or doesn't have an immobiliser fitted, a steering wheel lock is also an effective and affordable option that will help deter thieves.

"Recently, we have seen an increase in stolen cars being used for criminal activity like ram raids. Vehicles used for these purposes are often viewed as easy targets by thieves, reinforcing the need for security deterrents like immobilisers, alarms, and steering wheel locks."

The new data comes as the cost of second-hand cars trends upwards, meaning some car owners could find they are unable to replace their car like-for-like if it is stolen or severely damaged.

"Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen an increase in the value of second-hand cars due to supply-chain disruptions and shortages

of parts, amongst other factors," Mr Tippet says.

"We're strongly encouraging car owners to check whether the value they have insured their car for still matches its current market value, in the event that it is stolen and never recovered or is recovered but is a total loss. There are a number of free online tools which make calculating your car's value quick and easy."

Despite having had consistently high rates of theft for several years, AMI claims data shows the Mazda Demio is the most likely to be recovered. Over the past three years, 94% of stolen Demio cars were recovered – the highest rate out of the top 10 stolen vehicles and well above the average of 70% across all vehicle models.

The Toyota Hilux has the lowest rates of recovery at 30%, followed by the Ford Courier at 47%.

The most frequently stolen vehicle in Taranaki is the Mazda Demio.

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Cyclist fatality near Warea

A collision between a truck and a cyclist on Tuesday March 29, on State Highway 45, has led to a fatality. The accident occurred near Warea, just north of the Warea River, about 10.40am and a female cyclist died at the scene. The victim has been named (April 5) as Suzanne Fraser, a mother of two from Rahotu. Her husband Craig has outlined his loss (on-line) of Suzanne, who was an outstanding person in many ways.

At the time of the accident, the road was closed to the south and also at a northerly position, near the juncture of Lower Puniho Road and State Highway 45. The Opunake



Roadblock just north of the bridge over the Warea River (Taikaparua) on State Highway 45.

Volunteer Fire Brigade was involved in setting up and monitoring the two road blocks. As late as 1.45pm the road block was still in place, but had been dismantled by

late afternoon.

This was the sixth person to die on the roads this year in Taranaki and the third person in March. Understandably,

the driver of the truck is extremely distressed at the fatality.

We offer our condolences to Craig and the family at this sad time.

Pre-dawn accident near Manaia

Three vehicles were involved in an accident near Manaia, with one person being helicoptered to Taranaki Base Hospital. Emergency services were called to the scene of the accident west of the intersection between SH45 and Ahipaipa Road at around

6.30am on Friday March 25. The Manaia, Okaiawa and Hawera fire brigades attended the accident. Manaia chief fire officer Shane Taylor said two cars had been involved in a head-on collision, and then a tanker had come around the corner, colliding

with one of the cars. The female driver of one of the cars was cut free from her vehicle, and later flown to Taranaki Base Hospital by the Taranaki Community Rescue Helicopter.

The driver of the other vehicle had moderate injuries. There was only

minor damage to the tanker and it was driven away from the scene. The driver was unhurt.

Shane Taylor says it was dark, but weather conditions were fine and the road was dry at the time of the accident.

Two thirds of tested rural bore water above cancer risk

Greenpeace Aotearoa has released preliminary figures of its mail-in nitrate water testing showing that two thirds of 237 bores tested had nitrate contamination above levels linked to colorectal cancer in an international study.

Of over 300 mail-in samples tested by Greenpeace, 237 unique samples were from bore water supplies. Results showed that 68% of bore water samples were over the 0.87 mg/L limit linked to bowel cancer in a 2018 Danish study.

Greenpeace's testing also found that 5% of samples exceeded the current drinking water standard of 11.3 mg/L. The standard was set decades ago to avoid only one condition - blue baby syndrome - and is "hopelessly out of date" according to public health physician Professor Michael Baker, because it does not account for chronic illnesses like cancer.

Greenpeace Aotearoa Senior Campaigner Steve Abel says "Access to safe drinking water is a basic human right." Yet right now it's a postcode lottery in

New Zealand because rural households are having their drinking water contaminated with potentially carcinogenic nitrate from intensive dairying and excessive use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser."

Greenpeace says that the National Environmental Standards-Drinking Water review currently underway, is "an opportunity to safeguard clean drinking water for all", and is urging Minister Kiritapu Allen and the government to "address the main causes of water contamination in Aotearoa - synthetic nitrogen fertiliser and too many dairy cows."

A joint submission on the

standards for protection of drinking water by Greenpeace, Forest & Bird, Fish & Game, The Cancer Society, Environmental Defence Society and others calls for a phase out of synthetic fertiliser, stocking rate limits and an end to new dairy conversions.

"The proposed freshwater protection plans leave rural people on household bore supplies unprotected because those plans fail to acknowledge the sheer volume of animal excreta - mainly dairy cow urine - leached into the ground as the primary source of nitrate contamination," said Abel.

"This is a health justice issue," said Abel, "access to safe and uncontaminated drinking water is a basic human right and currently that right is not being met for many people living outside of cities in this country."

Greenpeace is calling on the Government to ensure healthy water for all communities by protecting drinking water sources through phasing out synthetic nitrogen fertiliser; lowering dairy cow stocking rates; and backing farmers to move to regenerative organic farming.



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Lifting incomes to relieve cost pressure

Since coming into Government, Labour has worked hard to support low and middle income Kiwis. This week, we're taking the next step, with a suite of changes that came into force on 1 April that will see the majority of New Zealand families better off.

The rising cost of living, driven by global inflation and the war in Ukraine, is making things tough for many right now – including members of our community here in Taranaki. There's no easy fix, but we're delivering a range of measures to help ease the pressure. The 1 April changes are part of this work, giving Kiwi families,



GLEN BENNETT
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

caregivers, pensioners, and students – among others – a significant income boost.

Our improvements to Working for Families alone will see around 60% of all families – more than 300,000

households – better off by an average of \$20 per week. Families will also benefit from increases to initiatives like the family tax credit and Best Start, which helps parents with the cost of a newborn. On top of that, our changes to Childcare Assistance income thresholds will benefit around 1,000 families.

However, it's not just families who will see a boost to their incomes. Both the Student Allowance and Student Loan Living Costs increase by \$25 this week, while main benefits increase by up to \$35 a week. Thanks to our minimum wage boost, which kicks in from

1 April, full-time minimum wage workers will earn an extra \$48 a week.

Seniors also benefit from this week's changes. Single people on Superannuation will get an income boost of \$52 a fortnight, while couples will receive \$80 extra. In addition, from 1 May, the Winter Energy Payment will kick in again, to assist more than a million people – seniors, veterans, and those on a benefit – with heating bills through the colder months.

We've already taken action to provide immediate relief from the petrol price spikes caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine –

cutting fuel tax by 25 cents a litre and reducing road user charges for three months. It's awesome to hear this is already making a difference. On top of this, from 1 April, it's now much cheaper to catch a bus or train. Half-price public transport fares will remain in place for three months, making getting to and from work more affordable for many in New Plymouth.

There's no silver bullet for the current cost-of-living pressures, but these measures, when taken together, will provide some relief for people in our community and across the country. They build on

actions we've taken since 2017 to ensure Kiwi families have more in their pocket to get ahead, such as the family tax credit, free school lunches, cheaper doctors' fees, and the removal of most school donations.

We're committed to securing a recovery from COVID that leaves no one behind – and the work we're doing to support households with the cost of living is just one way we're making that a reality.

Glen Bennett
MP New Plymouth

Predictable delays for more meat processing

Meat works around the country are struggling to meet demand due to the Government's failure to keep pace with the vital cog in the supply chain,

National's Agriculture spokesperson Barbara Kuriger says. Farmers are being forced to hold onto livestock longer as meat works across the country have wait times stretching up to six weeks. This adds

even more pressure to our farmers, with some having to dip into their winter baleage supply early or buy in costly feed supplement alternatives.

"The Agriculture Minister and the Government made assurances that they would take steps to limit any disruption for our essential farming industry, but as predicted, they have failed to do this.



BARBARA KURIGER MP FOR
TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

"Labour failed to deliver to bring in the necessary

workers due to stringent immigration rules, and they failed to supply the meat works industry with rapid antigen test in a timely manner, causing disruptions to staff.

"Now plants are either closed or running at a reduced capacity and our farmers are the ones paying for it.

"New Zealanders are all feeling the effects of this

cost of living crisis with everyday basics like food and petrol costs going through the roof. On top of this, our farmers are facing an overwhelming amount of new farming regulations and an enforced ute tax, while having no viable electric alternative.

"To make matters worse, some farmers have had a long dry summer with little to no grass, while others

have endured their farms going underwater due to flooding.

"The primary sector underpins our economy and its trade exports have effectively kept our economy afloat when other industries have been forced to shut down due to the pandemic. It is time for Labour to realise how important agriculture is to New Zealand and start supporting our farmers."

Income increases for over 1.4 million Kiwis

A number of measures came into effect on April 1. Main benefit rates increased by between \$20 and \$42 per adult, per week compared to 1 July 2021. The Minimum Wage increased to \$21.20 per hour. New Zealand Superannuation rates increased by \$52 per fortnight for single superannuitants living alone, and by \$80 per fortnight for a couple. Student Allowance and Living Costs increased by \$25 per adult, per week. Childcare Assistance income thresholds are indexed to average wage growth. The Working for Families tax credit increased, and the Orphans Benefit and Unsupported Childs Benefit increased by between 12 and

26 percent per week

"We know the pandemic has been tough for many people and whānau. These increases will help put food on the table, and pay power bills in the winter months. They also show this Government's ongoing commitment to lifting incomes for all New Zealanders" Minister for Social Development and Employment Carmel Sepuloni said.

The lift to main benefit rates will see rates come into line with the key recommendations of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG). Rates for families with children will increase by an additional \$15 per adult, per week,

meaning these rates are then above what the WEAG recommended.

This follows the increase on 1 July 2021, and is over and above the usual 1 April annual general adjustment to main benefit rates.

"MSD modelling shows that compared to 2017 policy settings our Government's significant lifts to main benefits will see around 364,000 beneficiaries better off by on average \$109 per week, increasing to \$133 per week during the 2022 winter period," Carmel Sepuloni said.

"Over 109,000 beneficiaries with children will be better off by on average \$175 per week, increasing to \$207 per week during the 2022

winter period. Couples with children are \$237 per week better off on average and then around \$268 per week during winter. These increases underline our determination to reduce inequality, and are a step towards addressing child poverty."

In addition to main benefit increases, Childcare Assistance income thresholds will also increase annually, in line with net average wage growth. This will maintain current levels of Childcare Assistance for parents as wages grow.

Working for Families tax credits (Best Start Tax Credit and Family Tax Credit) will also increase from 1 April, providing many lower income and beneficiary families with a meaningful boost to their weekly income.

The Orphans Benefit

and Unsupported Childs Benefit have increased, bringing them into line with payments made to carers through Oranga Tamariki; with additional increases to reflect the Working for Families increases.

"Our Government has lifted benefit incomes across the board more than any other previous Government and are the largest increases since the 1940s. We've also continuously raised Benefit levels, invested \$5.5 billion through the Families Package, increased the minimum wage year on year and invested heavily in employment, education and training," Carmel Sepuloni said.

"Many Kiwis who earn the minimum wage have gone above and beyond in our fight against COVID-19. We remain committed to supporting New Zealanders

by raising their wages, as we continue to recover and rebuild from the pandemic," Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety Michael Wood said.

"The increase of the minimum wage will directly benefit approximately 300,000 workers, and will help many households that have been most impacted by the effects of COVID. For someone working a 40-hour week on the minimum wage, this increase will see them earning an extra \$48 a week, and almost \$2,500 more each year," Michael Wood said.

"Lifting the incomes of New Zealanders remains a crucial part of tackling the long-term issues facing New Zealand, and as we secure our recovery from COVID-19," Carmel Sepuloni said.

Steph Lewis

MP for Whanganui

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Mystery spitfire pilot's diary turns up in Manaia

On May 24 1944 there were reports of German aircraft near Rome "interfering with" American P47 fighter bombers. A New Zealand Spitfire pilot serving in Italy was on patrol at the time and saw suspicious looking aircraft. He went to investigate.

"Mac and I climbed after them. Somebody else did too but turned back(yellow)" he noted in his diary. "Mac and I nearly caught them up when they turned and attacked us. Ten 190s, Mac out to one side. Mac said four top cover coming in from 3 o'clock, they tagged onto him and he did a climbing turn full boost to delouse himself. Other ten attacked me from both sides and head on. I flew straight at nearest aircraft and one by one they broke off and dived for deck. Soon alone. Mac called up and we joined up and returned to base." The diarist's name is unknown. Typed diary sheets covering his time as a pilot from September 4 1943 to June 11 1944 shortly after Allied troops had recaptured Rome were given to the Manaia and Districts RSA two years ago. The diary's previous owners told the



A Spitfire similar to this one was flown by the unknown New Zealand pilot in Italy whose diary's latest place is with the Manaia RSA.

RSA they didn't know who the original writer was. The Manaia RSA have decided to forward the diary to the Air Force Museum in Christchurch for assessment, and if they decide it is of sufficient historical value they will hold on to it. They would also be in a position to maybe identify the original author, says Manaia RSA president Barry Smith. "A detailed diary like that doesn't come up very often. He must have kept that diary and somebody from the

family must have typed it up." The diary begins with the writer in North Africa where he appears to have been based for some time. He is relieved to get orders transferring him to Sicily. "I heaved a great sigh of relief when I saw the coast of Africa disappearing behind me," he wrote on September 5, 1943. "I have seen quite enough of it from the Gold Coast to the Delta to Tripoli to last a lifetime." In Sicily he went to a show

put on by British entertainer George Formby. "George was very funny especially the way he would laugh at his own jokes, then everybody else couldn't help laughing." From Sicily it was on to Italy where he saw action around Anzio, Cassino and Rome. On March 13 he recalls visiting Monte Cassino and noted the New Zealand Army was "camped along the apron way." This was shortly before the disastrous attack which forced the New

Zealanders to be pulled out.. On December 21 he received notification of his rank as Flight Sergeant backdated to May 1 1943. In the diary there is a passing reference to Arthur Faulkner. The future Minister of Defence in the Norman Kirk Labour Government had also served as a Spitfire pilot in Italy during World War II. As well as the airman's diary the material handed to the Manaia RSA includes a list and notes of the airman's missions and an undated

report he had written of an accident he had been involved in. He was flying a Fairchild aircraft between Aquino and Termoli with two passengers when he encountered trouble while crossing from the Rapido Valley to the Volturno Valley. "When halfway through I noticed that the aircraft was caught in a downdraft. I decided to carry on as at that stage it was risky to do a 180 degree turn because the valley narrowed towards the bottom. With full throttle producing 2000revs and airspeed down to 60m.p.h. I could not maintain height so I tried to attempt to fly along the bottom of the valley. At its narrowest part I was endeavouring to manoeuvre round a shoulder with full throttle and airspeed 60m.p.h. when the aircraft stalled into the forward side of the shoulder and turned on its back. Flames immediately started round the engine so I called to the passengers to get out."

Fortunately everybody got out alive, and with the help of locals made their way to an Indian medical unit.

Mt Messenger bypass moves closer

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency say they are looking forward to starting physical works on Te Ara o Te Ata: Mt Messenger Bypass following a High Court decision confirming consents for the project. The decision from Judge Andru Isac was the latest legal judgment in favour of the 6km bypass that will replace the existing steep, narrow and winding section of State Highway 3 through Mt Messenger in North Taranaki. Waka Kotahi Director Regional Relationships Linda Stewart says the Mt Messenger Alliance charged with delivering the new bypass will begin preparatory works this autumn, ahead of a start to main construction in spring. Main construction will start at the southern end of the project, with earthworks and vegetation clearance. Preparing access to locations for the project's tunnel and bridges will be a priority. "Te Ara o Te Ata: Mt Messenger Bypass will increase safety for everyone travelling into and out of North Taranaki. "It will also be more resilient than the current route, standing up more effectively to the challenges posed by the local weather, ground and geographic conditions. "Equally as important, the

project includes a major environmental component to help us achieve our goal of leaving a lasting legacy in Taranaki, ensuring the project area is left in a better condition than before construction. "Waka Kotahi remains fully committed to delivering this important project for the benefit of Taranaki and Aotearoa New Zealand, and we can't wait to get started." The decision was also welcomed by the Taranaki Mayoral Forum. "State Highway 3 through Mt Messenger is Taranaki's primary link to the upper North Island, and we welcome news this long-awaited investment can occur to improve the safety and resilience of the highway." The project's iwi partner Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Tama

has similarly welcomed the news. Chair Paul Silich says: "Most of our members live and work in Taranaki and, together with the rest of our local communities, we have been looking forward to this project getting started for a long time. "A better road through our rohe will save lives and support our Taranaki economy. "And of course, the environmental gains will see Taranaki's northern-most native forest flourish over time. We are really looking forward to seeing our native species thrive once more." The bypass will run for approximately 6km between Uruti and Ahititi, and will include two bridges of approximately 125m and 30m in length, and a 235m tunnel

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Treasure in Taranaki - Glassware and crystal

Cecilia's Craft and Antiques, at 85 Tasman Street, Opunake has a great selection of glassware and crystal. On offer are quality pieces from such places as Italy and Germany, as well as New Zealand. Brands include such famous names as Bleikristall (Germany), Lavorgziona (Italy) and Fidenza (Bormioli Rocco - Italy). Raewyn, owner of the shop, admits that selling her glassware and crystal is not always easy. "To let them go is always a bit sad, but when I sell them I know they'll appreciate their beauty, like I do."

(pictured) Raewyn admits that the blue Fidenza vase (from Italy), in the middle, is her favourite of those on display.

What is the difference between glassware and crystal? One of the pioneers of crystal George Ravenscroft (1632-1683) made the material by adding lead oxide to clear glass. The lead replaces the calcium content of typical potash glass. However, to tell the whole story, the practice goes back to Venice a hundred year earlier when crystal was first made.

If you tap crystal it makes a definite ringing sound, while



A selection of glassware and crystal at Cecilia's Crafts and Antiques, Opunake.

glass makes a dull thud.

The Fidenza story goes back to Luigi Bormioli around 1825. The family moved from Altare (Savona) to Fidenza (Parma) to establish the first glassworks.

There have been many changes over the years. In 1903 the company relocated to Via San Leonardo in Parma with 100 employees, increasing to 300 by 1911.

During World War I they produced containers for medicines and food. In 1944 the factory was bombed, but they regrouped. Much later, in 1970 they perfected the process of welding stems to glasses. However, the company did not confine itself to tableware and

glassware, because in 1914 they produced glass blocks for the building industry in Spain.

There have been changes of location over the years and many other plants established, until today the company is called Bormioli Rocco with a descendant of

the original family Alberto Bormioli the president of the company. Currently, 100 countries are involved, with about 2500 employees; Luigi Bormioli would be very proud at what he started back in 1825 and how it has evolved.



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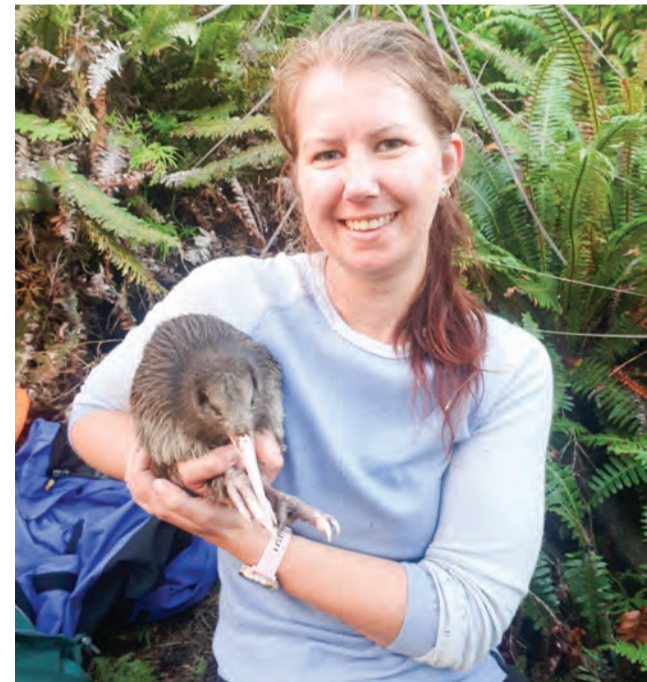
Saving kiwi near Inglewood

New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) and its partners are hoping tourists will flock to a multimillion dollar wildlife centre to be set up near Inglewood, with expertise from Brooklands Zoo.

They're working alongside Pukerangiora hapū and the East Taranaki Environment Collective (ETEC) on the trust's proposal to create a wildlife recuperation facility, similar to Wildbase in Palmerston North. NPDC's decision to buy nearly six hectares of land next to Joe Gibbs Reserve in Inglewood will help establish a centre to rehabilitate injured or ill wildlife, including kiwi.

It's great to be partnering with ETEC and Pukerangiora hapū on environmental and tourism opportunities says New Plymouth District Mayor Neil Holdom.

"Working with Mana Whenua and the Trust on



ETET Conservation Manager Kat Strang with Bloom.

this kind of big picture thinking is helping to create our sustainable lifestyle capital, looking after our precious kiwi and providing

a tourist attraction which will stimulate the local economy," he says.

ETEC is a charitable trust responsible for conservation of 13,000ha of land at Purangi, East Taranaki, which has become a stronghold for North Island western brown kiwi and other native species. Chair Chris French says the centre could be part of a North Island network of triage and rehab facilities. "I'm especially pleased that we've found a suitable site in Inglewood - a town that's generously supported us over the years. The site will be easily accessible to the



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Saving kiwi near Inglewood

continued from page 10
public and we'll be working with NPDC's Brooklands Zoo team on animal care and rehabilitation."

Pukerangiora Hapū Chair Anaru White says while they are involved as mana whenua, the project is bigger than them. "Caring for our taiao (environment) is

essential for us as a hapū and we are excited to be involved. The hapū knows the opportunities extend to other iwi and the community," he says. "We're aware that

a lot of our native wildlife, especially kiwi, are going outside the region to be cared for, so to have this resource in the area will be hugely beneficial."

To support the project, NPDC will restore native forest and wetland on the site as part of the Planting our Place programme: adding 34ha of urban forest across

the district and creating a public fund for indigenous planting (Te Korowai o Tane).

Thieves bolt leaving unsafe stairs

NPDC staff noticed that 12 heavy duty stainless steel bolts had been stolen from a set of stairs near the Coastal Walkway recently. The missing bolts were quickly replaced, but their theft is concerning.

"It's pretty obvious that the bolts are needed to keep the stairs safe to use. We're fortunate that the stairs did not fail and that no-one was hurt," says NPDC Manager Parks and Open Spaces Stuart Robertson.

"We've also had bolts taken from a fence



Bolt thefts are putting the public at risk.

recently," he says.

"If people notice anyone messing about with public structures like these and they're not wearing branded clothing from NPDC or a recognised contractor, please ring us straight away."

This theft follows news of a rise in stealing from construction sites around the country, with various building materials being taken including timber, plasterboard, copper and fuel.

Gardening with Palmers Gardening Centre

Natures planting time

Autumn is nature's planting time. The ground is still warm and rain helps establish new plants, trees and lawns.

Now is the time to remove finished summer annuals and plant winter flowering annuals. Calendula, cineraria, nemesia, pansy, primula and stock make a lovely winter show.

Stone fruit have finished so trees can be pruned and old wood removed. Make sure you retain enough new season's growth for next season's fruit. Apples, pears and grapes are ripening so cover with netting if birds are a problem.

Spring bulbs are in-store. Plant daffodils, tulips, freesias and hyacinths this month. Planting bulbs is easy and they look great in the garden bed or in pots and containers. Plant in well-drained soil at the correct depth – roughly twice the size of the bulb.



Pansies galore.

We recommend Tui Bulb Mix to provide your bulbs with the right nutrients in a free-draining planting mix.

How is your lawn looking? Give your existing lawn attention by removing weeds, sowing new seed and feeding with lawn fertiliser. If you are sowing a new lawn, a handy tip to avoid puddling is to have a

slight slope to allow for water run-off.

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www.opunake.school.nz
admin@opunake.school.nz

GROWING GOOD PEOPLE FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD | HE WAIHANGATANGA O TE TANGATA PAI I ROTO I TĒNEI AO HURIHURI

OPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL IS A-MAIZE-ING

Every once in a while, collective success should be shared. For a small school, in a small town, we certainly punch above our weight. So in this edition of the Coastal News, we'd like to showcase a few things that have been going really well for us recently.

Firstly, our NCEA results for 2021, and we want to present some statistics that reflect the academic achievement of our rangatahi. In the graphic below you'll find achievement rates at NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3 for Opunakē High School, along with our Decile average and the National average. We've also broken down the overall result to show our two largest ethnic groups, NZ European and Maori.

Quite clearly, Opunakē High School students reach levels of NCEA achievement greater than, not just our Decile level, but the overall National average. When we break our achievement down to include ethnicity, our Maori rangatahi are achieving at levels even higher - nearly 20% greater than the average across all three NCEA levels (our other ethnic groups - Pasifika and Asian are also outstanding). What this tells us is our students and staff work incredibly hard to meet the academic standards required of them. Well done to all our learners in 2021!

NCEA LEVEL	OPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL	DECILE 4	NATIONAL AVERAGE
LEVEL 1 ACHIEVEMENT			
Overall	86.1%	71.3%	69.0%
Maori	77.4%	59.8%	57.4%
NZ European	91.7%	76.0%	73.9%
LEVEL 2 ACHIEVEMENT			
Overall	86.4%	78.5%	77.8%
Maori	87.0%	70.7%	68.1%
NZ European	86.4%	81.3%	81.1%
LEVEL 3 ACHIEVEMENT			
Overall	80.5%	69.5%	70.4%
Maori	84.2%	60.5%	58.4%
NZ European	76.9%	70.5%	73.1%

As mentioned in previous editions a number of our Opunakē High School projects have 'gone viral' in a purely positive way. The Tiny Homes project got picked up by print and online media all around Aotearoa, with Mr Griggs managing to pop-up on Radio New Zealand to talk about things. Jason, Brody and Pauline featured in the Dominion Post (Wellington) and local papers. Our aforementioned NCEA success with Maori students led to Kura Auraki (NZQA) visiting us to gain insight into our achievements - the answer is simple - a lot of mahi and dedication to growing good people for a rapidly changing world. Ka pai.



Above: Jason Holmes (L) and Brody Nielsen

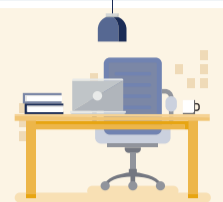


SCHOOL APP

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Search 'Opunakē High School' to find us.

Principal's Address



Ka nui te mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa

Even through the upheaval Covid is bringing to our kura and community we still have so many things to celebrate.

The community came out in stupendous support of our maize maze and hangi. Not only did the school raise significant funds to support the hauora of our tamariki, but it was also a wonderfully, wacky and wild social event. Huge aroha goes out to our school Board of Trustees for having the foresight to arrange this as the maize grew, thanks Liz Gasson (Presiding Member) and the rest of the BOT.

Some other people who put significant amounts of time into this were: Natasha Sefton-Zachan, Victoria Forsyth (our Year 13 Dean), Harry James, and Lloyd Morgan. Along with Year 13s who volunteered their time as guides and later in the evening as scarers (and scary cats). Our staff also volunteered their time in the same way. For the hangi we would like to thank Whaea Kerry, Wendy, Vicky, Jade, Anna, Robbie and Donna, Matua Paora and Pelo and anyone else who donated food to help keep costs down.

Jason Holmes and Brody Nielsen have also been shining stars this week with some well deserved accolades and recognition around their seaweed business, which is not only innovative, but sustainable. Pauline Sandford has been integral in supporting their entrepreneurial endeavours, a huge thankyou to her.

We are also very proud of Bella Pivac and Ella Griggs who ranked bronze in the Assembly Rescue category in the North Island IRB champs. Go girls!

We would like to welcome Saffron Kerr Slater and Camron Horo onto the Prefect team. These two young adults are students who truly live our DREAMS values in all they do, and our kura will benefit from their dedication and leadership. Another huge welcome goes to Mr Matt Lash who is our new Head of Faculty for Gateway/Transitions. Mr Lash has an extensive background in supporting young people in Taranaki, and we are incredibly proud to have him as part of our trail blazing kura.

Our Academies have started in earnest. Wonderful local kaiako, in conjunction with our staff are giving their time and expertise to our athletes, environmentalists, baristas, surfers, mountain bikers, dungeon and dragon players, academics, musicians, artists and cultural creatives. Here we truly realise the whakatauki; it takes a village to raise a child.

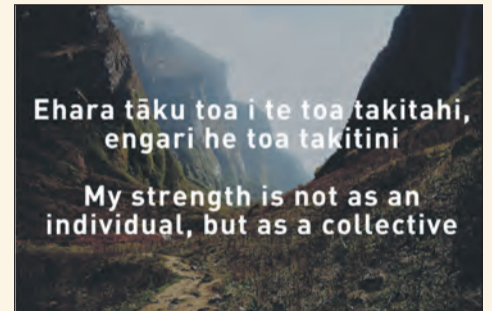
We recently gave out junior school literacy reports which is a great tool for identifying what your child knows, and what their next steps are in their learning framework. A big thank you to Anne Englebretsen: Curriculum Director, Rachel Taylor: Year 9 Dean, and Barry Skinner: Deputy Principal for putting together these robust reports. (There is even a handy video that goes along with them if you need some more information).

And our final accolade goes out to all the students of 2021. Their results (just been formally released) were outstanding and we are so proud of each and every one of them. As always however their success is underpinned by caring, dedicated staff and supportive whanau.

To all whanau who are struggling at present, we have kai packages available for the next few weeks (during term time). So please don't hesitate to phone the kura if you are in need of support: 067618723, it would be a way for us to show our appreciation to our supportive community.

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui

Andrea Hooper Carr
Principal



Ehara tāku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini

My strength is not as an individual, but as a collective



Above: Saffron Kerr Slater (L), Camron Horo



Above: Karina Jane (L) & Amy Robinson with the perfect cuppa.

Left: Welcome back Matt Lash as the new Head of Gateway and Transitions



Taranaki National Art Awards back for 2022

The page has turned to a new year which we are approaching with an air of optimism and positivity for our event. The committee had to make a very difficult decision in 2021 to cancel the Art Awards and postpone our 20th Anniversary celebrations. We thank our local Opunake and Coastal community, our valued sponsors, and our many talented participating artists, for understanding the challenges we faced at that time. Your ongoing support is invaluable to the staging and success of our creative community event.

We recently held our AGM on March 10, regrouping and reflecting on the topsy turvy continuum of the past two years. We are still contending with flux and uncertainty and are working on the development of a more robust contingency plan, to mitigate as best we can any challenges that may arise in the planning and staging of the Art Awards in 2022.

The TNAA committee are excited to reboot the organisational process for the Art Awards and Exhibition. We are planning some extra special happenings to celebrate our 20th Anniversary and the people who have helped on this journey. The theme for the Awards Night is "The 20s," which can be interpreted in whatever time zone or context that sparks your imagination. We are planning an evening of festivities to celebrate this year's participants and award winners, as well as acknowledging all the people



Phil Nixon addresses the crowd at the Awards ceremony in 2020.

who have contributed along the way. We would like to pay tribute to the founding committee members whose creative spark and drive got the ball rolling. Please contact us if this is you as we would like to record stories of this journey as well as those who have been on the committee over these past 20 years.

The TNAA aims to provide an exceptional and sustainable visual art experience that encourages participation within a diverse range of creative media. The exhibition is a platform for artists to express their unique vision and voice, showcasing themselves to an

appreciative public audience. In doing so we are fostering positive relationships, creative networks and cultural diversity, that in turn provides support

and encouragement to the creative community.

We look forward to collaborating with our co-creatives who colour the event with a local flavour

– The Opunake Floral Art Group, The Opunake Players, Opunake High School Art and Music faculties, the Opunake Business Association, all

the Yarn Bombers and our amazing team of over 80 volunteers. We are re-energised to facilitate the coming together of our vibrant community to once again showcase the breadth of talent, diverse perspectives and calamity of artistic expressions that we are advocates for as the TNAA collective.

Some key dates of note are - Entries open May 16 and close September 16, The Art Awards Evening is on October 28, with the exhibition running from October 29- November 5.

Our next TNAA committee meeting is on Thursday April 14 at 1pm at the Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Event Centre, Opunake. Feel free to come along and contribute if you're keen to be involved. Contact Megan (0275007722) or Natasha (0272491620) for more information. Check out our website www.taranakinationalartawards.co.nz and our Facebook page for updates.

Taranaki National Art Awards



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Tony True (1930-2022) sadly missed

A kind person with an endearing sense of humour, Tony True from Opunake who sadly passed away recently was the epitome of an English gentleman.

For some years Tony served as a volunteer on the ambulance in Opunake. An electronic technician by trade he worked at Morris & Ockhuysen in Opunake for many years.

He and his wife Jan were also active members of St Paul's Co-operating Parish.

Born in Chesterford in England, the son of a doctor, Tony and his two younger brothers attended boarding school from the age of 7.

He recalled the bombing during the war and picking up shells which he and

his brothers would try and recycle by refilling with gun powder. The three brothers ended up being billeted to the country where they were safer as happened to a lot of the children during World War II.

After leaving school Tony joined the merchant navy for five years training as an electronic technician.

He had friends in Melbourne and decided to come initially to Australia then, to New Zealand visiting friends in Taranaki. It was while there he placed an ad in the paper wanting work and Bob Ockhuysen who founded the Opunake firm Morris and Ockhuysen replied. Tony joined Morris and Ockhuysen. He lived in one of the baches down



Tony (left) at his 90th birthday with wife Jan, daughter Sonia and son in law Mark .



Tony as a young man in the Merchant Navy.

at Opunake Beach – since removed – and shortly after met Jan, a qualified midwife in charge of Opunake's Cottage Hospital.

After two years Jan resigned from the Cottage hospital in order to go to the UK with several girlfriends. Tony independently also returned to the UK to visit family.

The got engaged in the UK and returned to New Zealand where they were married in Whangarei.

As well as being able to fix anything which he continued to do well past his retirement, he was a keen reader of non-fiction and also enjoyed music, particularly classical music and musicals.

Tony also kept a wonderful garden and orchard growing everything from apples to nectarines.

It was while in his beloved garden with a young friend dealing with some storm damage that he suddenly took ill.

Among those who attended the celebration of Tony's life was Reverend Murray Hall, 94, who married Tony and Jan, and who gave a speech about their long friendship. Others who spoke referred to him as an English gentleman. Tall and fit looking, he had the bearing of a man decades younger. Others included people who had worked with Tony on the ambulance and people grateful for the kindness he had shown their loved ones in his role in the

ambulance. "He loved it," reflected Jan of his time in the ambulance.

Raewyn Robinson who worked with Tony in the ambulance spoke of his unerring old style courtesy and, despite her protests "they were workmates", his insistence on opening doors for her and seeing her safely in her car after they'd finished their shift.

Tony leaves his wife Jan of 54 years, his daughter Sonia and son in law Mark.

Glaciers continue to shrink this year, says NIWA

The annual end-of-summer snowline survey of more than 50 South Island glaciers has revealed continued loss of snow and ice. Scientists from NIWA, Victoria University of Wellington, and Department of Conservation took thousands of aerial photographs of glaciers. Some of them are used to build 3D models that track ice volume changes.

Each year, the NIWA monitoring programme evaluates many glaciers and the altitude of the snowline to see how much of the previous winter's snow has remained covering each glacier. The long-term aerial survey provides a valuable evidence timeline, stretching back to 1977, and visually shows how much glaciers have retreated. Since the snowline survey began, the global climate has warmed by around 1.1°C.

NIWA Principal Scientist Dr Andrew Lorrey, who leads the project, says that many of New Zealand's glaciers are suffering thanks to exceedingly warm

summer temperatures, exacerbated by a marine heatwave.

"We were expecting the snowlines to be high because of the warm weather we've had and sadly, our instincts were confirmed. A couple of glaciers, such as Brewster,

has snowlines at least as high as in 2016, which was in our top five high snowline years. The surface of the Volta Glacier also showed a lot of snow and ice accumulation layers from prior years, meaning it's probably a bad year when

we can see all those "book pages" from the past being exposed," says Dr Lorrey.

Glacier snowline altitudes, also known as equilibrium line altitudes (ELAs), help scientists to directly evaluate annual glacier health. If a glacier has decreased in size,

the ELA is higher because less winter snow remains. If the glacier increases, the ELA is lower because more winter snow has remained.

Dr Lauren Vargo from Victoria University of Wellington says the retreat that we're seeing is due to the majority of New Zealand's glaciers losing mass most years over the past decade.

"From what we saw on the snowline survey, most glaciers had reasonably high snowlines, showing that they lost mass this year. But what was more striking to me is how much smaller and more skeletal so many of the glaciers are becoming," says Dr Vargo.

NIWA climate scientist Gregor Macara says there was a noticeable difference on this year's survey.

"Based on what I saw during the 2022 survey, it looks like our glaciers have struggled compared to last year. The snowline elevations this year were high, meaning much of the winter snows had melted, leaving a lot of glacial ice exposed. It appears to be

yet another poor year for our ice, continuing the trend from recent years, and it is disheartening to see the ongoing decline in extent of the glaciers we monitor".

NIWA's work estimates that more than a third of the ice volume has been lost from the Southern Alps since the survey began.

"What we're seeing is a clear retreat, which is no doubt thanks to climate change. In a decade, we predict that many of our beloved and important glaciers will be gone. This will have far reaching impacts, such as altering our beautiful landscape, affecting the livelihoods of people who rely on these natural wonders for tourism, and flow on effects from decreased meltwater during periods of drought. It also emphasises the urgency of slowing climate change because the impacts are going to become increasingly costly and hard to avoid," says Dr Lorrey.

The scientific results from this year's survey will be known later this year.



Mt Taranaki bereft of snow a consequence of climate change?

Ian McAlpine



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RESPONDING FOR OUR REGION REGIONAL RESEARCH REPORT 2022

Toi Foundation recently commissioned socioeconomic research to provide clear direction on how we can be more impactful catalysts for change - collaborating and partnering with the organisations that are doing, or looking to do, great work in our community.

This research helps further inform future funding and investment decisions so that we can continue to enhance the lives of more people in our region by being responsive to changing community needs and funding where there is greatest need. Together we can increase access to opportunities, have a thriving environment, prioritise child and youth wellbeing and empower Māori aspiration.

KEY FINDINGS

The key findings in the research are well aligned to these focus areas with jobs, training, connectivity, health outcomes, Māori wellbeing, environment and more coordinated support in South Taranaki coming through as the areas for opportunity to fulfill our purpose of building a thriving, inclusive and equitable Taranaki.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN TARANAKI IS HIGH, with strong election turnout, and a higher proportion than the national average volunteering. Higher rates of unpaid childcare in Taranaki are worth further investigation.

HEALTH OUTCOMES PRESENT CHALLENGES FOR THE REGION with lower life expectancy, fewer GP visits, and the highest rate of avoidable hospitalisation in New Zealand. Access to healthcare appears to be a challenge.

AVERAGE DEPRIVATION IS HIGHER in Taranaki than across the rest of New Zealand, with a slightly higher level of benefit dependency, a high but volatile Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) rate, and persistent unemployment reinforcing this trend.

CONNECTIVITY IS LOWER IN TARANAKI THAN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, with lower internet access, and a slightly smaller share of the population with a driver licence, which limits social mobility.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN TARANAKI REMAIN POSITIVE, but still with room for improvement.

Early childhood education participation is higher in Taranaki, but school leaver educational attainment, and tertiary education progression, could be improved to unlock further talent options for Taranaki.

MĀORI OUTCOMES IN TARANAKI ARE ALSO MIXED, with poorer housing, connectivity, mental health, and discrimination outcomes for Māori in the region. However, Māori in Taranaki report strong cultural outcomes, with positive rates of manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, and whānau support.

HOUSING OUTCOMES ARE MIXED IN TARANAKI.

Home ownership is higher than the national average, and household crowding is lower. But affordability is worsening, housing needs are rising, and housing quality is of concern.

Particularly in South Taranaki, where there is a need to enable greater levels of housing support, with substantial increases in the Housing Register.

AREAS OF FOCUS

We know there is no silver bullet to addressing the issues and needs that exist in the region, but we strongly believe that coordinated support and collaboration between central government, local government and local organisations and providers, like Toi Foundation and its partners is the best way to create the sustainable, long-term, intergenerational change we need and want in Taranaki.

Housing needs are rising.

Whilst home ownership in Taranaki is one of the highest across Aotearoa, the number of households on the Housing Register in Taranaki is rising - from 32 in March 2015 to 615 in March 2021.

South Taranaki continues to have the lowest home ownership rate in the region and it has fallen heavily since 2001. Māori are also adversely affected by low (and declining) home ownership rates.

Whilst Taranaki's housing affordability remains better than the national average, the ratio of incomes to house prices is has been steadily rising.

Housing quality data shows Taranaki houses are more likely to be damp and mouldy, compared to the national average. 18% of Taranaki houses were sometimes or always mouldy. Dampness sits at 21%.

Higher rate of people looking after children in Taranaki.

Child support is an area for further investigation, with higher levels of unpaid childcare work potentially signalling barriers in this area.

In 2018, Taranaki had the second and fifth highest rates of unpaid work to look after a child not in their own household and a child in their household, respectively.

If barriers to childcare are understood, further support could be examined for families in Taranaki, enabling families to access childcare, and free up time for family members to undertake other pursuits in employment, or elsewhere in the community.

South Taranaki requires a greater focus across the board, due to a range of concerning outcomes.

An integrated approach to supporting those in South Taranaki will be important to addressing interdependent issues.

Improved health outcomes are a key area to address to deliver better foundations.

Mental health presentation is higher in the region than the national average.

Infometrics estimates show 5.3% of the local population accessed mental health support. This proportion was above the 4.8% rate recorded nationally, with the region showing the 6th highest rate of mental health need.

Highest rate of avoidable hospitalisations.

Taranaki has the highest rate of ambulatory sensitive hospitalisations (ASHs) of all New Zealand regions. ASHs are avoidable hospitalisations that could have been prevented with earlier intervention, often through primary care.

20% of the region's population visited the ED, compared to 15% nationally and this number is rising.

Health Survey analysis also shows that there is a higher level of unmet need for primary healthcare in our region. 37% of the population in Taranaki had an unmet need, compared to 31% nationally.

Support delivered by Māori organisations in Taranaki are likely to enable better outcomes, given strong manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, and whānau support.

Focus is needed on Māori-centric approaches to housing access and models, alongside support for greater levels of Māori employment to reduce benefit needs.

Unemployment rate persistently higher.

Continued support is required to assist those in Taranaki into employment, given persistent unemployment and room to improve education outcomes.

Low rates of connectivity.

In an increasingly digital society, internet connectivity is rapidly becoming a necessity for employment, education, social and cultural connection.

Improved connectivity will reduce access challenges around digital exclusion and educational, employment, and social opportunities, and allow our region to remain linked into processes and change.

Support needed to limit waste output and reduce emissions.

New Plymouth District recorded the highest waste diversion rate, with around 46% of generated waste being recycled. South Taranaki reported 34% of waste was diverted from landfill, with only 24% of Stratford waste recycled.

Statistics NZ regional greenhouse gas emissions estimates show Taranaki was the second most emissions intensive region in 2019. Although energy generation is part of Taranaki's carbon story, data shows that primary industries and manufacturing contributed 72% of the region's carbon emissions in 2019.

We are very aware that many of the issues raised in the research are not unique to Taranaki, but we are privileged to be here, on the ground with strong relationships and purpose to create positive social change for our community, so we welcome the opportunity to help be part of the solution in our region.

WE'RE ALREADY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Whilst the research identifies many shortfalls and gaps that need ongoing and increased support, it is important to acknowledge work that is already being done in our communities. Here is a snapshot of grant recipients, who are providing programmes and services that meet the needs of our region.



RODERIQUE HOPE TRUST

Roderique Hope Trust provides transitional housing to those in need in the Taranaki region, with five properties in North Taranaki and two in South Taranaki. Families who are homeless, can come to stay in one of these properties for up to twelve weeks.

Michelle Ramage of Roderique Hope Trust says, "Providing emergency housing and support, gives whānau a chance to make a plan that is filled with hope. We're tailoring solutions to make sure families don't go without."

"We reached out to Toi Foundation when the need arose to replace a vehicle that was no longer fit-for-purpose, and funding has allowed us to purchase a van that we use to move furniture between properties, setting up each home up appropriately for the families that come to stay. The ability to pick up and drop off items that are donated, means the families in need don't go further into debt."

biggest challenge was the amount of people within our region that were living in cold, damp, mouldy homes. In South Taranaki, we see more of a need because the homes there are colder, damper, and have multiple issues. We can improve the health benefits of those homes through our insulation programme."

"Toi Foundation support has enabled us to get out into the community, get into homes, insulate homes, and that's just the start of making them a warmer, drier, healthier, happier place to live."



KINDERGARTEN TARANAKI

With 24 learning centres across the region, Kindergarten Taranaki is providing early childhood education for over 1,100 children.

Kristina Forsberg, Facilities and Service Team Leader explains that, many of these education centres were designed in the 1950's and 60's, for two teachers, less children and a very different curriculum. "Grants from Toi Foundation are enabling Kindergarten Taranaki to take a structured approach to returning functionality to the region's kindergarten facilities."

Dawn Osman, Chief Executive for Kindergarten Taranaki talks about the extensive list of facility upgrades. "Bathroom facilities to improve sanitation and space for an increased number of children as well as catering for accessibility needs. Kitchens upgrades to better meet the needs of the teaching programme and food safety standards. Also heat pumps, so we can make spaces warmer, drier and healthy."

"We hope that these upgrades will give parents and caregivers confidence to leave their tamariki with us in functional, safe and hygienic learning environments"

These upgrades have a life span of 15 years. Over this time, many young people and their whānau will benefit.

"At the outset, one of the gaps we identified was how might we achieve this? How does this work take place working across the different PSGEs without gaps in knowledge?" Emere explains that they were working alot on anecdotal information and assumptions. Finding a way to inform their work was important, and would enable strategic delivery.

Toi Foundation support has enabled Te Aranga o Taranaki to operationalise the collective data, and share of this evidence across nga iwi o Taranaki.

"A recent survey of housing tells us the affordability is a huge issue for our people. With the cost of rent rising and the availability of rental stock, also the changes in lending policies. Understanding where our people are at, and what these issues are, means we can make a Taranaki Māori Housing Strategy that can inform in an evidence based way." says Wano. "We can put the infrastructure in place that allows people to live and thrive where they want to be."



MB3

MB3's focus is on ensuring that technology works to inspire learning. Adam Ellis, Director of Technology for MB3 explains that, "Connectivity and technology works really well in school, but the second you move beyond school, connectivity is a challenge, and you've got children that rely on internet to stay connected to their peers and connected to their schools".

Data that MB3 have received shows the need to be able to connect to the internet is becoming more important, especially in education - with the majority of Government services moving to online only, coupled with the fact that children learn just as much after 3:00PM on the internet as they do in school.

A Toi Foundation grant has allowed MB3 to connect with the community and understand what is required, then build a custom solution that allows communities to connect.

Katherine Cross, Managing Director of MB3 says, "Technology is a very unique landscape and very difficult for a lot of telcos to actually get good connectivity into the region as well. As part of the community project, we're able to use the school's fibre to send up a signal to our towers, which we then beam out to our houses. We connect those users through and test them and make sure that it works."

"They have a very fast and safe connection through to the school", adds Katherine. "They're not able to go onto websites that they shouldn't be looking at. Basically, what they're accessing at school, they're able to look at when connected at home."



KIDSAFE TARANAKI

Kidsafe Taranaki has been running for over twenty years with a focus on prevention and reducing the risk of childhood injuries.

After noticing Taranaki had a higher rate of admissions to the Children's Ward of children injured in various accidents compared to the rest of the country, work began on what measures could be taken to reduce the number of injuries.

There are now a number of programmes in place, including education of young parents on household safety and changes that can be made to prevent injuries in the home. Most recently, Kidsafe has been involved in doing car seat installation and set up checks, ensuring children are restrained safely.

Paediatrician Dr Stephen Butler, Chairman of Kidsafe Taranaki explains, that "Analysis of data over a number of years shows the impact they are having, with a dramatic fall over the past 15 years. But we are still seeing children injured and there remains a need for us to do more. Funding enables Kidsafe to continue doing this important work in the community"

"Prevention should be the focus and does make a huge difference. If we can stop kids being injured, it is far better than treating the injuries once they occur."



WISE CHARITABLE TRUST

Paul Scouler of WISE Charitable Trust says the organisation has insulated over 15,000 homes since they began doing insulation around the Taranaki region.

"We've also created 500 jobs during that time as well. Sometimes we bring people off long-term unemployment and we put them through training and pathways.

Some years ago when unemployment in Waitara was actually crippling, we were able to be a bit of a shining star in that space and create employment for local people. It's just been fantastic over that time."

WISE Charitable Trust applied for a grant from Toi Foundation because they know the need is great out in our community. "Prior to applying to the funding, our



TE ARANGA O TARANAKI

Te Aranga o Taranaki was born out of the Covid-19 2020 lockdown, to respond to the potential economic impacts that might result for Taranaki's eight Iwi Post Settlement Governance Entities (PSGEs), and is focused on developing a Māori Housing Strategy for the region.

Emere Wano says, "It is about bringing the Maunga to life, and our people living around the Maunga, not just in urban environments. So that regardless of where people choose to live, they can do so in warm, dry, connected housing."

RESPONDING TO OUR REGION // REGIONAL RESEARCH REPORT 2022



Much of what we are doing already, will contribute to better outcomes in our region, but together we can reach further and deeper.

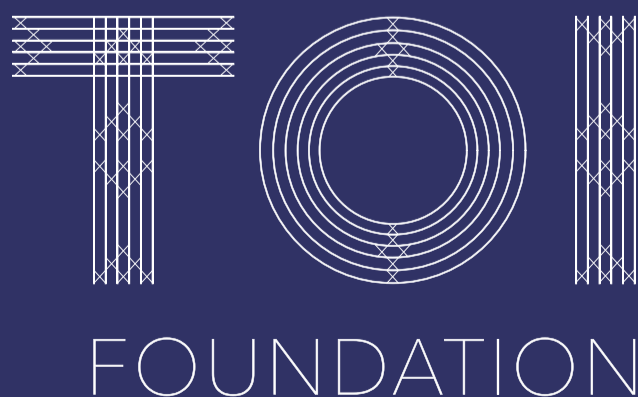
Toi Foundation is not claiming to have all the answers and solutions ourselves. What we do have is strong relationships and funding that, when applied to the right programmes and initiatives could help to drive some of the social change required. We know that together we are stronger.

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You can find out more about 'How We Fund' but visiting our website: toifoundation.org.nz

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Manawatu/Taranaki Regional final of Young Farmers held in Feilding

Area 5 Director of Ravensdown, Mike Davey was a special guest at the Manawatu/Regional final of the NZ Young Farmers on Saturday March 19. The event was held at the Feilding Civic Centre, 84 Aorangi Street, Feilding. "Ravensdown has been a sponsor of Young Farmers for many years," commented Mike.

Mike was chosen to present an award to Brad Beatson (30), who won the Agri-Skills Knowledge Challenge award. Brad was also placed second overall. Georgina Campbell came third. All three belong to the Marton Young Farmers Club.

However, the overall winner was David Reesby, who will head to Whangarei for the National Final, to be held July 8 - 9. A practical day will be held on Friday July 8, with the quiz and awards dinner on Saturday July 9.

The event was compered by television personality, comedian and writer Radar, whose real name is Andrew Lumsden. He has won many media awards including, in 1998, the Billy T James Comedy Award and in 2012 for hosting the Best Information Series (The TV programme he hosted was Global Radar).

First place winner David Reesby (21) is a dairy farmer. He is herd manager



Mike Davey, Area 5 Director of Ravensdown, presenting the Agri-Skills Challenge award to Brad Beatson.

and second-in-charge of the family farm near Oroua. The farm is 180 hectares with 420 cows being milked. David is currently completing

PITO qualifications, while also finishing a AI apprenticeship. In 2020 he was named as Manawatu Dairy Trainee of the Year.

Brad Beatson (Runner Up) is a Horizons Regional Council Land Management advisor. He has an interesting background including as a shepherd for the fertiliser industry in New Zealand. Overseas, he has spent time in England, Australia and Japan, where he was involved with New Zealand farming shows.

Third place getter Georgina Campbell (31) is a veterinarian who works for Totally Vets in Awapuni, mostly dealing with cows and horses. She grew up on a sheep and beef farm, but enjoyed some relief milking. She won a basketball scholarship to Iowa, USA where she learned different

ways of farming pigs and corn.

What do we know about New Zealand Young Farmers (NZYF)? It should be mentioned that there are other offshoots including NZ Junior Young Farmers and Agrikids, the latter name being self-explanatory.

NZYF is a non-profit organisation which focuses on connecting communities and helping to grow future leaders. There are almost 80 clubs throughout our nation, each with their own identity and community spirit. The network of clubs is backed by an eight-member governing Board.

Incidentally, you don't need to be a farmer to belong, but must have a passion for agriculture, food and the fibre section.

Participation is the key and there are many activities to compete in such as stock judging, clay target shooting, fencing and even debating. The benefits of membership

are too many to mention, but include making friends, public speaking & meeting skills, leadership training, financial management, strategic planning, and even discounts for health insurance.

Water restrictions lifted

All water restrictions in the South Taranaki District were lifted as of 11:59pm on Friday 1 April.

"Thank you for your help in protecting the health of our streams and rivers and in ensuring we had enough water to go around over the summer months," says South Taranaki District Council communications manager Gerard Langford. "Please remember to always fix leaks and use water wisely."



Overall winner David Reesby who will attend the National Final in Whangarei July 8-9.

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Will councils ban splash plate spreading?

With the majority of Europe banning the use of splash plates for effluent spreading, a common concern for kiwi dairy farmers with slurry tankers is whether or not New Zealand councils will do the same. While we may not be able to predict the future, we can provide some good industry insights on the matter...



MICHAEL PRESTIDGE

In comparing New Zealand to Europe it should be noted that our effluent is usually a lot less concentrated, and our population is less dense. This basically means our effluent is less potent and we've got more room to spread it, making splash plate spreading much less of an environmental and social issue here in New Zealand. Our councils are more likely to focus on more pressing issues, however it is always a possibility we will eventually follow in the footsteps of Europe.

If New Zealand councils did decide to ban splash plate spreading, the good news is there are alternative options. In fact, the use of splash plates for effluent application in New Zealand is becoming a thing of the past. This is simply because there are far

better application methods available now, not because of any council compliance rules. Using Nevada as an example, we now supply all slurry tankers with RainWave™ applicators as we believe these provide the best performance and value. Even in Europe the Nevada RainWave™ is an approved method of application.

Other slurry tanker applicator options include dribble bars, trailing shoes, disc injectors or rain guns. Each applicator has advantages and disadvantages depending on the farming situation. It was once thought that injecting effluent directly into the ground was the best option, however research proved that in lighter soils this can cause leeching and be detrimental to



Will New Zealand councils follow Europe's lead?

groundwater contamination. Dropper booms/dribble bars and trailing shoes have also thought to be the best option for spreading close

to neighbouring properties and boundaries, however many farmers using a RainWave™ applicator have said they have no

issues with compliance or neighbour complaints. For a comparison of the different slurry tanker applicator options read our Review –

What's The Best Applicator For Slurry Tankers?

*Michael Prestidge
Nevada Effluent
Management Specialist*

Hammer-to-hammer at Apprentice Challenge

Building apprentices from across Taranaki will battle it out on Saturday 9 April at the New Zealand Certified Builders (NZCB) Apprentice Challenge Sponsored by ITM. Competing for the title of Taranaki's NZCB Apprentice Challenge winner and a spot in the national final, the apprentices will be tasked with completing a challenging project over

eight hours that will put their skills to the test.

After the 2021 NZCB Apprentice Challenge saw a record number of entries across the country, anticipation is building for this year's competition.

This year's challenge will see each apprentice build a park bench, the design plans for which are revealed one week ahead

of the competition. The day-long challenge requires proficiency in a raft of carpentry skills with a focus on attention to detail and time management.

To decide the winner, a judging panel of building practitioners and industry educators will assess each apprentice's technical skills and technique, the quality of their workmanship, precision of measuring and

cutting, assembly and ability to work to a detailed plan – all while working against the clock.

Each park bench must meet minimum safety standards, and competitors will be provided with durable, trade-quality timber and materials from ITM to complete the project.

The event will be held at Western Institute of Technology, New Plymouth

and is open to the public to attend and support local building talent. The event begins at 8am and the winner will be announced around 5pm.

The Taranaki event is one of 20 regional NZCB Apprentice Challenges being held around the country on the day. These events are sponsored by ITM and held in conjunction with the Industry Training

Association Building (ITAB) and Apprenticeship Scholarship Trust.

The winner of each regional event will go on to represent their region in the national NZCB Apprentice Challenge Sponsored by ITM Final, held at the NZCB Annual Conference and Expo in Hamilton

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Outward Bound youth disability courses - scholarships available

Outward Bound has scholarships available for two new eight-day courses for youth with a physical disability:

Youth Activate is an 8 day course for physically disabled youth aged 16-18 years. The course is suitable for teens who are independent, able to

communicate clearly and who can travel and attend without a carer. The next course is scheduled for 10-17 May 2022. Applications close Thursday 14 April 2022 but will be filled on a first in-first served basis.

Leaps and Bounds Activate is a course for physically disabled youth aged 13-16

years and their parent or caregiver. The next course is 10-17 October 2022. Applications close Friday 9 September but will be filled on a first in-first served basis.

Both courses are proudly supported by the Lindsay Foundation and are fully funded excluding transport and medical costs. They are

an amazing opportunity for young people to challenge themselves physically and mentally and discover their potential in the outdoors.

For more information please contact Adapted Course Partner Leonie King lking@outwardbound.co.nz or call 0800 OUTWARD.



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Taranaki Dairy Industry Awards winners bounce back stronger

The 2022 Taranaki Dairy Industry Awards Share Farmers of the Year are second-time entrants who used prior feedback from judges to learn about and address gaps in their business.

Murray and Rachel Perks were named the region's Share Farmers of the Year at the annual awards dinner last week. Nick Besinga was named the 2022 Taranaki Dairy Manager of the Year and Kate Logan the 2022 Taranaki Dairy Trainee of the Year.

Murray was a DairyNZ consulting officer for two seasons, prior to beginning as a Lower Order Sharemilker in Opunake 10 years ago. He and Rachel moved to Hokitika for two seasons before moving to their current role six years ago.

The couple are 24% VOSM contract milking for Alistair, Stephen and Imelda Abbott, on their Abbott Trusts Partnership 134.45ha, 445-cow Hawera property.

They are proud to have overcome a position of negative equity to be able to purchase cows again.

"When we were in our last equity partnership near Hokitika, the payout crashed and, because of extended family health challenges, we made the call to sell our equity partnership at a significant loss," they say.

"We've managed to pay back our debt and save our equity to the point of going 50/50 sharemilking."

Murray holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (First Class Honours), while Rachel has a Bachelor of Language Therapy.

"With a growing family consisting of Callum (8), Matilda (5) and Jack (3) Murray and Rachel's future farming goals include paying off their herd, funding their children's education and looking into



2022 Taranaki Dairy Industry Award winners. From left. Ashley Primrose (on behalf of Dairy Trainee of the Year Kate Logan), Sharefarmers of the Year Murray and Rachel Perks, Dairy Manager of the Year Nick Besinga.

off-farm investment.

No runners-up or placegetters were awarded in the Taranaki Share Farmer category due to low finalist numbers.

The winner of the 2022 Taranaki Dairy Manager of the Year category was Nick Besinga, who also won the 2019 Manawatu Dairy Trainee of the Year.

Nick is Farm Manager for Geoff and Mary Butler on their 181ha property, milking 526 cows at Auroa.

The 28-year-old holds a Bachelor of Agribusiness from Xavier University in the Philippines and had already decided he wanted to be a farmer prior to obtaining the degree.

"A big influence was my Dad, who works on the business side of agriculture in the Philippines," says Nick.

"Farming for me is not just a job, it's a way of life. Just being outdoors and the simple lifestyle it offers to people is amazing."

Nick is in his second year managing and plans to work another year as manager to strengthen his skills and prepare himself for higher-level farming. "Ideally this will be contract milking or lower-order sharemilking."

Future farming goals include saving more equity to become a 50/50 sharemilker in five years.

Off-farm, Nick enjoys

basketball and is a member of Surfing for Farmers in Opunake.

Runner-up in the 2022 Taranaki Dairy Manager category was Korey Astwood, who currently works as farm assistant for Kenneth and Rachel Short on their certified-organic 168ha Opunake property, milking 400 cows.

The first-time entrant first encountered dairy farming at school via a gateway programme placement.

"I love the variety of different things that I get to do each and every day, along with the unknown daily challenge that I'm presented with to investigate and solve."

Third placegetter in the 2022 Taranaki Dairy Manager category was Blake Cameron who works for Hugh and Christine Cameron on their 73ha, 250-cow farm in Okaiawa.

Taranaki Dairy Trainee of the Year winner Kate Logan is a first-time entrant to the Awards programme.

Kate is herd manager for Bede and Shirley Kissick on their 115ha, 350-cow farm in Auroa.

After beginning in the dairy industry as a relief milker, she moved to England where she worked in arable farming for seven months. Upon returning to New Zealand she began work as a farm assistant in Hawera before moving to her current

role this season.

Future farming goals include securing a manager position with the ultimate goal of farm ownership.

Farm Assistant Jacinta Kete placed second in the Dairy Trainee category.

Jacinta works on Philip and Donna Cram's 105ha Awatuna property milking 250 cows.

Jacinta grew up on a drystock station in South Waikato and initially

shepherding was her dream. After making new friends who were in the dairy industry, her mindset changed and she and her son Arlo (3) moved to Taranaki where she began relief milking.

"Roy Thomas was third placegetter and is 2IC on Mark Stevenson's 620-cow, 205ha Manutahi farm. He won \$1,000 in prizes and two merit awards.

On this month in history

Scotland declares independence

Six years after the Scots under Robert the Bruce had defeated the English under Edward II at the Battle of Bannockburn, the English King still refused to recognise Scotland as an independent nation. On April 6 1320 a group of Scottish lords met at Arbroath to write to the Pope declaring Scotland to be an independent country.

Now known as the Declaration of Arbroath or Scottish Declaration of

Independence the letter said they were loyal to Robert Bruce, but that if he ever betrayed them they would choose somebody else to lead them.

"For as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom—for that alone, which no honest man

gives up but with life itself.," the Declaration read.

In the years since, the Declaration has been seen as one of the first documents to voice the democratic principle of government by consent of the governed.

In 1997 Scots voted to have their own parliament, and in a 2014 referendum there was a 45 per cent vote for independence.



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The Weta irrigator can achieve flows up to 40,000L per hour, application depths



The Weta Irrigator. Robust and low maintenance.

from 1mm – 20mm and wetted widths up to 100m and as short as 20m. This delivers high volumes at

low travel speeds over large areas significantly reducing the number of irrigator shifts required whilst protecting

the environment at the same time.

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Managing Director Simon Foley says “We have been using the Weta irrigator for 7 years now and there is

nothing else on the market that can achieve this level of performance”.

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From Dairy Woman of the Year to Dairy Woman chair

Three years ago Trish Rankin was Dairy Woman of the Year. As from the start of this month she is the new chair of the Dairy Women's Network.

When she was named Dairy Woman of the Year back in 2019, she and husband Glen were sharemilking 435 cows near Auroa. Two years before they had shifted from Northland where they were 2016 Northland region Share Farmers of the Year.

This year they are in their first season 50/50 sharemilking on the Eltham Road and their first season with a lease farm on the Opunake Road. Trish also has a part time position with Land Pro.

The Dairy Women's Network has 10,000 members including farmers and rural professionals.

"It's great to be part of an organisation that's contributed to my growth. It's a real privilege," she says. Previous Dairy Women of the Year had included National Party



Dairy Women's Network chair Trish Rankin.

agriculture spokesperson Barbara Kuriger and former Federated Farmers national president Katie Milne.

Among the prizes Trish received for being named Dairy Woman of the Year was a \$20,000 scholarship to undertake a personal development programme. She used this to study Agribusiness at Harvard Business School in 2020, something she was able to do before COVID made its presence felt. She also studied online for a post-graduate certificate in Business Innovation and the Circular economy at Bradford University in the United Kingdom.

Her new role comes with challenges, not the least of which has to do with those posed by the pandemic.

"I'm looking to help our members get back and reconnect after COVID. What we do is mainly events-based. We have a lot of stuff online. Now we are looking at hybrid models, shoulder to shoulder rather than face-to-face, while doing online as well."

Helping Trish as chair support will be the woman

she took over from, Karen Forlong who stepped down after two and a half years as chair.

"It's a great time to work with Karen over the next few months to learn more around the skills and knowledge of being a chair," said Rankin. "Governing an organisation that has a strong vision to enable transformation change in dairy businesses is so crucial in enabling the dairy industry to thrive."

Karen Forlong says she is excited to be stepping into the role of chair support.

"Having well-planned succession within the organisation embodies the Network's value of leadership through action, and is necessary to keep the organisation future-focused and developing alongside the industry., she says. "It goes without saying that it has been a humbling privilege to be the chair for the last two and a half years. This new role will allow me to be there to support Trish and pass on knowledge from my time as chair, and to still have a voice around the board table to support the Network."

Sandfords Manaia Golf results

March 19. Saturday Men. 1. Jim Ngere. 2. Grant Gibbs. 3. Colin Koch. 4. Grant Gopperth.

Juniors. 1. Archie Joyce. 2. Theo Joyce. Putting. Carter Symes. 2. Jude Poole. 3. Hannah Symes and Jayden Poole.

Congratulations to Sam Jones for winning the New Zealand Amateur Stroke Play Championship at Christchurch. He was also one shot behind the professional player.

Waimate Plains. March 26. Men. Gross. 1. Sam Jones. 2. Phil Hooper. 3. Brian

Martelletti. 4. Joshua Symes. Nett. 1. Caleb Andreoli. 2. Corey Symes. 3. Des Rupapera. 4. Harvey Gibbs.

Women. Gross. 1. Celeste McLean. Nett. 1. Shannon Berry. 2. Jackie Higgans. 3. Ev Gibbs.

Longest Drive. Men. Glen Moriarty. Women. Celeste McLean.

Juniors March 27. Inglewood Town. 18 holes Carter Symes 3rd. Nine holes. Oliva Symes 4th. Hannah Symes 6th.

Juniors March 27. Chipping. 1. Joshua McOnie. 2. Jack Gargan.

Chip and Putt. 1. Jack Gargan. 2. Joshua McOnie.

Saturday April 2. Men. 1. Jim Ngere. 2. Colin Koch. 3. Jess Jenkins. 4. Caleb Symes. 5. Blake Symes.

Nett Eagles. Caleb Symes 4th. Greg Elliott 11th. Jess Jenkins 17th. Gary Wallis 4th.

Juniors. Putting Peewees. 1. Kahn Hori. 2. Archie Joyce. 3. Ash Laing and Theo Joyce. Eagles Putting. 1. Carter Symes. 2. Nixin Laing. 3. Hannah Symes. 4. Caleb Bird.

Rock-hard defence against beach erosion

Almost 2,000 tonnes of rock have been rolled in to protect the sea front at Onaero and Urenui.

NPDC has finished reinforcing the sea wall at Onaero, which had slumped due to large waves and gravity. The project later shifted to Urenui with work underway at the golf club end.

"Getting these rocks in place means the sea walls will once again work as designed and help reduce erosion in these areas," says NPDC Manager Parks and Open Spaces Stuart Robertson.

"There's a lot of power behind the west coast waves, especially during storms, and they can get behind these boulders and force a sea wall out of shape. We've been working on sections of New Plymouth's sea wall as



400 tonnes of rock have boosted the Onaero Beach seawall

well, for the same reason."

The work has been timed for March/April as there is less chance of interrupting penguin nesting.

The \$40,000 project in Onaero involved 400 tonnes of rock, while 1,500 tonnes of rock is going into the

\$107,000 job at Urenui.

NPDC has 23 sea walls in the district, with a coast that stretches 98km from the Mokau River in the north to the Hangatahua (Stony) River in the south. NPDC also manages 68 hectares of coastal dunes.



RACING SATURDAY

April 9th

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Gates Open 3:00pm

Racing Starts 5:00pm

Opunake Bowling Club April Fools Tournament

A very successful April Fools Tournament was held on April 1. Quite a few players from other clubs had not played in this before, and judging by the comments they really enjoyed the novelty aspect of it. This is a fours tournament. And one of the conditions is that you must play in a different position in the team each game. Many small prizes were handed out during the day, adding to the merriment of the competition.

Results. 1. Lauren Bright, Peter Berg, Ada Senior, Paul Eaton (West End). 2. Val McEldowney, Anne Duggan, Graeme Verster, Warren Bellringer (New Plymouth). 3. Frank Pollock, Robyn Pollock, George Stannard, Allan Ducker (Tower).

In February-March, many rounds were played for the



April Fools winners. From left. Paul Eaton, Ada Senior, Peter Berg, Lauren Bright.

Junior Singles Championship. Julie Hemahema and Esther Ward-Campbell ended up with the same amount of wins, with Esther needing the win for the outright lead, and Julie needing it to force a playoff. Wonderful bowls were played with Esther winning by a close margin. The next night they played again and was similar with very tight heads, and Esther winning to take out the Women's Junior Singles Championship. Great bowls girls.

The women's Senior Singles, the pinnacle of the ladies' club events were played on March 26. All participants played each other in a series of round robin events. The eventual and deserving winner was Rita Davey. Congratulations Rita.

Kay Fleming.

Juniors bag senior bowls titles

Two junior bowlers are this year's Opunake Bowling Club senior champions. Rita Davey and Levi Davis have taken out the senior women's and men's title respectively.

Rita has been playing bowls at the Opunake Bowling Club for the last six years, Levi for the last five. When asked how he got interested in bowls, Levi

points to Rita. He first started playing twilight bowls, and in his second year became junior singles champion. He followed this up with two more junior champion titles before this year's win.

Rita also comes straight off three previous junior titles. She says her sister Chris Commane first encouraged her to come along to the

Opunake Bowling Club and play. Chris was among the players Rita beat to take this year's title.

As well as being senior champions with the Opunake Bowling Club Levi and Rita are also both drivers for Pickering Motors. Levi has been with them for four years, while Rita says she has been with them for "a

long time."

A feature of both this year's senior championships

was that as well as Levi and Rita, there had been a strong junior presence in the finals.

"There's a strong juniors group coming through the playoffs," says Levi.



From left. Tracey Pickering of Pickering Motors with bowling champions Rita Davey and Levi Davis.



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Spectator to national winner in two years



Ricardo with his trophy at the Park Croquet Club where it all began.

Ricardo Pintor never saw himself as being any kind of national champion, least of all a croquet champion. Until two years ago he had never played the sport, despite having a mother, two aunts and an uncle who did.

This all changed two years ago when he turned up at the Park Croquet Club in Hawera to cheer on his mother Kathleen who plays for the Inglewood Club. Ricardo, who is a history teacher at Hawera High School was asked if he wanted to join the Park Croquet Club and he decided to give it a go. Last month he competed in the Croquet NZ Don Reyland Stars Handicap Singles Finals in Morrinsville as Croquet South Taranaki's representative playing the Golf Croquet version of the game. He won the tournament, winning 13 games out of 15 playing representatives from Northland, Auckland, Counties - Manukau, Waikato-King Country, Thames Valley, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, Taranaki (North), Manawatu-Whanganui, Wairarapa, Wellington, Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury and South Canterbury. On the way he defeated Josh Winter

of Canterbury who earlier this year had won the Croquet New Zealand Open championship.

Ricardo is his club's Intermediate champion and had been selected to be South Taranaki's representative at the tournament after winning his club's knockout competition earlier this year. With none of the other South Taranaki Clubs putting up anybody this meant he automatically became his Association's representative at the tournament.

"When I took up the game I thought this is quite an easy game to pick up," says Ricardo. "Never did I think that I would be representing Croquet South Taranaki or that I would be a representative of any sport, let alone winning a national competition."

Ricardo says croquet is a game which is age-neutral and gender-neutral, and in his time at the Park Croquet Club he has been encouraging more younger players to take it up. While not as physically demanding as some other sports it can be quite mentally demanding, he says. Taking part in the tournament had involved playing eight 70 minute games on the Saturday and seven on the Sunday.



Sam Jones. New Zealand Amateur Stroke Play champion.

Another title for Manaia golfer

Sam Jones who learned his golf at the Manaia Golf Club is the New Zealand Men's Amateur Stroke Play champion. The 25 year-old left hander picked up the title at the New Zealand Stroke Play Championship played recently at the Christchurch Golf Club. He finished behind the championship winner, professional golfer Josh Geary, but as the top amateur player he walked away with the amateur title. Jones very nearly had the tournament winner title as well, going into the final day in front, two

clear of Titirangi Golf Club professional Johnny Tynan and three clear of Geary and Tyler Hodge. With nine holes to play he had a three shot lead. His tee shot on 17 ended up in the penalty area resulting in a bogey. Meanwhile Geary had been moving up fast with a birdie on ten, holing his second on 11 and he birdied the 12 to tie with Jones. Geary went on to make birdies on the 14th and 16th and rolled in a clutch birdie on 18. Jones needed to hole out from the fairway for eagle to force a playoff. He hit

his approach to eight feet which was enough to take the amateur men's title, but still finish at 13 under, one behind Geary. Jones finished with rounds of 69, 66, 71 and 69.. The amateur women's title was taken for the second year in a row by 17 year-old Vivian Lu. Sam Jones learned his golf at the Manaia Golf Club alongside his brother Ethan. In 2017 as a 20 year-old taking a break back home in New Zealand from a golfing scholarship at the University of West Georgia he won the

New Zealand Long Drive championship. In 2019 he captained his university's golf team, the Wolves to a win in the Buccaneer Spring Classic in Mississippi. That year, while on a break back home in New Zealand, he won the New Zealand Amateur championship. With another title to add to the ones he already has, his future goals now include getting selected to represent New Zealand in the Eisenhower Trophy team.

Defeat "a learning experience"



James Langton (left) with Bobby Katene.


Bobby Katene's goal of making five wins out of five fell short with a defeat to Jahrell Strange in Auckland. As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (February 24) Bobby, who boxes at the Barbwire Boxing Gym in Opunake was sitting on four straight wins. One of these had been a points decision late last year against Jahrell

Strange, who he lost to in Auckland. The fight Bobby was due to have against Louie Taufua in Putaruru was called off, meaning that he was looking at his second fight against Jahrell to make the five out of five record. But for a lack of experience, Bobby could have beaten Jahrell a second

time says Barbwire Boxing Gym owner James (Batman) Langton. "In the second round Bobby hit Jahrell with a beautiful right punch which wobbled him," says James. "Maybe Bobby's inexperience meant he didn't take full advantage of the situation and finish him off." After two rounds the

honours were equally shared with Jahrell ahead on points in the first and Bobby ahead in the second. "In the third and final round both fighters put on a good show and both were very exhausted," says James. "Unfortunately Jahrell ended up winning the last round and winning the fight on a points decision." James says the fight had been a good learning experience for Bobby. "He will only be a better fighter for it. He made the mistake of landing every punch 100 per cent and going for the knockout punch instead of going for the nice combinations so that the opportunity would come for the knockout punch." It had been, says James, a good fight. "The fight itself was probably the fight of the night, with two heavyweights absolutely giving it their all. "Hopefully if we go into the orange traffic light, we will get some momentum and show New Zealand boxing what Barbwire Boxing is producing from a rural town like Opunake."

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Fiona unafraid revealed

People will get an opportunity to see an unusual film which screened at Everybody's Theatre last Sunday, which will be rescreened on April 24.

They also got to meet the subject of the film who was there to answer questions after the screening of the film.

The film entitled Fiona Clark: Unafraid was about Elam School of Fine Arts graduate and photographer Fiona Clark who, in the 1970s, achieved notoriety in getting an exhibition in Auckland of her photos closed down on obscenity charges.

In the 1970s Fiona also pioneered early colour photography elevating colour photography into "a contemporary art."

While at art school she began photographing the gay and lesbian community which included cross dressers and drag queens who frequented night clubs such as Mojos in Auckland, among them the iconic Carmen (who composer Jack Body used as his inspiration for his performance piece 'Songs of Dances and Desire: In Memoriam Carmen Rupe').

Then of course Kodak would censor people's work.



Fiona Clark (left) with Aretha Lemon at Opunake's Everybodys Theatre.

The more revealing photos Fiona took of the gay and lesbian community would not come back so she had to learn to process the photos herself.

Patricia Bartlett, Founder of the Promotion of Community standards and disapproving Salvation Army women sought to

close some of Fiona's exhibitions of her works – and eventually succeeded. Politicians also entered the fray debating homosexual law reform with Norman Jones and Fran Wilde publicly and vocally taking up contrary positions. All feature in the film.

At the time it was

ground breaking stuff and the alternative gay/drag community felt they had for the first time been given a voice, "It was a series about giving people a voice," Fiona explained.

Fiona eventually moved back to Taranaki. She has lived in the old Inglewood Dairy Factory not far from

the farm on which she grew up. She bought the factory in 1975, and continues her life work which she says "makes her happy."

We also saw old film footage of her family and experiments with a web camera trained on the mountain. In later years she has become a political activist championing such causes as pollution in the Waitara River and environmental issues using her gift in photography.

We got to meet her "gay goat" Nancy and also learnt something of her life since those heady days in Auckland including a tragic accident involving a motorcycle and a car in which she was a passenger where the motorcyclist's helmet slammed into her "breaking every bone in her face." After numerous operations and the loss of an eye she told the surgeons she didn't want any more surgery or reconstructions.

It was an interesting hour and a half, the film was made with the help of the New Zealand Film Commission.

Fiona Clark: Unafraid will be shown at Everybody's Theatre on Sunday, April 24 at 7pm.

Bernice McKellar

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South Taranaki Happening Holidays!

April 2022

All enquiries to **South Taranaki i-SITE 06 278 8599** – please remember to register!

Monday 18 April	Tuesday 19 April	Wednesday 20 April	Thursday 21 April	Friday 22 April
 Happy Easter	Roller Skating Time: 10am – 12noon Venue: TSB Hub Camberwell Road, Hāwera Cost: \$4 entry \$1 skate hire Cash only – no EFTPOS	Creative Space - "Kool Kaleidoscopes"* Time: 10.30am – 12noon Venue: 41 Princess Street, Hāwera Cost: \$15 Ages: 6-15 years Children aged 6 and 7 must be accompanied by an adult	Art With Kerryn - "Letter Art" Time: 10am – 12noon Venue: Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Events Centre, Ōpunakē Cost: \$10 Ages: 6-15 years Children aged 6 and 7 must be accompanied by an adult	Gymnastics* Time: 10am – 11.30am Venue: St John's Gym sports Burnside Avenue, Hāwera Cost: \$7 Ages: 5 years + Children aged 6 and 7 must be accompanied by an adult
	Tennis* Time: 12.30pm – 2pm Venue: TSB Hub Camberwell Road, Hāwera Cost: \$5 Age: 5 years + If you have a racquet, bring one, but is supplied. Wear sneakers and bring a water bottle.	Movie Magic* "Sonic the Hedgehog 2" Time: PM session only Venue: Hāwera Cinema 2 Cost: \$10 per person includes a free kiddicorn! Age: Any age Remember to book and pay for your ticket at the South Taranaki i-SITE!	Creative Space - "Painted Ceramics" Time: 2.30pm – 4pm Venue: 41 Princes Street, Hāwera Cost: \$15 Age: 6-15 years Children aged 6 and 7 must be accompanied by an adult	Art with Kerryn - Mandala Art creations* Time: 1.30pm – 3.30pm Venue: Ōpunakē Town Hall 42 Domett Street, Ōpunakē Cost: \$10 Ages: 6-15 years Children aged 6 and 7 must be accompanied by an adult
Monday 25 April	Tuesday 26 April	Wednesday 27 April	Thursday 28 April	Friday 29 April
 ANZAC DAY <i>Left We Forget</i>	Roller Skating Time: 10am – 12noon Venue: TSB Hub Camberwell Road, Hāwera Cost: \$4 entry \$1 skate hire Cash only – no EFTPOS	Art with Kerryn - Macrame wall hangings* Time: 10am – 12noon Venue: Ōpunakē Town Hall 42 Domett Street, Ōpunakē Cost: \$10 Ages: 6-15 years Children aged 6 and 7 must be accompanied by an adult	Roller Skating Time: 10am – 12noon Venue: TSB Hub Camberwell Road, Hāwera Cost: \$4 entry \$1 skate hire Cash only – no EFTPOS	Movie Magic* "The Bad Guy" Time: AM session only Venue: Hāwera Cinema 2 Cost: \$10 per person (2D) includes a free kiddicorn! Age: Any age Remember to book and pay for your ticket at the South Taranaki i-SITE!
	Tennis* Time: 12.30pm – 2pm Venue: TSB Hub Camberwell Road, Hāwera Cost: \$5 Age: 5 years + If you have a racquet, bring one, but is supplied. Wear sneakers and bring a water bottle.	Movie Magic* "Sonic the Hedgehog 2" Time: PM session only Venue: Hāwera Cinema 2 Cost: \$10 per person includes a free kiddicorn! Age: Any age Remember to book and pay for your ticket at the South Taranaki i-SITE!	Art with Kerryn - Magical Garden Treehouses* Time: 1.30pm – 3.30pm Venue: Ōpunakē Town Hall 42 Domett Street, Ōpunakē Cost: \$15 Ages: 6-15 years Children aged 6 and 7 must be accompanied by an adult	Gymnastics* Time: 2pm – 3.30pm Venue: St John's Gym sports Burnside Avenue, Hāwera Cost: \$7 Ages: 5 years + Children aged 6 and 7 must be accompanied by an adult

Permission slips and registrations are essential for events marked. * Limited numbers so book early!

All activities (excluding Roller Skating) must be booked and paid at the South Taranaki i-SITE no later than 24 hours prior to activity.

All enquiries and bookings to South Taranaki i-SITE (06) 278 8599 open Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm, Sat-Sun 10am-3pm

Art with Kerryn activities may be registered for at the Opunake Library Plus

The last woman hanged in Britain grim entertainment

The latest play at New Plymouth's Little Theatre The Thrill of Love was certainly a contrast from their last offering, The Vicar of Dibley.

Written by Amanda Whittington, it tells the tragic story of Ruth Ellis who, in 1955, was the last woman to be hanged in England for fatally shooting her lover.

The subject matter for me immediately brought to mind a case in 1953 in New Zealand where a young house surgeon having recently miscarried walks into the men's toilets at Dunedin's Hospital and shot her doctor lover, who had jilted her.

But there the resemblance ends.

While Ruth Ellis was hanged for her efforts, the Dunedin house surgeon who claimed to merely want to frighten him was found guilty of manslaughter and out under the three year sentence.

In Ruth Ellis' case however her intent was clear. Why did you fire the bullets – the last at point blank range – asked the judge at her trial. Because I wanted to kill him she artlessly replied.

Ruth Ellis was a hostess at a London gentlemen's club with dreams of a movie star life.

Her platinum blonde looks captivated both the media and also, one suspects the detective assigned to investigate the case.

A tragic character she pleaded guilty to the offence. Immediately after shooting her lover tells his friend who was with him at the time to phone the police.

Although her lover had in beating her previously caused her to miscarry their child she did not use this to excuse her action to the



A chilling historical newspaper article about Ruth Ellis.

frustration of the defence. It was a haunting tale which left an uncomfortable after taste.

From the dramatic start which begins with gunfire, the play immediately grabbed your interest.

Nigel Colless gave a great performance as the exasperated detective (Jack Hale).

As for the character of Ruth (Toni Marie), her someone clichéd initial hard exterior with time evolved into a character with whom one increasingly empathised and indeed with her total absence of self

pity grew to almost admire demonstrating the versatility and skill of the actor. Even the despicable madam Sylvia Shaw played by Kelly Berry also somehow by the end betrayed some humanity at odds with her role. The character of Vickie played by Pipa Clarkson with her eye on the stage but who dies tragically was also well played.

It was the generous, forgiving housemaid Doris wonderfully played by Kaila LeMaitre who elevated the play from the somewhat depressing seedy scenario of escorts and the type of people

who run and patronise them was the star of the show.

It was an interesting, if disturbing play.

Well done to all involved. The Thrill of Love

continues its run at New Plymouth's Little Theatre till Saturday April 9. It was an interesting, if disturbing play. Well done to all involved

Bernice McKellar

HAWERA ART CLUB
presents
'IN ALL DIMENSIONS'
A display of their members' work
11 APRIL - 6 MAY 2022

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The Thrill of Love is on until April 9 at the Little Theatre.

TOURS & SHOWS

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HILLSBOROUGH



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The Hideaway Cafe will be open
Saturday and Sunday from
9am-4 pm

Cradle Song is first class drama

Cue Theatre's latest production *Cradle Song* is an intriguing, if spooky, play which is superbly produced and acted. This unusual play, is brilliantly directed by Sharren Read, aided by Stage Manager Nicola Knight, Assistant Stage Manager Vicki-Ann Ritchie and Production Assistant Michelle Chainey. The play



From left, Hahana (Elicia-May Hitchcock), Angela (Shae Trownson), Sister Theresa (Kate Hansen), Sister Eustace (Christine King) and Bartley (Neville Laurie). Not pictured is Briar-Faith (Michelle Brougham).

is written by Albert Belz an award-winning playwright of Ngati Porou, Nga Puhī and Ngati Pokai descent.

Albert Belz wrote the play after visiting Ireland and hearing about a mass grave of children in Tuam, Ireland. His play won the Adam NZ Play Award for the Best Play by a Maori playwright in 2018.

A feature of the production is the amazing Special Effects, Lighting and Sound including lightning, a very realistic fire in a fireplace and a window showing changing scenes and weather. This was provided by 4th Wall Technical Department.

The set was excellent depicting a characterful gardener's cottage, with the beds and wardrobe having their own pivotal roles in the plot.

I don't want to give too

much away and spoil it for theatre goers yet to see the play, but it is set in the year 1999 in a gardener's cottage on a convent in Southern Ireland, which was once a home for unmarried mothers. Two young women Angela (Shae Trownson) and Hahana (Elicia-May Hitchcock) end up there desperate for somewhere to spend a couple of nights. The two friends, one from Australia (Angela) and the other from New Zealand (Hahana) are on their OE and can be described as hard up backpackers.

The engaging dialogue and humorous interplay between these two talented actresses is a memorable delight.

Car mechanic Bartley (Laurie Neville)'s non-stop Irish accent and humour was impressive as he proves he is a man of many colours, and a

few surprises. Sister Theresa (Kate Hansen)'s imperious manner, punctuated by episodes of kindness, was a treat to experience. Sister Eustace (Christine King) is another first class effort; she could be underestimated – but has much angst hidden from view, understandably so! The other character in the play is Briar-Faith (Michelle Brougham) whose appearance, later on, is both shocking and sad. Michelle plays her part with finesse, ranging from pathos to scariness.

The well-designed programme has a warning: This show contains themes and some language may offend. Yes, there are a number of themes, often considered too risky to air, but well done to the playwright for presenting them in a thoughtful manner. Swearing there is aplenty,

but somehow it seems to be acceptable within the confines of the play, with all its risky themes and brisk humour.

I was thoroughly entertained by this excellent play, which had a bit of everything – humour, creepiness, thought-provoking drama and highly unexpected surprises. It would be hard to imagine better acting as all characters are well-suited to their roles, word perfect and convincing. Make sure you see this outstanding play at the Cue Theatre, 38 Matai Street, Inglewood.

The season runs from Wednesday April 6 to Saturday April 16. You can book online at <https://cuetheatre.co.nz/book-online>

Rolland McKellar

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Futures Give Golf a Go

Hawera Golf Club - Wednesday 27th April
Opunake Golf Club - Thursday 28th April

2pm - 3.30pm

Join us for this FREE give golf a go event for young people and families.

The event is a great chance for kids and parents to learn new skills and have a go at smashing golf balls, hitting targets and watching it fly. All equipment will be provided and no experience is needed.

Teenagers - grab a mate and come and try!

For more information contact
Lucinda Searle 0211215842 or
www.facebook.com/futurestaranaki

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Rugby and farming go hand in hand and at Taranaki Rugby, we invite you to become a part of the legacy. Donate a cull cow to become a member of the TRFU Cockies Club.

The Cockies Club is a group of members from the rural community who donate a cull cow(s) to their chosen meatworks with proceeds going to support the development of the local rugby talent in the region. In return of a cull cow, donors receive a Cockies Club Membership Pack for the 2022 Taranaki Bulls NPC Season.

Per donated cull cow, you will receive:

- 2 x grandstand tickets to every home game
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- Recognition as a member on trfu.co.nz

To register or to find out more, please contact
Commercial Operations Lead, Alice Marshall on
alice@trfu.co.nz or 0278572067.

Opunake Players Stage 48hr Theatre

Get your team together for a weekend of frantic fun! That's the call from Opunake Players. Starting on the 29th of April, teams will compete for prizes by taking a 10-minute play from the page to the stage in just 48 hrs.

"It's going to be a lot of fun, and a pretty unique challenge," said Michelle Julian, one of the organisers of the weekend. "We have a selection of plays to choose from, we have our judging team in place, we have our newly renovated theatre to stage it all in, now we just need teams to enter."

On Friday the 29th of April teams will register at the Playhouse on Layard Street from 6.30pm. As soon as all the teams are registered, they will compete for the right to choose their script. Then they have all day Saturday and Sunday to rehearse, collect costumes and props, and polish up their performances ready for Sunday night. Teams will perform their play twice. Once on Sunday night and again on Monday night, this time in front of the judges. "Think of Sunday night's performance as a dress



Lynelle Kuriger of the Opunake Players

rehearsal," said Michelle, "but bring your supporters, because they get to vote, and you could win the audience choice award." Enter by texting your name and your team name to Lynelle Kuriger on 027 3378 899,

or register on the Opunake Players Facebook page.

So come on, Opunake! So long as you are 10yrs and up, you can have a go!

Opunake Players

OPUNAKE LIBRARY PLUS BOOK REVIEW

At Lighthouse Point by Suzanne Woods Fisher

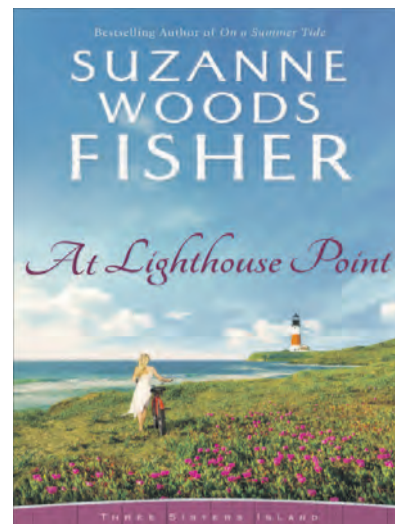
At Lighthouse Point is book three in the Christian fiction series Three Sisters Island. Having read the previous two books in the trilogy (On a summer tide and On a coastal breeze) both which made for a good read, I was pleased to find that this book was just as good if not better. This author writes about life, relationships, and family in a nice easy style, perfect for a relaxing read.

The plot in this book contains a very intriguing storyline which features the main character Blaine who comes back to her home on Three Sisters Island with plans in mind and dreams to fulfil. She is going to take Camp Kicking Moose to new heights, and then it all starts to go wrong. She realises she is not prepared for the changes to the island. Then she discovers her sister, who is a hopeless cook has remodelled the camps kitchen and it's a disaster. Next, instead of her best friend Artie welcoming her back, he gives her the cold shoulder. Soon, Blaine is starting to wonder if the whole coming home idea was just a huge mistake.

Suzanne Woods Fisher is excellent at character development in her books, and she does not fail here. The story and the people in it make for a lively and entertaining read that may make you laugh and cry. I do suggest that reading the series in order is a good idea however, the sky won't fall if you don't.

We have all three books in print in our collection plus all three books are available on our eBook platform Libby.

You can reserve this book at any South Taranaki LibraryPlus branch in



person, or call us on 0800 111 323.

You can also visit <https://ils.stdc.govt.nz/>

Maria Brewerton
Kaiārahi Whare
Pukapuka -
Opunake/Manaia
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Left: The cover of Suzanne Woods Fisher's At Lighthouse Point.

10 MINUTE PLAYS
4 - 7 IN A TEAM
48 HOURS FROM PAGE TO STAGE

OPUNAKE'S 48 HOUR THEATRE CHALLENGE

29 April 2022
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Rendez-vous

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Have a look on the Virtual Tart website

Philippe is offering this as his way of keeping the spirit of the International Collage Exchange alive and well. Just tell him which one you want so I can put a red dot



on it, to reserve it ... then get wrapping and posting. Nice.

And tell your friends who also work in collage ... this is too good an opportunity to miss.

Cheers
Dale Copeland

Left: Un Tresor Cache

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

72 Tasman Street, Opunake - www.everybodystheatre.co.nz - Phone 027 383 7926
April 2022

Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs and Senior Citizens \$8, Under 4 free

<p>DOG Comedy, Family 1hr 30mins PG Sun 10th Apr 7pm Sat 16th Apr 1pm</p>	<p>THE BAD GUYS Animated, Family 1hr 40mins PG Fri 15th Apr 1pm Sun 17th Apr 7pm Mon 18th Apr 1pm</p>
<p>FANTASTIC BEASTS 3 The Secrets of Dumbledore Adventure, Family 2hrs 15mins M: Violence Fri 8th Apr 7pm Sat 16th Apr 7pm Sat 23rd Apr 1pm</p>	<p>SONIC 2 Comedy, Family 1hr 50mins TBC Sat 9th Apr 1pm Fri 22nd Apr 1pm</p>
<p>NIGHT RAIDERS Drama, Sci Fi 1hrs 48mins M: Violence Sat 9th Apr 7pm Fri 22nd Apr 7pm</p>	<p>THE DUKE Drama, Comedy 1hr 36mins M: Sex scenes & offensive language Sun 17th Apr 1pm Mon 18th Apr 7pm</p>
<p>THE LOST CITY Comedy, Romance 1hr 32mins M: Violence Fri 15th Apr 7pm</p>	<p>CINDERELLA AND THE LITTLE SORCERER Animated, Family 1hr 31mins PG Sun 24th Apr 1pm Sat 30th Apr 1pm</p>
<p>FIONA CLARK: UNAFRAID Documentary 1hr 22mins Exempt Sun 24th Apr 7pm</p>	<p>Extra screenings for the school holidays and something special coming for ANZAC</p>

COASTALCARE

Haumaru ki Tai - Health and Community Centre

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Every Thursday and Second Friday
- LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY**
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- NEW PLYMOUTH PHYSIOTHERAPY**
Every Tuesday and Friday
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Every Wednesday
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Alex Jones 021 0816 3248
Manuka Matthews 027 239 5896
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Twice monthly on a Thursday
- TARANAKI PODIATRY**
Every 2nd Wednesday of the month
Mihis Place - Rongoa
- Every 3rd Thursday of the month

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

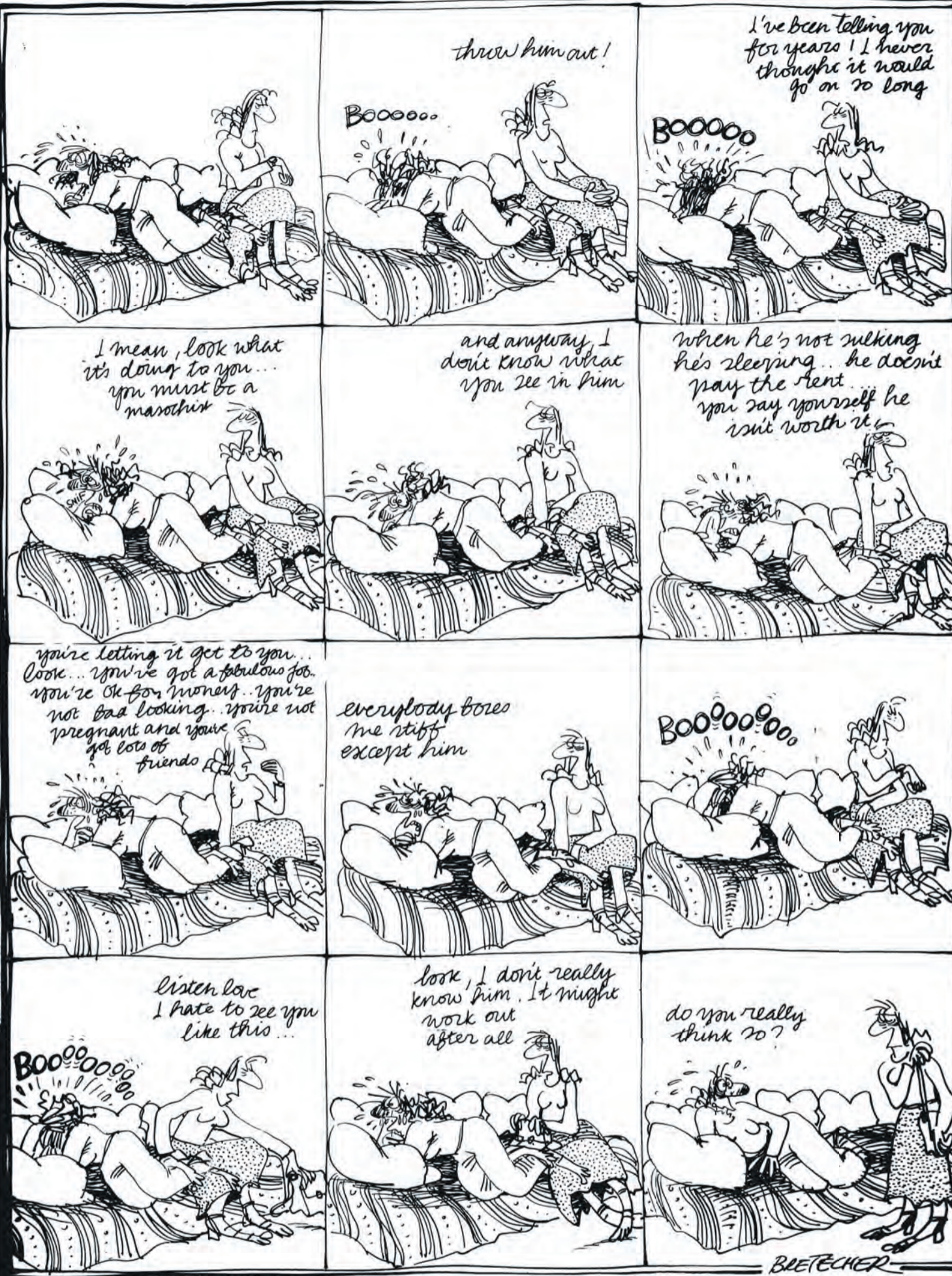


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OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE,
ST. JOHN AMBULANCE, PLUNKET,
TARANAKI DHB SERVICES,
COASTAL PRINTERS

What's On Listings

HOPE AGAINST HOPE



ONGOING

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

MONDAYS: Tainui Day Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:230 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

TUESDAYS

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

Life Drawing Group: Weekly at the Emporium, 86 Tasman St, Opunake 7pm to 9pm. \$10 to pay for the model. If anyone is interested please call Marianne Muggeridge on 06 274 5713.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

Okato Market: In Hempton Hall, Okato 4.30 to 6.30pm.

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

WEEKENDS

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

MARCH 3 TO APRIL 11

Solo exhibition - Isla Fabu: At from out of the blue studio gallery, Halse Place, Opunake.

APRIL 6 TO APRIL 16

Cradle Song: A production at CUE theatre, Inglewood. 7.30pm start.

APRIL 11 TO MAY 6

In All Dimensions exhibition: At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

APRIL 24

A special screening of Fiona Clark: Unafraid. At Everybodys Theatre, 7pm.

APRIL 29

Opunake's 48 hour Theatre Challenge: Registrations open at the Playhouse 6.30pm. See article and ad for more details.

JUNE 11 TO 25

Mamma Mia: A production by Hawera Rep. At Hawera Memorial Theatre.

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23 Napier St, Opunake

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Our next issue is out on Thursday April 21, 2022.

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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Sending a very special birthday message to this young man currently residing at the Opunake Cottage Rest Home



Mr PATRICK PIKIRAPU TIWHA HINGA celebrating his 82th birthday with his whanau and friends on 19th March
Wishing you all the very best
Rā Whānau Patrick Nga mihi

CHURCH NOTICES

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 Pauls - 10.00am, 1st and 3rd Sundays each month
Okato - St Pauls - 5.00pm, Evensong, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month

Opunake Catholic Church

St Martins, Pungarehu: 8.30am every 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

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

Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st, 3rd Sat at 5pm
(2nd, 4th & 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs)

Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am
All welcome

Easter Mass Times:

14 April - Holy Thursday 7pm at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake

15 April - Good Friday 3pm at Our Lady star of the Sea, Opunake

17 April - Easter Sunday 8.30am at St Martin's, Pungarehu
- Easter Service 10.00am at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Opunake

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato

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

The Wave

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett St, Opunake

Sunday Services 10.30am

Women's Group 10am Tuesday

Men's Group 7pm Wednesday

Come along or contact

Belinda Philp

027 935 6191

St. Barnabas Anglican Church

141 Tasman St, Opunake

Sunday Services 10am

Communion 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday

Prayer & Praise 1st Sunday

Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for

a Combined Service

Okato Community Church

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.

Everyone welcome



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Long term, short term or casual basis

Building has kitchen facilities, wheelchair access, cleaning services and plenty of parking on Napier Street or at rear of building on King Street.

Inquiries to Brenda Pittams - Ph 06 278 4169



The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on Thursday April 21, 2022. Phone us on 06 761 7016 to be in it.

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

FOR SALE

DO YOU HAVE trouble swallowing pills? We now have yummy Gummies, multis, apple cider vinegar, ashwagandha for stress and magnesium etc. Come on in for a free sample. At the Health Shop, Centre City. 06 758 7553.

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TRADES & SERVICES

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If you are interested then please give Tracey a call on 0274900556 to discuss the details.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Next Meeting is on Monday May 2, 2022 at 5.30pm

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

Call us on

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