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Letters to the editor

Situation should never have existed

With reference to the photos and comments by Surf Lifesaver Michael Roach in the last edition of the Opunake & Coastal News re the hill next to the path going down to the beach, I would like to say that I feel that he is targeting the wrong person. Nevertheless I am glad that he has brought this matter up because this situation should never have existed and is actually a sore point with me.

Several years back a plan was prepared for the council by Greg Jenks, a dune consultation expert from Mt Maunganui. Part of the plan was for 2000 square metres of sand to be shifted from the beach end of the hill.

It was evident that the sand at the road would be at the highest point and shift down towards the foreshore to enable the lifesavers to see most of the beach.

I contacted a local contractor capable of completing the work with a 20 ton digger and bulldozer. He tendered a price of \$4000.

The day that he was ready to start, I was rung by the council and told that the job had been given to another contractor, which would only cost half as much.

The new contractor arrived with a small digger with a one metre bucket. This was totally inadequate for the job of removing that amount of sand. After a couple of days making limited progress he used a Hough for a day.

I was not satisfied with what had been accomplished because the contour was wrong. The foreshore was left at the highest point sloping back down to the road. I then protested to the council. Their reply was that what had been done was near enough.

At that time I also asked

the council to dismantle the fence made up of old power poles along the front of the Surf Lifesaving Club, to enable the ground to be contoured down to the foreshore. This was refused which caused further sand build-up resulting in poor visibility from the Surf Club.

At that time I had no backing from the Surf Club which would have been a big help

*Ron Brewer
Opunake.*

Looking after our environment

A P Groat's letter on Climate Change makes extremely good sense, but there's one thing he's forgotten to mention, who's to blame. I do believe as people we are all to blame, some more than others, and should be made accountable.

It's good to see that our environment courts have been used more regularly nowadays, but there should also be a world environment court to charge different countries who have been disrupting our planet for years by taking over our natural landscapes, just for their greed.

Instead of countries spending trillions upon trillions of dollars improving their warfare technology, that money could go into helping our planet's environment on both land and sea, while in some cities in the world today, if catching anyone littering their streets, they are not only are likely fined but also jailed, which is a good thing. Maybe every city should do this.

It seems our younger generation are getting to know about our climate changes, and they're doing something about it, with the help of our teachers., but also us adult kiwis must help and encourage our children to do more.

Remember planet earth is extremely precious to us all regardless where we all live. It we harm it like we have recently seen, Mother Nature has a way of fighting us back big time, so let's all roll up our sleeves and get struck into by keeping our planet earth clean and healthy.

*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth*

Endorsement

Like our newly elected Mayor and our other two Mayors and Chairman of our Regional Council I was delighted to find out that the lonely planet organisation chose us, our region, as the second best region in the world. Yes we should now start building on this endorsement while at the same time not getting too carried away or even complacent.

As Taranakians, let's be Taranakians by keeping on doing what we are all good at, and do it extremely well as now we must keep in this framework of being the second best region in the world, which means everyone must work together for the betterment of and for our province of Taranaki.

Our four councils must now start working together as a unit by encouraging new industries then exporting overseas, also helping our unemployed into employment full time, help our homeless and our children which is most important to me, while everything else should fall into place without effort at all.

Look, so far our province has done extremely well but we can also improve, so we have got to be extremely careful on how we all do it, as I believe now, the eyes of the world are now upon us all, more than ever.

*Tom Stephens,
New Plymouth.*

A great paper

May I personally congratulate you on your latest, most extremely brilliant, colourful community newspaper (Vol 25. No 22, November 18). I believe that it's starting to outclass and look much better than the Taranaki Star and the North Taranaki Midweeker.

The printed colourful images look so much alive and clear. One feels like being part of each individual coloured photograph. Even your advertisements are well done and printed brilliantly.

Being 20 years at the Daily News in their commercial printing department, one got very critical of our Daily News newspapers, now like all newspapers.

So keep up the good work. If there was an award going for the best community newspaper in New Zealand, I'm sure and believe your community newspaper would win it hands down.

*Tom Stephens
New Plymouth*

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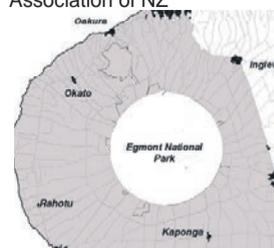
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Season's greetings

We at the Opunake & Coastal News would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year.

We hope everyone has a good break and we will ourselves be having a holiday.

See our

Holiday Guide.

Page 17-36.

What to do
round the
Mountain this
holiday season.



Santa and Glenys on the top of Mount Taranaki wishing everyone in Taranaki a Merry Christmas.

Photo: Ian McAlpine

Scientist and philanthropist honoured

George Mason, the scientist and philanthropist who has also done much to advance scientific research, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science by the University of Auckland.

The prestigious award was conferred unusually and possibly a first for Taranaki at a special ceremony at Tupare on November 28 attended by the faculty of Auckland University including the Chancellor Dr Ian Parton and the Vice Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon. Usually honorary degrees are conferred at the university itself. Local dignitaries present included

the mayor of New Plymouth Neil Holdom and Basil Chamberlain CEO of the Taranaki Regional Council. The historic Tupare homestead in Mangorei Road, New Plymouth and the beautiful surrounding gardens belonged to Sir Russell Matthews, founder of the New Zealand roading bitumen industry. Tupare means 'Garland of flowers' and is now owned and managed by the Taranaki Regional Council.

Dr Mason lives at Omata but grew up in Auckland.

With a keen interest in natural history, George completed a Master of Science focussing on plant environment studies at Auckland University. His interest in botany and geology meant field trips organised by the University Field Club took him to the off shore islands of the Hauraki Gulf and week-long camping field study trips to the remote Three Kings Islands and Mayor Island in the Bay of Plenty and "almost all the islands in between" said George. They were great fun he said though sometimes there was difficult landing access. His post graduate University of Auckland research was in Salt Marsh plant communities in Shoal Bay, on the North Shore of the Waitemata Harbour.

George moved to Taranaki in 1954 where he was engaged in the field testing of plant protection chemicals at Ivon Watkins Limited. He then went on to study for a PhD at California. "The fundamental mode of action of such chemicals was the basis of my teaching and doctoral



Dr George Mason (left) with Professor Simon Thrush, Head of Department of Marine Sciences at the University of Auckland (centre) and Vice Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon at Tupare after the investiture.

studies at the University of California Davis Campus," said George. He returned to Taranaki in 1960, his interest in applied science leading to a research management position at Ivon Dow Watkins Ltd (now Dow Agrosience Ltd). An exchange agreement still exists today between the two universities funded by the George Mason Charitable Trust.

George took early retirement when he was 56 and then went on to found, in partnership with Dr Peter Hayward, their own chemical manufacturing company, Taranaki NuChem Ltd (later renamed Zelam), which was sold last year. With a reputation as a problem solver, inventor and innovator, his particular interest was the

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South Taranaki's new deputy mayor a working farmer. Page 5



Murray farewelled after 40 years, page 12.



Namedropping Ray remembered. Page 16.



Your chance of a helicopter ride at the Opunake Beach Carnival, page 36.

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CTS makes most of challenges

Coastal Taranaki School held its well-organised prize giving ceremony on Friday December 9 and highlighted its many successes in academic, cultural and sporting endeavours.

It was Dr Janelle McKenzie's first prize giving as principal and she gave an informative and philosophical address, wide-ranging in its scope. One example of success, she mentioned, was the fact that nearly 90% of Year 11-13 students passed their respective level of NCEA, well ahead of the national expectations. Overall, she commented, "There is not one child in this school who has not made good progress this year", which is a remarkable achievement in itself. She paid tribute to the "hard work" of the staff and students, as well as "the RTLB service, speech language therapists, Van Asch personnel, parent helpers, our invaluable teacher aids and the Board ..."

She spoke of the theme for the year which was "looking forward" and named the 2017 theme "Make the most of opportunities" which will guide progress in the foreseeable future.



Dux Dekodda Tippett (left) and Courtney Ngaia-Pompey (Proxime Accessit) pictured with their awards and trophies.

Dr McKenzie closed by quoting Maya Angelou, an American civil rights activist and poet, "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." She concluded, "My advice to each and every one of you, but especially our senior students, is to make sure your life is filled with moments that take your breath away."

On the cultural side we were treated to several lovely waiata, aided by a screen presentation which portrayed the lyrics.

After thought-provoking

speeches and many award presentations (Most Improved, Diligence, Excellence) came the announcement which we were all waiting for - the announcement of the Dux and the Proxime Accessit (Runner Up Dux). Head Student Dekodda Tippett won the Crossman Cup as Dux for the highest academic standing. Courtney Ngaia-Pompey was awarded the Proxime Accessit Cup.

Dekodda also won a host of other awards including the Herbert Smith Trust award (English Year 11-13), Maths Year 11-13, the

Food and Nutrition award, the Speech Year 11-13 award, and the Ikaroa Lodge Award (presented by Ron Bingham). She also won sporting awards including the Most Valuable Player's Award in Soccer and Senior Most Outstanding in Netball (Year 9-13), and Over 16 Runner up Girl in Athletics.

Courtney won the Carpe Diem Cup, Komene Memorial Award and the Joseph Manu Memorial Cup (Best Maori Scholar). She also won the Senior Most

Continued page 46

Scientist and philanthropist honoured

Continued from page 1

development of safer chemicals for the preservation of Pinus radiata wood, which was later extended to their application in the processing of engineered wood products. George was interested in formulating the best of pesticides with the greatest efficacy. He shares an interest in 12 international and 10 local patents. The company employed up to 50 staff, many with graduate research training. The value of the company was boosted by the commercial success of the intellectual property developed by this research team.

His house at Omata where he has lived since the 1970s overlooks Tapuae Marine Reserve. This faces the Tasman Sea and the Sugar Loaf Islands near the site of the battle of Waireka in 1860. A plaque marks this historic spot.

Over the years George, now 86, has given considerable funds for natural science research by way of scholarships awarded to PhD students so they can continue research into natural science. He has financed over 30 students at Auckland, Massey, Lincoln, Otago and Victoria universities. A hard cover book in which his Auckland University students expressed their

appreciation along with photos of them on their field studies was presented to George at the investiture.

Since 2001 the George Mason Charitable Trust has awarded annual Puke Ariki scholarships to Natural Science graduate students covering Taranaki topics. The Trust also supports Massey University in applied research and to Wildlife Research Centre students.

His Trust bequest of \$5 million dollars to Auckland University in June this year dwarfed all past bequests.

George was nominated for the Honorary Doctor of Science at Auckland University Professor John

Hosking.

"His gift will be transformational," said Professor Hosking. "It will allow us to address some of the country's significant conservation and environmental issues in a multi-disciplinary manner." It will also allow us to attract world class researchers to New Zealand commented the University's Vice Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

In recognition of George's early association with such research and his subsequent initial funding by the George Mason Trust, the University of Auckland has founded The George Mason Centre for the Natural Environment Centre named in his honour.

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COUNCILLORS COMMENT

Getting it right for those already here

Tena koutou katoa. First I would like to thank everyone who voted to return me to the Council table. This will be my third term as your representative and while, as councillors, we are there to firstly consider the needs of the whole district, I intend to remain especially committed to lobbying for the best resources, facilities and services we can get for our coastal and inland communities.



Cr Bonita Bigham

We know that our population in South Taranaki is aging and has managed to remain relatively static. Many say that we should be encouraging others to come here to live, that we need more growth and investment. While I understand the argument, I'm more interested in making sure that we do everything in our power to look after those of us who are already here. If we get it right for us, others will want to come anyway ... and it's already happening.

Some of you will have already noticed the results of recent events of the world's preminent travelling guide 'Lonely Planet' praising Taranaki's virtues to its worldwide audience and the Kaikoura (and subsequent) earthquake and aftershocks.

Council has received reports this week of significant numbers of freedom campers descending on our towns already, long before the traditional holiday season and real summer heat.

This could quite possibly become our new normal and we must remember that these people and other visitors are our guests who support our local businesses and come here because they love the place as much as we do. Tourism is fast becoming an increasing contributor to our local economy. Our challenge as a district is to ensure our infrastructure and services meet the increasing demand, which includes ringing Council if you see things like overflowing rubbish bins or public toilets which need

cleaning. The more we hear about things, the more data we can reflect on to better formulate proper responses to the issues.

Aside from that, possibly the biggest piece of work the Council has undertaken over the past two years is the review of the District Plan. By the time you read this, Council will know whether there have been any challenges to the decisions made about future land use in our district. Parts of the new plan that are unchallenged will become live, while challenged sections will remain under review. If the latter is the case, Council staff will be able to give you the appropriate advice on a day-to-day basis to ensure you know where you stand.

Council can be contacted on 0800 111 323 for all your queries and feedback and all the opening hours for all the libraries, pools, transfer stations and offices are available on the website www.southtaranaki.com, as are the contact details for all your elected members throughout the district.

Finally, I'm mindful of the

time of the year that is fast descending upon us. While it's a festive and celebratory season for most, whether for religious or family reasons, I know that Christmas can also be a lonely, stressful, sad and emotional time for many. People who are ill, who are grieving, are struggling financially, are in domestically abusive situations, have different religious beliefs, or just choose not to get caught up in the hype may not respond as enthusiastically to a cheery 'Merry Christmas' comment.

It's important to remember that that's ok, whatever your intention is will be received with the goodwill with which it was offered. Conversely, please don't be offended if your enthusiasm is not equally reciprocated, just spare a thought for their perspective and situation. It's this diversity in thought, culture and respect for each other that will continue to make South Taranaki the best place to live, work and especially to play.

No reira, tena koutou katoa.

Kaponga WI enjoy a talk about Italy

Cynthia Stone was welcomed as Guest Speaker to the November meeting of Kaponga WI. Cynthia has family living at Arezzo, Tuscany which is 80km from Florence, and she spoke about the family traditions, living in a village, the lovely wine and food, and the fun she had taking part in some of the traditional tasks such as the "shaking down" of the famous olives at harvesting

time. Traditional Sundays in Italy are wonderful to experience as the complete family gather together for lunch. Everyone listens to the stories told by the older generation., and the whole family enjoys the company and food every Sunday. Cynthia was thanked for her fascinating talk by Vice President, Margaret Broomhall, after which Cynthia joined all the members at the

"Drift Inn Cafe" Kaponga for a lovely lunch.

After lunch, the business for November was completed and the competitions judged.

Roll Call was "your Father's occupation." There was a cheese maker, an owner of Transport Trucks, the owner of Maypole Grocery, a stock agent, a petrol tanker driver, a milkman, and all the rest had been dairy farmers.

Thought for the month ."

The tongue has no bones, but is strong enough to break a heart"

Competitions: Fridge Magnet: 1st Joy Eliason, 2nd Jo Ellis, 3rd equal Dorothy Hughes and Fiona Collins.

Rhodo Flower: 1st Gillian Frandsen, 2nd Joy, 3rd Fiona.

Ginger Loaf: 1st Diane West, 2nd Rayleen McDonald 3rd Joy.

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Season's GREETINGS

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- Viv, Tara & Lorna -
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Passion for community drives new deputy mayor

Phil Nixon still lives in the house in which he grew up on the Rainie Road, Inaha. His parents had moved here in 1951, and six years later they bought the farm, which was then 100 acres. Now Phil farms 285 acres, which includes the site of the Heretua mission station set up in 1842, where daffodils still grow on the site originally planted by missionary William Woon's wife Jane.

In 2013, Phil was elected to represent the Tangahoe Ward on the South Taranaki District Council. This year he was re-elected unopposed, and mayor Ross Dunlop named him as deputy mayor.

"I'm the elected representative of the Tangahoe Ward, but I'm very much a councillor for the whole district," Phil says. "I'm there for everyone."

When spoken to by the Opunake and Coastal News, he had recently come back from a trip to Wellington, where he and chief executive Craig Stevenson had represented the Council at the third reading of the treaty settlement for the three iwi Ngaruahine, Taranaki and Te Atiawa.

"It was really moving and a real privilege to be part of that," he said. "I could really identify when they talked about the maunga as home. We look at that every day, and it's special for all of us."

His Tangahoe ward stretches from Kakarama to Inaha, encircling but not including Hawera and Normanby, and extends inland to the southern borders of the Eltham ward. Previous councillors have included present mayor Ross Dunlop.

As well as a farmer, he is an electrician by trade, a career



Deputy mayor Phil Nixon on his Rainie Road farm.

path taken by two of his four sons. Another is a police officer, and the youngest has just graduated with a BSc from Massey. He has one grandchild.

Phil, who also chairs the Hawera high School Board of Trustees says he has always been a community-minded person, and this is what led him to stand for Council.

"I'm passionate about our community and I have a passion for young people and education," he says.

He would like to see a tertiary learning centre that would house local education providers like WITT, Taratahi and the ITOs.

"Students should be able to see some career path, and there could be pre-trades courses and driving schools there. I would like to see the council on board with that project," he says.

Internet and mobile black spots in country areas are among his major concerns. He says he knows of a number of people who had

been interested in setting up business locally but in the end had decided against it because of connectivity problems.

"Farmers are using that sort of technology so much, and we in the rural community have to have it," he says. "Taranaki leads the country in GDP, and that's created in the rural areas, not the towns."

He says that while the government has done a lot to get broadband into the towns, he is disappointed more hasn't been done for rural areas. The government had asked for registrations of interest for rural broadband, and the South Taranaki District Council had done a lot of work on this and on the digital enablement plan, budgeting a million dollars towards this end.

"We're still waiting to hear from the government what they are going to do," he said.

He is keen to see the Hawera town centre upgrade ticked off.

"We have to do it right," he said.

He also wants to see the Walkway projects completed.

"It's good to see Manaia and Denby Road open. That's brought a lot of interest from the community, and people are asking when's the next one starting? I'm really passionate about Normanby-Hawera, which will see people commuting to Hawera more easily, and connect Hawera and Normanby without people having to get into the car."

He says much of what the council has achieved has been done in ways that haven't always attracted public attention.

"It's really good what this Council has done in the past. They have spent a lot of money on infrastructure like water treatment plants and reticulating water underground. These are things which are really important to do, but which ratepayers don't always get to see."

Rotokare Lake closed, but Reserve remains open

Due to high levels of blue-green algal bloom (Cyanobacter), the lake at Rotokare Reserve is closed to all users until further notice. The grounds at Lake Rotokare Reserve remain open for visitors.

South Taranaki District Council environmental health officer, Mark Superfine, says

Cyanobacter is a naturally occurring algae capable of producing toxins, most commonly causing skin and eye irritation. However some of the toxins could potentially cause sore throats, asthma, paralysis and vomiting or diarrhoea.

"Any visitors to the reserve showing these symptoms

should consult their doctor immediately or contact the Taranaki District Health Board Public Health Unit on 06 753 7798 for further information," says Mr Superfine.

"Visitors to the lake should not collect or eat fish and plant life or come into contact with the water," he says.

Mr Superfine says there are

a number of alternative locations for those who want to go water skiing or the like, such as Lake Rotorangi at Glenn Nui, Tangahoe or the Patea Dam Camp site off Ball Road.

The lake will remain closed until cleared by the TDHB.



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Opunake Fire Brigade kept busy

We are now into the summer season so bbqs will be coming out of their winter hiding place and being fired up in and around Opunake. The last thing we want to do is to come to your place because there's been a bbq incident. So as they haven't been used for a while, please give them a quick check over to make sure they will be safe for the good times ahead.

I take my helmet off to the lady who arrived at the fire station just after we had finished canvassing the town with the Food bank appeal on December 5. She had missed the caller but wanted to give a large bag of food items so she tracked us down. The bit that got me was she said she had to use the Foodbank services when she was going through a difficult patch and now that she was on her feet again, wanted to give back. What a wonderful and thoughtful gesture from someone who knows what it is like to be down.

On the first day of summer we answered a call around breakfast time to a hostel on Wilson Road. On our arrival we were relieved to find all clients had been evacuated and there was no sign of fire. After a good look around, we were unsure if it was a

faulty smoke detector or if the toaster had just got a little too hot. As their fire security company had been advised of the fault, we headed for home to finish off our own toast and marmalade.

Our next call came in on December 3 when we were dispatched to help out the Rahotu and Okato brigades with a house fire on the Warea Road. The first appliance arrived at the given address but couldn't find any sign of fire. On checking with Fire Control, we were informed that the caller sounded intoxicated and was possibly still suffering from the effects of "crate day." Once again it was time to turn the appliance around and head for home. In hoax calls like this, the Fire Service endeavours to track down the caller so they can prosecute the culprit. All calls to the fire service are recorded, so I would imagine this person will be getting a visit from the boys in blue shortly.

The siren sounded again on the 4th when a car left Surf Highway 45 near the Opu Road corner and crashed through the fence. The driver had failed to take the corner, took out seven fence posts, flipped the borrowed car onto its roof, severed a three inch water line, and then came to rest tangled up in some fence wire. If it wasn't for the wire however, we would have been cutting through three "happy souls" from a Suzuki Swift upside down in the stream. I have since heard that on arrival at hospital, the driver was found to have a major neck injury and would be staying in hospital for a while. I think it may be safer for him there because when he gets home, he will have to face the owner of the car.

As the crews were going

back to the station after a challenging training session at the Oaonui hot fire ground on Monday 5th, a call came in regarding a street light "arcing" on the corner of Tasman Street and Heaphy Road. There isn't a lot we can do other than to cordon off the area to make sure "nothing hot" lands on anyone, and possibly wait for the linesmen if it looks like it's going to cause even more trouble.

The wheels were rolling again to our 69th call out for the year on Wednesday 7th when another vehicle had an "off" just north of Namu Road on Surf Highway 45. The sole occupant suffered serious neck injuries when she dodged a bird on the road and ended up going through the fence. We had to cut the B pillar out of her car with the Halmatro cutting gear, so the medics could gain access and give her the best treatment. She was then placed in the ambulance until the helicopter arrived to ship her to hospital. You have to feel sorry for Chris the farmer who had just finished repairing the seven posts and fence from Sunday's incident when this happened, so now he has to get into fencing mode again.

There must be something in the air because we were turned out to another accident on Monday 12th. This time a car drove through the Eltham Road and Surf Highway 45 intersection and collided with a Toyota flat deck ute. The bull bars on the ute made a nasty mess of the rear driver's side door on the car, and the young lady sitting in the rear unfortunately received moderate injuries. The Opunake St Johns ambulance crew made the decision to call in the Rescue Helicopter so that the patient would receive a more comfortable

journey to Base Hospital. In fact one other from the car also went in the chopper, and a third patient went in the ambulance.

By the time you read this article, our fire station would have had a complete interior paint over. The fire service have sent a crew of painters from Wellington to give our station the once over. They had made extremely good progress so on Thursday night we decided to show them a little Opunake hospitality so we put on a bbq. They loved it and now will be telling other fire stations about this "new tradition" and that they have to try to beat Opunake in the hospitality stakes.

The fire engine was used on Saturday 10th to ferry a very famous gentleman to the Opunake Play Centre. Yes, Father Christmas arrived in town and he wanted a ride to the play centre because his present sack was too heavy for him to carry any further. Some of the children were a little confused however, because the fire engine driver looked very much like Father Christmas and they didn't know who to follow.

The following day the appliance was used on two occasions to transport the jovial gentleman to other Christmas functions in town.

The crew at the Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We would like to thank those who saw fit and made a donation for our services and for all of the support we have had from this wonderful community throughout the year. Let's try and have a lower number of call outs in 2017 as we have now reached 70 for this year...far too many.

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Two accidents on same part of Surf Highway

A stretch of Surf highway 45 which has seen a number of accidents in recent years saw two more within the space of a week of each other.

A car ended up upside down in a creek bed several kilometres north of Opunake near Opuia Road coming out of an 85km bend on the evening of December 4. Part of the car disintegrated as it left the road demolishing a fence before travelling a short distance and ending up in the creek bed though vegetation appeared to soften the impact.

The three young male occupants and a Labrador puppy were all unhurt.

Three days later there was another accident a short distance away along the Surf Highway, when a car left the road and went through a fence and ended up in a paddock. No other vehicles were involved in the accident. Police, ambulance and fire



The car in the creek bed.

brigade attended, with the Opunake Fire Brigade using cutting gear to enable medical assistance for the car's sole female occupant who suffered neck injuries. The

Taranaki Rescue Helicopter took the patient to Taranaki Base Hospital.

There have been several fatalities in the area in recent

years. A motorcyclist lost her life on a nearby bend and two people were killed when their vehicle left the road running into a fence.

Two vehicle crash near Opunake



A car received a sideways hit in an accident near Opunake.

Shortly before midday on December 12, a car driving through the intersection of Eltham Road and Surf Highway collided with a Toyota flat deck ute.

Traffic along the Surf Highway was reduced to one lane as police, fire service and ambulance attended the accident. The bull bars of the ute had

made a dent in the driver's side of the car, injuring a female passenger. The decision was made to contact the Taranaki Community Rescue Helicopter which

landed in the paddock on the Opunake side of the intersection and took the patient to Taranaki Base Hospital.



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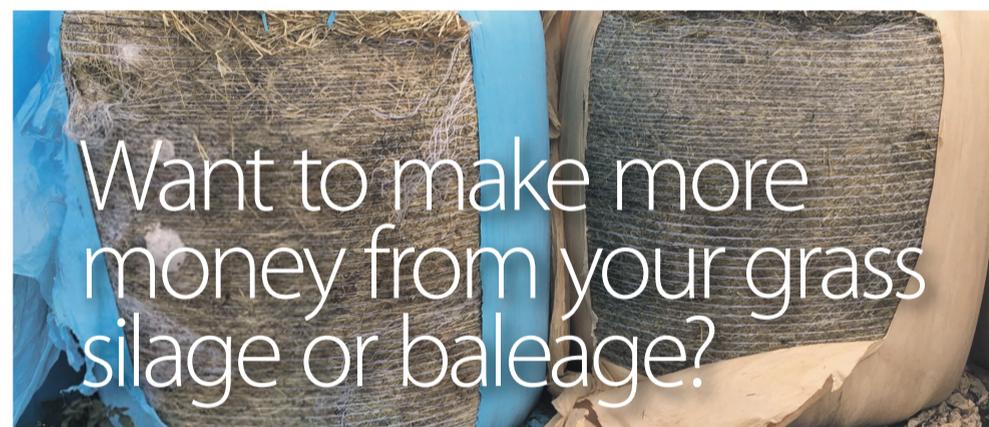
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A Merry Christmas to everyone



Jonathan Young MP

Another year nearly finished, and what an interesting couple of weeks in politics it has been.

It came as quite a shock to the country when our former

Prime Minister John Key stepped down from his role. He has been an excellent leader, and has seen our country through some very tough times over the last eight years. He leaves his position with the country in a strong and stable position. My congratulations to our new Prime Minister Bill English and Deputy Prime Minister Paula Bennett, who will undoubtedly do an outstanding job of leading the country going into the 2017 election.

We are now well into the Christmas season, with long hot days around the corner, ice creams, jandals, BBQs and beach holidays – remind-

ing us that New Zealand is indeed one of the greatest places to live in the world.

Christmas is often the time we find to stop with the busyness (after Christmas day of course), and put our feet up for a while. We spend time with friends and family and look back at what has been, what we are grateful for today and what may lie ahead in the New Year. I am exceptionally grateful to be the Member of Parliament for the number two region in the world, as recently announced by Lonely Planet. The New Plymouth electorate runs from Waitara to Opunake and everything in between. I have continually

advocated for this electorate and am strongly committed to continue to build this region, create new initiatives, bring together stronger collaborations for growth and see our people and families and whanau prosper.

The famous writer Charles Dickens once said: "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

With the joy, peace and goodwill that comes with Christmas that is a great new year's resolution.

Maura and I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.

Jonathan Young MP

The buck stops with the purse strings

Over Christmas, Bill English needs to come up with a plan to tackle the real issues facing middle New Zealand.

John Key's promises – to lift up the underclass, to fix the housing crisis, to close the wage gap with Australia – have gone unfulfilled.

Will Bill English be any different? Key papered over problems – will English fix them?

When I asked him last week if he accepts his responsibility for the effects his decision have on real New Zealanders, he said no every time.

He doesn't accept that there is a housing crisis, that the home-ownership rate has fallen to its lowest level in 65 years, that a third of the population faces average house prices of a million dollars, and 41,000 New Zealanders are homeless.

I met a real estate agent in Auckland recently who worries that his young adult son and daughter will never be able to afford a home. And he should know, he's in the business.

The Kiwi dream is fast fading for thousands of New Zealanders.

Bill English doesn't accept



Andrew Little MP

that there's a link between him ripping half a billion dollars in so-called profit out of Housing New Zealand, and the fact state houses are so poorly maintained that the cold and the mould is making kids get sick and even die.

I'm sceptical that there will be a real difference because both the new prime minister and the new deputy prime minister have had housing portfolios for the past few years and housing issues have got worse.

Other cost-cutting has had equally devastating consequences. A 96 year old losing her homecare because the local hospital says they can't afford it any longer, cancer

patients not getting the latest medicines because Pharmac funding has been frozen, and now police numbers frozen for four years at a time of a rising population and crime.

The buck ultimately stops with the man who held the purse strings. Bill English has shown no inclination to face these problems and fix them.

No one ever opposed spending taxpayer funds sensibly and for best value, but that can't be all a government does.

Savings today do not generate wealth tomorrow. And it's the wealth-creation activity that's been missing in action with this Government. Without it, we can't lift wages and standards of living.

So where are the incentives for productive economic activity that generates jobs with good incomes? Where's the encouragement for small business to expand? Where's the support to enable business to take up new technology and invest in training staff in new skills?

New Zealand has problems so let's get on and fix them. Let's not say "it can't be done" or "it's too hard." Labour's got the positive plan

to do it.

Labour will restore the Kiwi dream because we believe ensuring people have a place of their own, a decent place to live, is a first duty of government. We'll build affordable houses for first-home buyers, ban foreign speculators who use our homes as gambling chips, and require all rentals to be warm, dry, and healthy to live in.

We have pledged to reverse National's health cuts and plough extra funding into the care that Kiwis need, like homecare, GP visits, and the latest medicines.

We have said that education is key to opportunity and, so, we said that everyone should get three years of free tertiary education, and the government should subsidise apprenticeships.

We have committed to making our communities safer by undoing National's cuts to police and putting a thousand more cops on the beat.

We have announced that Labour won't leave young people to rot on the dole like the current Government.

Continued page 9

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If you are a serious car



The interior of the Bentley.

enthusiast who loves luxury dripping with style go along and view your dream cars.

Hareb Deken's showroom

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The buck stops with the purse strings

continued from page 8

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We'll invest in regional infrastructure through our regional development fund, and build the projects that will get our cities moving – like light rail for Auckland.

To keep work and profits in New Zealand, we'll make sure the government buys

Kiwi-made whenever possible.

We can foster innovation and growth through research and development tax credits and tax incentives for new plant and equipment. We can give our people the opportunity to be the best they can be.

That's Labour's positive plan for the future. Let's see if Bill English has one.

Andrew Little



The Ferrari.

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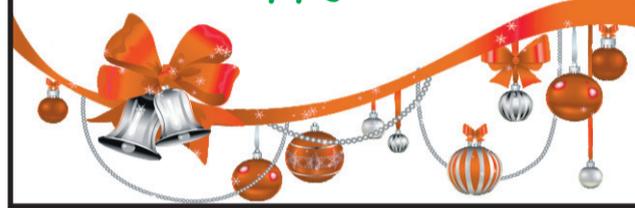
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Commemorating Volunteer Day the Opunake Lions Club was doing what they've been doing for the last 36 years - helping out at the annual Christmas luncheon in Opunake last Monday December 5.

The Christmas luncheon is held for members of the Opunake Friendship Club and the elderly in Opunake.

Seventy two were catered for this year waited on by The Opunake Lions and enjoyed ham, salad, new potatoes and peas plus strawberries, Christmas pudding and ice cream. Afterwards a huge iced Christmas cake donated annually by Leo and Ann Hickey was cut and Father Christmas put in an appearance and gave everyone a present.

The Opunake Friendship Club was formed in 1973, said President of the Opunake Friendship Club Geoff Williams who said the organisation is open to everyone.

They meet monthly in the Opunake Town Hall and there's always a guest speaker and entertainment followed by afternoon tea all for just \$2. The organisation rose out of the Old Folks



Bev Henderson (left) at the Opunake Friendship luncheon with Olive Sayer. For Bev it was a double celebration, she turned 89 that day. Bev who has lived in Opunake for 58 years has been very involved in Everybodys Theatre of which she is a Life Member. She still helps out as a cashier once a month. She's also a Life Member of the Opunake Indoor Bowling Club.

Bev's husband Len who worked for the Post Office for many years was for 14 years also as well the editor of the Opunake News which was published in the 1960s/70s. (He wrote some pretty sharp editorials too. Editor)

Association formed by former local general practitioner Jim Hefford when it was decided to open the concept to all people and call it the Opunake Friendship Club. Young people coming into the district and indeed anyone is welcome to attend.



Nancy Coombe and Jim Clough enjoying the Christmas luncheon.



The Opunake Lions helping out at the Christmas luncheon.

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Murray thanked for 40 years teaching at Opunake High School

For Murray Dobbin, 2016 has been a year of milestones. It was 50 years ago that he entered Opunake High School as a third former, and 40 years ago that he returned, this time as a teacher after gaining an MA (Hons) in History from Auckland University.

At the school's senior prizegiving last month he was thanked for his time at the high school and wished well on his retirement.

On December 9, friends and work colleagues past and present put on another farewell for him at Actionaki.

Among those present was Cam Murray, who Murray knew first as one of his teachers and fellow cricketer, and later as a work colleague. Also there was former student and later colleague Alistair Cook. Speakers paid tribute to Murray's dedication to the school and Opunake community.

"He's done every job I can think of at the school," his wife Cindy said. "The only one I can't think of is Year Nine Dean. "Murray's done all sorts of things. He's trod the boardwalks on the school stage about 20 or 30 times. Grease was probably the most famous."



From left, Murray Dobbin with granddaughter Siobhan, wife Cindy, grandson Wyatt, son Andrew and daughter-in-law Tanya.

She said 40 years ago she and Murray had decided to seek a school where there would be teaching positions for both of them, and Murray's home town of Taumarunui. "We've seen the school through some real highs and some real lows," she said. Their son Andrew spoke about Murray's long association with Opunake. "Dad's been the rock to my life, the solid person who has always been there. For generations of children going through

that school, everyone knows who Mr Dobbin is." One common theme of the speeches was Murray's ongoing interest in the students at the school, including making sure that new arrivals didn't feel out of place. Long time colleague Jenny Bennett, who had herself retired from teaching earlier this year mentioned his concern for literacy. "You put the concept of literacy in front of the staff, and told us that literacy was the responsibility of everybody, not just

the English teachers." Current principal Simon Fuller paid tribute to Murray's 50 year association with the school. "Teaching can be an isolating job," he said. "Ninety nine point nine per cent of your time is unseen, except by the kids in front of you. It's just a teacher and a kid." He noted Murray's leadership in the battle against bulk funding. "He's been in the trenches fighting not just for the kids here, but around the country. You never stopped in your 40 years of teaching in putting those people first."



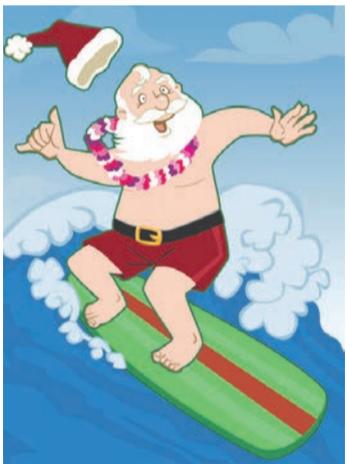
Murray Dobbin faces a haka in his honour.

Jean Roach told Murray her association with him went back 51 years when she taught him in a Form 2 class. "I've probably known him longer than most," she said. "Years later Murray popped in again teaching at Opunake High School. He taught my children and grandchildren and still cares about the students." Murray said the Form 2 class which Jean taught included people who had gone on to gain masterates and doctorates, as well as a future All Black captain.

"None of us knew how clever we were until we went on to University and started getting As," he said. It was a time for anecdotes and reminiscences and digs at a number of those present, including one of his first students, the Opunake and Coastal News reporter. He said family had always been important to him. This was something which he had been brought up with and still lived by.

He had often been asked how he planned to spend his retirement, a question which he answered by invoking the words of Bob Dylan that it was important to be happy with whatever you do in the time between getting out of bed in the morning and going to bed that night.

Merry Christmas



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Murray Dobbin

Staff, family and friends attended an informal farewell for Murray on Friday 9 Dec at Actionaki. Murray's love of firearms prompted the venue with a bit of competition on the clay bird shooting site. Reminiscing of days gone by, Jenny Bennett, Jean Roach, Cam Murray bought back some of the fun times had in the old days!! Alistair Cook and Simon Fuller also spoke highly of Murray's contribution to Opunake High School in the 40 years that he has been a member of the staff. Murray may enjoy your retirement and spend many hours on the beach with fishing rod in hand.

Project Market Day



Connor Sinclair with his comic book.



Logan Bellve, Hayley Quinnell, Brittany Simpson, Emma Phillips with their Crayon creations they crafted for the project market day. This was a very successful day with the students learning about aspects of promotion, budgeting, marketing and developing ideas into reality.

2017 Term Dates

27 January Friday	Teacher Only Day
30 January - 13 April	Term One
1 May - 7 July	Term Two
24 July - 29 September	Term Three
16 October - 7 December	Term Four

Junior Prizegiving



Friday 9 December the Junior School celebrated their achievements. Congratulations to you all for your hard work throughout the year.

Kaupoolonui Cup & Mary Pohutukawa Award

Top in Year 9 Subjects

Meg Gibson (above front)

Lena Sharrock Award

Runner Up in Year 9 Subjects

Tamara Turnbull (in order of seating)

Danielle Kidd

Kiana Kahukaka Snowden



Phillips Cup & Mary Pohutukawa Award

Top in Year 10 Subjects

Joel Clement

Lena Sharrock Award

Runner Award Runner-Up in Year 10 Subjects

Xanthe Philp

Staff Changes

Farewell to **Miss Alkaterina Papageorgiou** who heads to Christchurch University where she will be completing a Teaching Diploma, **Miss Kerri Loughhead** returns home to Christchurch to teach at Lincoln High School, **Mrs Rachel Taylor** will be returning for February and is expecting the birth of her baby in March. **Mrs Sarah Base** will be back until March and then expecting the arrival of her baby later in the year. **Mr Kerry Logan** returns to Lower Hutt, to a position at St. Bernard's College. **Whaea Janine Horo** is also leaving us this year. **Mr Murray Dobbin** is retiring after 40 years teaching and will be spending time fishing no doubt. We wish you all the best for 2017. **L-R Alkaterina, Rachel, Sarah, Kerri**



Head Boy & Girl 2017



Congratulations to

Head Girl - Simone Cook and **Head Boy - Brody Hitchcock**

Deputy Head Girls - **Aleisha Cram & Kacy Bellve**

Deputy Head Boys - **Ben Ederveen & Zeno Hess**

A huge thank you to our local community for making 2016 a successful and outstanding year in achievement and learning. We are proud to be part of the Opunake Community. Welcome to all new students to Opunake High School for 2017.



Proudly supporting the Opunake community for more than 30 years.

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Merry Christmas and a ripper
New Year to all.
Santa's coming, the payouts are
heading up and farms are selling.

SOME CURRENT LISTINGS

478 Dover Rd, Okato - This 64.9ha (more or less) block will answer your grazing needs and now priced at \$1,350,000.

190 Goodwin Rd, Okato - This exceptionally tidy 57ha farm has been maintained to a very high standard. Priced at \$2,800,000.

Mangawara Rd, Egmont Village - These three blocks with nice rural and mountain views range in size from .6084ha to 2.2ha (more or less) and is priced from \$255,000 to \$285,000.

South Rd, Oakura - Situated less than 2km to popular Oakura. These 3 x 4000m² to 4640m² (more or less) sites will appeal. Price by negotiation.

259 Saunders Rd, Okato - This 137ha dairy farm represents real value for money. Priced at \$3,100,000 - is it a dairy farm or a large run off? You make the call.

2369 Eltham Rd, Awatuna - (tender closing at time of print) This is a well producing 115.2969ha (more or less) dairy farm.

261 Upper Newall Rd, Okato - This 158.6368ha dairy farm has a high fertility level. Price by negotiation.

Upper Newall Rd, Okato - 60.7ha (subject to title) adjacent to the above farm, it also has good fertility levels and flat contour. Price by negotiation.

143 Upper Newall Rd, Okato - Peaceful and private country living is on offer with this beautiful country estate of 4.57ha (more or less). Lot 1 is the homestead and gardens. Lot 2 is the lake, stream, historic woolshed and numerous walkways. Price by negotiation.

High Production Entry Level Dairy Farm 69 Burgess, Road, WAREA



- This quality 42.39 ha farm is humming. Last seasons production was just over 50,000kgMS and is projected to be similar this season.
- Being predominately flat and a central race servicing almost all the paddocks, the farm would be a pleasure to run.
- Water lines have recently been upgraded and a feed pad has been installed.
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Lot 9, Mangarwara Rd, Egmont Village
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Sold by Negotiation.



1325 South Rd, Oakura
4.042 ha Lifestyle Block.
Sold by Negotiation.



103 Turu Rd, Oaonui
130.6124 ha Dairy Farm.
Sold by Negotiation.



South Road, Oakura
0.8644 hectares.
Sold by Negotiation.



245 Dover Rd, Okato
119.0128ha Dairy Farm.
Sold by Negotiation.



294 Wataroa Rd, Pungarehu
56.0656ha Dairy Farm.
Sold by Negotiation.



Opourapa Rd, Rahotu
12.242ha Grazing Block.
Sold at Auction.

Lego arrives at the Library

For 25 years the Friends of the Library group was a regular fixture at the Opunake Library providing cups of tea on Fridays. Among those involved in the group were leading lights of the Opunake community Val Wallace and the late Molly Harvey.

With falling numbers and members moving on, the group disbanded earlier this year and leftover funds were donated to the Library with the suggestion that "it be used for the children."

Last month this money was used to buy Lego. Previously Library Plus in Opunake had to make do with a crate of Lego sent around the other libraries in the South Taranaki District.

"Now we have our very own," librarian Maria Brewerton said.

"We thought Lego would encompass a wide genre of learning for our children," Maria said. "The kids that



Friends of the Library with the Opunake Library's new Lego. Back row from left. Val Coombe, librarian Maria Brewerton. Front. Curtis Preller, Jo Hoogenberg.

like technical stuff love it, and the kids that aren't into the technical stuff also love them."

Maria said she had already

introduced the Lego to the Boys and Girls Book Clubs at the Library and there had been a positive response.

"There wasn't a word

spoken. Even the non Book Club kids were hovering around," she said. "I had a lot of fun with it myself."

Eltham Lions spread Christmas cheer



Eltham Lions president Joyce Lawrence presenting the items collected at the Eltham Lions Christmas function to Gary Rogers of the Eltham Foodbank.

The Eltham Lions Club had their Christmas function on November 28, and this year, instead of giving each other a gift, the Club chose to support the Eltham Foodbank with food items and gifts to be given to children whose families are struggling this holiday season. Each member of the Club brought along a gift suitable for a child and/or an item of non-perishable food. President Joyce Lawrence presented everything that had been collected to Gary Rogers at the foodbank the following week.

On December 5, the Eltham Lions Club joined with the Eltham Fire Brigade to drive around the streets of Eltham and collect items the community had left out for collection. The Club were blown away by the support

of the community and how much was collected. All items were then taken back to the Foodbank where volunteers sorted all the items out and stocked their shelves

again for the coming Christmas season and next year. It was great to be part of such a wonderful time and a huge thank you to the Eltham community for taking the

message of Christmas - to give to others - to heart and really put it into practice.

Clare Bramley

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Back to the 70s for school disco

There was a 1970s theme for St Patrick's School in Kaponga's end of year disco. The students chose the theme and the music.

The dress code for the evening was tie, dyed t-shirts, bell bottom pants, big hair and big glasses. The photo booth was a VW combi van made by the students after researching what was 'cool' in the late 60's and early 70's. The children designed and made their own surfboards as props.



Ethan and Troy Erkes are passengers in the combi.



Joseph, Farrayne, Sera, Emily and Ciara watch on as others take to the dance floor.

Namedropping – Ray Columbus OBE

It was the early 1980s and I spotted an advertisement for auditions for a television-based talent quest. I made inquiries and was given a date to turn up at Avalon Studios in Lower Hutt. I arrived with my guitar so I could accompany myself singing the Cat Stevens song I have always loved 'Sad Lisa'. As I arrived at the appointed place I was greeted at the door of a smallish audition room by a musical icon – it was Ray Columbus of Ray Columbus and The Invaders fame. The room had a small band in the corner - perhaps three piece and Ray asked if I'd like to be accompanied by them, but I replied that I'd accompany myself on guitar.

Ray Columbus was well-dressed, quite serious and very professional. He impressed me. He looked about early 40s and was obviously taking his role as judge/com-pere seriously, I thought. I was, however, beside myself with nervousness as I performed and ended up stopping mid-song and having to restart. I eventually got through the song to my great relief. I don't recall him smiling and he said gravely that I needed to get some experience singing in public. (He was probably being kind). Obviously, my audition was not a success and music history continued on its merry way – *without me*.

In latter years, I knew Ray

Columbus had not been in good health for some time - suffering a heart attack in 2004 and a stroke in 2007 and last year. It was sad to learn of his death at the age of just 74. He was born on November 4, 1942 and died on November 28, 2016.

As a youngster he attended Xavier School and started his musical career early - he founded his first band The Dominoes in 1959. Other bands followed until The Invaders were formed in 1964 and lasted until 1966. 'She's a Mod' reached number one in Australia; this was the first time a NZ act had attained this accolade overseas. Another song, 'Till We kissed' (1965) actually, however,

sold more copies.

After The Invaders disbanded Ray headed to the US where he was involved in the entertainment industry. On his return to NZ he fronted several TV shows including C'Mon, Happen Inn, Ray Columbus presents New Faces and –perhaps surprisingly for a pop singer – That's Country.

Many artists were either discovered or managed by Ray including Tina Cross and Suzanne Lynch (nee Donaldson) of The Chicks. In the late 1990s he managed the group Zed.

Ray was also the supporting act to many of the elite of popular music including The Rolling Stones, Roy



Ray Columbus

Orbison, the Newbeats, the Hollies and Shirley Bassey. Ray won many awards including a Benny Award (Variety Artists Club of NZ Inc) in 1973, an OBE in 1974 (The Queen's Birthday Honours) and in 1990 was awarded a Commemoration Medal.

Ray's funeral was held on Saturday December 3 and

was attended by many musical luminaries including Billy Karaitiana formerly of The Invaders who spoke of Ray's "positivity" but also said, "He was tough on us, he was a great leader." Another musician said simply, "He was the best." Ray leaves Linda his widow and he was a father of two.

Rolland McKellar

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NORTH ISLAND WIDE

your summer guide

What's on in the **NAKI**

Welcome to the Opunake and Coastal News 2016 - 2017 Summer Guide to What's On in the 'Naki showcasing what our region has to offer. Whether you are into Surfing, Golfing, or Adventure we have it all here for you. We also showcase our Beach Carnivals (a fantastic family day out). As well as some places that you must visit - such as the Tawhiti Museum and Cape Egmont Lighthouse Museum. Keep this guide and use it over the coming summer months. We hope you enjoy every moment!



Photo by Dana McMurray, Opunake



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THURSDAY 12 JANUARY – BOWL NIGHT OUT FEAT. NOMAD
THURSDAY 19 JANUARY – THE RITZ BIG BAND/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL

Visit festivaloflights.nz and fill out the form to register for your chosen bus. Spaces are limited, so get in quick! Registrations close midday, one day prior to the event. You must be 14 years or older to use this bus service, unless accompanied by an adult.

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Discover the heroes living in your backyard



Explore the magical world of bugs at Puke Ariki

Bugs may have a reputation for being small, scaly and scary but Puke Ariki is out to prove that creepy crawlies are actually superheroes in disguise!

BUGS! Our Backyard Heroes is a family-friendly, hands-on educational experience that brings visitors face-to-face with some real live mini-monsters.

The exhibition explores the secret world of bugs and the vital role they play in our lives without us even realising it. Featuring 'Eugene' the giant

poisonous centipede, and his friends the tree wētā, stick insects, locusts, crickets, cockroaches and Avondale spiders, the exhibition also provides the opportunity for visitors to learn about the different native species of bugs in New Zealand and the sometimes precarious position they hold in the ecosystem due to threats from imported pests and environmental threats.

There are plenty of hands-on activities for youngsters to get involved in, including

dress-ups, creating their own superpower bug, a huge picture puzzle, and a collection of activity cards to take home with instructions how to create a backyard bug hotel, a bug census and homes for wētā.

They can also learn how to become a citizen scientist and how bugs inspire those on the frontline of technology.

"This exhibition very much meets our goal to make learning and education a fun experience for the entire family this summer," says

Kelvin Day, Tumuaki/Manager of Puke Ariki.

The exhibition has only been open a few weeks but visitor feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Lachlan Wasley, aged 8 from New Plymouth, has already been to the exhibition twice and asks his mother, Angela, every day if he can go again.

"He just absolutely loves the BUGS! exhibition," says Angela. "I think the live creepy crawlies are his favourite but he enjoys all the activities. Puke Ariki is

just such a cool place to bring your kids, there is always something to see and do."

Once visitors have discovered the secret life of bugs, there are the long-term galleries to look around – a comprehensive refresh programme this year means that there is lots of new things to see and experience, cool adventure audio tours to take and Ruru hunts to complete.

The Ruru scavenger hunts are always popular with youngster with trails for all ages. Four new hunts have been launched in time for the summer holidays which gives avid Ruru fans the chance to add to their special Ruru badge collection – a badge is awarded for the completion of each hunt. The hunts can be picked up at the host desk in the foyer.



SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN AT PUKE ARIKI!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT

Saturday 17 December, 10am-12pm, Discover it! Puke Ariki Library
Make a Christmas decoration and design your own paper to wrap it in to make a special gift. Bookings essential. Phone (06) 7596060 or book at Puke Ariki Library. Suitable for ages 5-10. Children, please bring an adult.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERJACKS

Wednesday 21 December, 10.30am-11am, Discover it! Puke Ariki Library
Bring your preschoolers for a special Christmas Crackerjacks story time session with a craft activity afterwards.

BUGS! LANTERN-MAKING WORKSHOP

Wednesday 18th January, 10am-1pm, Puke Ariki Museum Foyer
Decorate your own BUGS! inspired lantern! Lanterns and all materials provided. Parade your lantern the following week at TSB Bank Festival of Lights!

LANTERN PARADE AT TSB BANK FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Wednesday 25 January, Meet on the Hatchery Lawn, Pukekura Park at 8.15pm and the parade will start at 8.30pm.
Proudly parade your BUGS! lantern made at Puke Ariki at TSB Bank Festival of Lights! No wet weather alternative; please check the Puke Ariki Facebook page for updates.

BUG CRAFT

Wednesday 11 January, 2pm-3pm, Discover it! Puke Ariki Library
Make a spider and its web to celebrate the *BUGS! Our Backyard Heroes* exhibition. No bookings necessary. Suitable for ages 5-10. Children, please bring an adult.

SAIL INTO SUMMER

Wednesday 18 January, 2pm-3pm, Discover it! Puke Ariki Library
Join us to make an egg carton sail boat. No bookings necessary. Suitable for ages 5-10. Children, please bring an adult.

WINDY CRAFT

Wednesday 25 January, 2pm-3pm, Discover it! Puke Ariki Library
Join us to make a mini windsock. No bookings necessary. Suitable for ages 5-10. Children, please bring an adult



STU DUVAL - STORYTELLER EXTRAORDINAIRE!

Monday 16 January, 1.30pm, Puke Ariki Museum Foyer
Join Stu Duval, NZ's Master storyteller, author and artist, who travels with a suitcase full of tales and an easel full of art, ready to entertain his young audiences. He will perform stories from his books, accompanied by live drawing/illustration. Suitable for all primary aged children

MOBILE LIBRARY SUMMER TOUR

Return, renew or check out your library books without interrupting your holidays this summer!!

Tuesday 12 January

Lepperton Village/Store 9.30am - 11am
Urenui Beach Camp 11.30am - 2.30pm

Thursday 14 January

Ōākura Beach Camp (just past the Surf Club) 10am - 12pm
Ngāmotu Beach 1pm - 3pm

Wednesday 13 January

Brooklands Zoo 10am - 12pm
Todd Energy Aquatic Centre, NP 1pm - 3pm

DESIGN A BOOKMARK COMPETITION

The annual Design a Bookmark competition is now on! Pick a theme - Bugs Rock, Summer Holidays, My Favourite Story or just surprise us - and get drawing! There are three age groups (5 years and under, 6 - 8 years and 9 - 12 years) and the winner from each group will have their design turned into an official Puke Ariki bookmark for 2017, plus other prizes.

Entry forms are in the latest edition of What's ON, on www.pukeariki.com, or at your local library.

Entries close 5pm, January 20, 2017



Brooklands Zoo a gem worth visiting

Laughter and animal antics are never far away at New Plymouth's Brooklands Zoo. This wee gem at the end of Brooklands Park Drive is a great place to bring the family for a fun day in the city.

The zoo is laid out around a large playground and green space – and as the facility is fully fenced, parents can relax while their young children play. All of the animal enclosures have been designed with children in mind. Kids can get a close look at the animals thanks to ground-level windows, a walk-through aviary and low fences.

There are also activities for young and old to take part in, with information boards dotted around the grounds. And to top it all off, the zoo has free entry (although donations are



A Cotton-top Tamarin takes on a Christmas cracker.

gratefully accepted). But the main attraction is the animals. From chickens to the exotics – including monkeys, reptiles, amphibians, otters, alpaca,

meerkats and birds – there is a wide range of animals to capture visitors' attention and delight young and old alike. "Lots of people have their favourites, such as the meerkats or the Bolivian squirrel monkeys, but visitors quickly fall in love with the other species we have here," says Eve Cozzi coordinator/assistant curator Brooklands Zoo.

"The zoo is a great day out for the entire family." Visitors are invited to bring a picnic lunch with them to enjoy on the lawn. Also, coffee is available on-site. And when you leave Brooklands Zoo, take a

stroll through Pukekura Park. Start with the TSB Bowl of Brooklands right in front of the zoo, then take some time to explore the rest of the park's 52ha.

"Pukekura Park is a drawcard in the evenings for the TSB Bank Festival of Lights but it's a different experience during the day, and just as much fun for the entire family," says Eve.

For more information about Brooklands Zoo and Pukekura Park, visit the New Plymouth i-SITE Visitor Centre in the Museum Wing of Puke Ariki or go online to newplymouthnz.com.



Inti is one of our Bolivian squirrel monkeys.



A Small-clawed otter.

Family values go with being in a family business

In 1979 Seasons Surfboards opened its first store, and the business and family have continued to grow together ever since. BJ and Kaye Smith have created a happy and productive environment for their children, Jesse, Candace and Caleb to continue keeping Seasons Cheapskates operating in the community. As a family owned and operated business, the importance of family extends from the immediate family members through to other staff members, team riders and the community. They

want everyone involved to feel part of the family, and to have an important role to play in a happy shopping environment for customers. Jesse the eldest son has been learning the ropes since day dot and has grown with the business to become well known for his enthusiastic customer service. His commitment to the store has people coming back again and again to get customer service that makes them feel part of the extended family and proud to be shopping local. With Jesse, Candace and Caleb now running the day

to day in-store side of the business, this has given BJ ('Dad') more freedom to go back to his roots of enjoying his passion for shaping surfboards in front of his surf break where they have set up their house, a B and B and surfboard factory, on the Taranaki Coast with wife Kaye. Being a family business gives a sense of ownership and drives the enthusiasm to continue to provide quality products and great customer service for the local community.



From left. Jesse, Kaye, BJ, Candace, Caleb.

Photo Taine Wilcox

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New bridge feature set to wow

Plenty of magic will be radiating from Poet's Bridge at this year's TSB Bank Festival of Lights, with more lights than ever being installed on the iconic feature.

More than 1,000 dancing LED lights will make up the TSB Bank Tunnel of Light, The bespoke archway structure takes its inspiration from Mouna Taranaki.

New Plymouth District Council Venues and Events Manager, Ron Murray, says he is looking forward to seeing the TSB Bank Tunnel of Light come to life when the festival kicks off on December 18.

"Poet's Bridge is always a focal point of the festival and we think this year's feature will be a summer highlight.

This year's light trail through Pukekura Park is set to cover the most ground of any previous lights festival in the park. The trail includes another

great new feature along the Goodwin Dell Loop created by local electronic artist Ian Clothier, while some of the festival's favourite lighting features will be back, including Tripping the Light, which brings the Fountain Lake to life with colourful LED globes.

More than 45 entertainers will also light up the stage at this year's festival. The On Stage line-up features a variety of national and international acts,

The On Stage performances are set to kick off on Monday December 26 and will run through until January 22,

Free buses will be running to this year's festival from Opunake, Hawera and Urenui. These buses will run on the 7, 12 and 19 of January. See festivaloflights.nz for booking details.



Poets Bridge Festival of Lights at Pukekura Park

A day at the races for everyone



Treat yourself to an exciting day out at Pukekura Raceway.

A day at the races offers something for everyone and this season it's no different. Saturday December 24 sees the only thoroughbred race meeting in New Zealand being held at Pukekura Raceway, and offers attendees a way to relax after the hustle and bustle of overcrowded shops, work deadlines, and commitments. The day will be a laid back way to enjoy the afternoon, although the racing will be action packed. The second Brews & BBQs event is also on. Set up on the 'Country Lawn' there will be a range of craft beers

available, along with the usual favourites, a Baron of Beef, and a first for Pukekura Raceway, live country music. This year there are two family oriented race days, Tuesday 27th is Farmlands Family Fun Day offering free kids activities all day, in the City Lawn, including bouncy castle, colouring competition, and pony rides. Bring a picnic lunch and set up in on this lawn designed to keep all members of the family happy. All the kids' activities in one space, with amenities for the adults too. The New Year kicks off with the other kid's

day, Super+ Hero Day on Tuesday January 5. Kids dress up as their favourite hero and participate in the activities to win fabulous prizes. Adults enjoy 10+ harness races, followed by DMan Entertainment playing your favourite tunes. Christmas Eve: Entry \$5. Farmlands Family Fun Day: Entry \$10. Harness Race Day: Entry \$5 Under 18s always free

For more information visit www.taranakiracing.co.nz or email Events Coordinator, Sonya Cole, events@taranakiracing.co.nz



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Some great summer bands at Butler's Reef



Aaradhna
Butler's Reef is promising three nights of great music between New Year's Eve and Saturday January 7. "It's stacking up to be a good summer," says Butlers Reef general manager Tanya Farrant. With the line-up of acts on the way, that's a bit of an understatement. Three quality acts see the New Year in at Butlers - Katchafire, Aaradhna and

Awards success, Tanya says. "Being able to have that kind of talent here in Oakura is very cool." Regarded as the leading lady of Pacific Soul, Aaradhna has also extensively toured the US with the likes of the screaming Eagle of Soul Charles Bradley. Clash of the Titans is in its third year and has rightfully gouged out a reputation as

being one of the most epic tours in the summer music calendar. For 2017, Dragon, Mi-Sex and The Feelers will go head-to-head, thrashing it out in eight of New Zealand's most iconic live venues. All three bands will be welcomed by music fans here, says Tanya, with a particular focus on Mi-Sex. "Mi-Sex have never been here before and a number



Mi Sex
number of people around." She's keen for people to use the Butler's Reef beer garden more this year, seeing a good opportunity for patrons to relax out there between Boxing Day and the first stage action of New Year's Eve. There's early interest in the three music events, she says, but there are plenty of tickets still available at Butlers Reef. "We encourage people to pre-buy their tickets. A lot of people leave it till the last minute, but I'm picking the shows - especially New

Year's Eve will sell out. There used to be a lot going on around Taranaki but not so much now. We will be the only big thing happening on New Year's Eve and people will flock to it.

"If people really want to come here, they should get their tickets early. All three concerts are strictly R18 and the tickets are also available at Crowded House and on line."

**To advertise please
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Dragon play at Butlers Reef Monday January 2

Sons Of Zion; then there's the iconic Australasian bands - Dragon, Mi-Sex and The Feelers lining up for Monday January 2 and the Clash of the Titans tour; followed by a solo acoustic show on Saturday January 7 by Jon Toogood. New Year's Eve sets the season on fire - Katchafire, that is. Backed up by Sons of Zion and Aaradhna. "Katchafire is always a big drawcard," Tanya says. "They are so popular in New Zealand now. We've had them here a number of times and they still draw the crowds and enjoy playing here." Sons of Zion are another serious crowd pleaser, Tanya says. "They have their own following and a lot of the concert goers are coming to see them". Aaradhna is an up-and-coming artist that Taranaki music fans will want to see, following her recent Vodafone NZ Music

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Lots to do at Todd Energy Aquatic Centre

The outdoor pools at the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre are now open for the summer season. Then of course there are the indoor pools at the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre, complete with one of the largest wave pools in New Zealand as well as the country's tallest hydroslide. There's also the Aqua Climb wall, tarzan swing and giant inflatables which are a hit with kids of all ages. The Turboslide is popular with thrill seekers and swimmers looking for a more relaxing experience. You can always take some time out in the sauna, steamroom or spa. The children's playground area outdoors which was funded by naming rights sponsor Todd Energy, is sure to be popular with the younger visitors.



Aerial dive



The pools are a great place



The climbing wall

to have your Christmas function, a birthday party or work function. You can burn some energy on the inflatables and in the waves, get a thrill on the hydroslides, or relax in the spa pool. There are several options available. Contact the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre for more details or to make a booking.

A range of swimming products are available for

purchase at the Aquatic Centre including goggles, caps and swimwear for all ages. We stock Spank, Adidas and Arena swimwear and we are also the exclusive retailer of the Funkita range for New Plymouth.

If its relaxation you're after, the aquatic centre has several options. You may prefer relaxing indoors in the dry heat of the sauna

or the wet heat of the steam room. These are both beneficial forms of therapy for muscular aches and pains, and a wonderful way to unwind following exercise or on cold days. If you want to pick a quiet time to visit the Aquatic Centre, come along before 10am or after 6.30pm. The times in between are the fun times when families and children are enjoying the

pools, so things do get a bit lively.

The aquatic centre offers swimming lessons for all ages and abilities from six month old babies up to adults.

Contact our swim school for more information.

There is a family fun day on January 19 from 12pm-2.30pm, normal entry charge with lots of games, competitions, prizes and a sausage sizzle.

For general enquiries about the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre or the

Bubbles

district pools, phone 759 6060 or email enquiries@npdc.govt.nz..

More information is online at www.newplymouthnz.com

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Shining on through the years



The Historic Cape Light and Museum is a reminder of Coastal Taranaki's maritime history.

For mariners battling the seas off Taranaki in the 19th century, the lighthouse often gave a sense of comfort knowing there was that signal to warn them of possible danger.

Built in 2007, the Historic Cape Light and Museum on Bayley's Road serves as a memory of those bygone days when wrecks off the Taranaki coast were a not uncommon occurrence.

"The idea of putting up the lighthouse had started with a newspaper photo of an engineer dismantling the old light from the Cape Egmont lighthouse and replacing it with a more modern New Zealand-made Vega replacement, trustee Len Pentelow said.

The question then arose of what was going to happen to the old light, he said.

"We made a few inquiries with Maritime New Zealand in Wellington and spoke with the chief lighthouse engineer Mr Ken Belt, who informed us that the light could be made available for display to the public, but not allowed to go into a collector's possession. So an arrangement was made that it's now on permanent loan to the South Taranaki District Council, but still belongs to Maritime New Zealand. A trust was set up and the council gave us the

task of resurrecting the light and showing it to the public."

Where better to place the light than a replica lighthouse? The Bayley's Road lighthouse has similar dimensions to Cape Egmont, but is only two thirds the height. Whereas the Cape Egmont lighthouse is made of cast iron, the one at Bayley's Road is made of steel and reinforced concrete.

The light which it houses had been built in Stockholm, and been operating since 1876.

"During the course of its life, it's seen many modifications to bring it up to its present day operation," Mr Pentelow said. "The old light runs reasonably well. We have had issues, but we feel we have overcome them."

In former times, the Cape Egmont Lighthouse would use gas or acetylene, and the light was turned by a clockwork mechanism driven by a weight which allowed the light to drop down the centre

column of the lighthouse, revolving as it went. The lighthouse keeper would wind the weight up before the start of each evening.

Now, illumination has been improved by a 1000 watt light bulb, with electric motors turning the light.

Mr Pentelow said that with improved signage on the corner of Bayley's Road and Surf Highway, he has noticed an increase in visitor numbers.

In the last year, a Keeper's Cottage has been added where volunteers can set themselves up and greet the public.

Despite the advent of GPS, Mr Pentelow still sees lighthouses continuing to have a role.

"If you are out at sea it gives a measure of comfort to know there's a signal out there to warn you to keep away from danger," he said.

Rutherford's Pungarehu connection

Ernest Rutherford who graces the \$100 note received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his work on radioactivity.

At the time the Rutherfords came to Pungarehu- Ernest's parents James and Martha briefly ran the White Hart Hotel in New Plymouth- the land had been open to settlers for a few years.

Martha was a schoolteacher before marrying and having 12 children. She taught all the children to read and do their multiplication tables before they started school.

James, practical and hard working also valued education, although he had little himself. He became a wheelwright, general engineer and flax miller.

James and the two older boys set up a flax mill at Tipoka, just south of Pungarehu.



Ernest Rutherford

Later they established two more flax mills at Warea and Opunake- the latter the last to close in 1930.

Ernest, who was 17 at the time his parents moved to Pungarehu completed his education at Nelson College, later joining the family.

He left New Zealand in 1893 and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1908 for his investigations into the disintegration of elements and the chemistry of radioactive substances. He also deduced the structure of the atom.

On this month in history

MJ Savage becomes PM

On December 6, 1935 Michael Joseph Savage (1872-1940), who was born in Australia, assumed office as prime minister. His Labour Government had won the General Election in convincing fashion. The West

Auckland MP became leader in 1933 following the death of Harry Holland.

The Government did a lot to improve the lot of ordinary NZ people in the aftermath of the Great Depression and instigated the 'cradle to grave'

security system.

He was regarded with reverence by many people who made sure they had his portrait prominently displayed. Savage died in office and there was much public grief.



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Cape Egmont Historic Light & Museum Open 11am - 3pm Weekends



Lots of things you can do with Actionaki



Actionaki is now part and parcel of what's going on around Taranaki. Since we started eight years ago, we've had all sorts coming through, from seven-year-old birthday

parties through to the Jean Sandel Retirement Home. We have had team building crews and stag and hen parties. It's been a crazy ride sometimes, and we've certainly learnt a



lot ourselves about what's happening out there, and how we can better our operation.

It's really been great meeting new people and watching them step up, take themselves

out of their comfort zones and achieve their goals.

The events we cater for include claybird shooting, .22 rifle target shooting, Stag and Hen dos, work

dos, family gatherings, kids' birthday parties, archery, Frisbee golf, surfcasting outings for kids and adults, and golf chip challenges. So if you, your family or your

team need a break or holiday time, we are only a phone call, facebook or email away.

0800824836 Paddy Walsh

Some advice from the AA

December and January are historically two of the most dangerous months on our roads, with the highways at their busiest and the greatest number of crashes.

Wearing seat belts and not driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs should go without saying but there are other ways you can reduce your chances of being in a crash this holiday season and make your driving less stressful as well.

Increase your following distance

The AA gets asked a lot what would be our number one tip for safer driving and keeping a large following distance is right at the top of the list. By simply keeping at least two seconds back from the car in front of you,

you are going to have more time to react to anything unexpected that happens on the road ahead. If you are following closer than that, you are leaving yourself no safety margin and if the car in front of you brakes suddenly when you happen to be checking your mirrors or speedometer you are going to have trouble stopping in time.

To check your following distance, watch the car in front go past some type of landmark like a sign or power pole and start counting as it does. If you can't say 'one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two' before you pass the same landmark, you are too close. Remember, it is two seconds in good conditions and four seconds if the road is wet or visibility poor.

The price of speeding

Going too fast for the conditions is a factor in about one in three fatal crashes. Putting your foot down gives you less time to react, increases the distance it'll take you to stop and is likely to hurt you in the pocket. The Police are enforcing the lower speed limit tolerance of 4kph for all of December and January and at higher speeds you'll also use more fuel to travel the same distance. AA testing found travelling at 110kph

rather than 100kph used 13 per cent more fuel (or an extra 25 cents per litre).

Let faster vehicles pass

If you aren't comfortable driving at the speed limit or have several cars building up behind you, the Road Code says you must keep as far left as possible and pull over where it is safe to do so and let other people pass. A major frustration for drivers is when a vehicle that had been travelling slower speeds up at a passing lane. This can easily happen

without a driver realising it because they subconsciously feel more comfortable on the wider stretch of road. If you aren't passing, make sure you don't let your speed creep up when you hit a passing lane so it's easier for others to overtake.

Avoid driving when you're tired

Fatigue was a factor in 15 per cent of fatal crashes in 2015. When you are tired, your ability to concentrate drops and your reaction time increases. Make sure to get a

full night's sleep before a big drive and take a break every two hours. Avoid driving at times when you would normally be sleeping and if you are facing a really long journey, consider breaking it up into a couple of days rather than doing one massive drive. If you are behind the wheel and are starting to feel fatigued look to pull over safely as soon as you can. Having a power nap for 15 minutes or getting out of the car and walking around can freshen you up

Sounds on the Sand at Opunake Beach



The Blues Buffet playing Sounds in the Sand at Opunake Beach Sunday January 15

Funky tunes are returning to Opunake Beach with Sounds on the Sand. The South Taranaki District Council is bringing The Blues Buffet to Opunake Beach on Sunday January 15 from 12.30pm.

It is one week after the beach carnival so we hope there are still plenty of campers at the

campground as well as the locals from Opunake and surrounds who will come on down for a great afternoon.

"Last year's event was perfect, the sun was shining and the large crowd really enjoyed the funky tunes," says Sounds on the Sand organiser Jody Bloor. "Hopefully the 2017 event will be the same. So come along, bring the kids and a picnic, sit back and relax, enjoy the sounds from the band 'The Blues Buffet' and the waves crashing on the beach."

The Blues Buffet, from Wanganui, incorporates a mix of popular blues covers with original compositions. Band member Fred Loveridge, said The Blues Buffet are excited to be back in Opunake as they really enjoyed it when they were here in 2013. "The crowd was fantastic, it was a great afternoon of music."

The performance is perfectly timed as they have just released their third album entitled "Reality Show".

There will also be a bouncy castle for the kids, so bring the whole family and make an afternoon of it.

Cape Egmont Historic Light & Museum Open 11am - 3pm Weekends



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Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.
All the best for 2017
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Winners announced Christmas Eve



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A good day for a walk in progress



Opunake walkway

This last year has seen the Lonely Planet Travel Guide name Taranaki as the second best place in the world to visit. Among the attractions listed in the guide is Surf Highway, which wends its way through Opunake on its journey along the Taranaki coast.

Opunake itself is worth a stop to have a look at the Opunake Walkway, which this year made its first appearance in Lonely Planet's New Zealand guide. Although the largest formal

walkway in South Taranaki, it is very much a walk in progress, something that is being added to all the time.

It is now possible for visitors to see and experience the town's history by just following the signposts. Whether it be the lake, the beach, Middleton Bay, the Cliff Top Garden or the additions lovingly placed there by just some of the volunteers who have made their contributions over the years. Among the latter are Olive's Grove, named

after Olive Armstrong, and Dudley's Bridge, named after Dudley Morris, a stalwart of the local Lions Club and a longtime supporter of the Walkway.

Once known as the Lions Walkway, the efforts made by the Opunake Lions Club over the years include the Lions Lookout giving visitors striking views of the Opunake coastline.

The Walkway includes the site where it is believed the first cannonball in New Zealand was fired in 1834.

In that year, the Harriet was wrecked nearby, sparking off a chain of events which led to the first use of British troops in New Zealand.

The Taranaki coastline took a grim toll of shipping in the 19th century. Only in November, part of the remains of the Falcon which ran aground at Opunake in 1870 made a brief appearance on Opunake Beach before disappearing again.

From the Walkway it is possible to look over to the historic Te Namu pa site. It was here in 1834 that 800 invading Waikatos were stopped dead in their tracks by Taranaki Maori under Wiremu Kingi te Matakatea.

The Orimupiko and Armed Constabulary cemeteries mark the places where many people associated with the town left this life, while the Opunake Cottage Hospital is the place where many began their life journeys. Among the latter was Peter Snell. Born here in 1938, he later settled in Texas. In between he became one of this country's greatest sportsmen, winning the double of gold medals in the 800 and 1500 metres at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Among other points of interest is the memorial to Mary Dobie. A 27 year-old Englishwoman, her brother-in-law was commander of the Egmont military camp, and she was due to return to England. A noted illustrator, her work had been published in the London Gazette. On November 25, 1880, she went to sketch Te Namu Bay. Her body was found later that night in a flax bush, with throat cut. The original suspect was one Walter Stannard, but then a local Maori named Tuhiata confessed. He was later hanged.



Information about Mary Dobie at Opunake Lake

Challenge
Rahotu Service Station
Ph 06 763 8848

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

CLOSED: Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th December
Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd January

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Hannah Drought Opunake Community Baths Coordinator with her Opunake Swimming Club Class. Thank you for all your hard work Hannah

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Opunake Beach Carnival



Muscle men at Opunake Beach.

Have great fun in the sun at the 2016 Beach carnival to be held on Saturday January 7 There is no entry fee a great day for the whole family.

Bring your beautiful babies, toddlers and mini muscle men to show off their talents at the Opunake Beach stage contests. This year there is a mister muscle section for over 13 years. The first contest starts at 10am. The Big Dig will run from around lunch time depending on the tide Every entrant gets a prize, with major prizes being brand new bikes, sponsored by Campbell Contracting, and supplied by Collins Sports Centre.

Miss Opunake Beach contests will be held in the afternoon. Categories will be Miss Junior Opunake 10-12 years, Miss Teen Opunake 13-15, and Miss Opunake 16 years and over. Fantastic prizes. \$2 per entry, Miss Opunake is \$5 to enter.

All day activities include Mini Jeeps, Merry go Round, Bouncy Castles, Photo booth and Mini Golf and a Shooting gallery with hourly prize draws. There is also food, coffee and crafts for sale.

The Surf Club will have their Surf Club Cafe Open for substantial food and shelter from the sun.



Muscle man Samuel Drought.



Ella Griggs and Eden Lark enjoy candyfloss at the Opunake Beach Carnival.

Opunake Beach Carnival
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SATURDAY JANUARY 7th
 TSB Community Trust



Campbell Contracting Big Dig.

4/1/17 **COLLINS SPORTS CENTRE TAKE A KID FISHING**
 - Registrations on the day or previously at Collins Sports Centre, Opunake \$2
 - Weigh in at the Opunake Beach Stage that evening at 6-6.30pm. Don't be late. Great prizes!

Brian Collins (06) 761-8778 or Paddy Walsh (06) 761-8863 027 230 5820

6/1/17 **LAKESIDE LIONS POOL PARTY**
 Opunake Community Pool, Longfellow Rd. 6th January from 5pm - 7pm. Entry is \$5 and includes a drink and a sausage. We will have games, races, fun stuff!! Fish for a lucky dip prize \$2

7/1/17 **CARNIVAL DAY!**

HOURLY RAFFLES
 10am-2pm - All good prizes
BABY, TOTS, MR MUSCLE, OPUNAKE MR MUSCLES (13 yrs & over), MISS TEEN & MISS OPUNAKE
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Opunake Beach Carnival

Collins Sports Centre Take a kid fishing

Take a kid fishing will be held on Wednesday January 4. The competition is open to all children primary school age and under. Mums and Dads, get out there and get the kids fishing. Great prizes to be won. Register at Collins Sports Centre, \$2 entry fee applies.

We will weigh any species caught on the day on a hook line and sinker. No nets, boats or Kontiki lines please. Final weigh in will be at 6-6.30pm, scales at the Opunake Beach stage, followed by prize giving, lolly scramble, and a sausage sizzle. Every child receives a prize and certificate

Keen fisherman and All Black Scott Barrett will be helping at prizegiving bring the camera and get a photo with your fish and Taranaki's newest All Black.



Ewwwww a fish!



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Wednesday
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 No nets, boats or kontiki lines
 Weigh in finishes at 6.30pm



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A message from the Opunake Surf Life Saving Club

The Opunake Surf Life Saving Club would like to thank our community for their support. We really appreciate all the support in helping our volunteers patrol the beach.

Our voluntary weekend patrols have started, Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays 11.30am to 4.30pm, with the last day of patrol being Taranaki Anniversary.

Regional guard patrols will commence Monday December 19 and finish on Friday 27 January 27, 2017, this patrol runs Monday to Friday 11.30am to 6.30pm.

We have an awesome group of members who train throughout the week. Our seniors can be seen training most days of the week at the beach, with our junior surf members training each Sunday 10am to 12noon.

We also have club swim training on a Wednesday at the Opunake Community Baths from 6.30pm to 8pm. This is an awesome session which has juniors, seniors and the odd parent or two training together.



Surf Club Members Taine Morgan, Aleisha Cram, Mike Corkill, Jessica Roach, Callum Hickey, Brody Hitchcock and Jordan Hooper.

As always when we are playing on or in the big paddling pool known as the sea/surf, please stay safe and



Shan Hickey and Brook Smith IRB training.

Turn Heads
Phone 06 761 7466
88 Tasman Street, Opunake, Taranaki

Rhonda would like to thank all her clients for their support.

"I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year."

Thank you to our Sponsors, Players and Supporters

We look forward to seeing you all next season

remember: swim between the flags, listen to the lifeguards, stay within your limits, be sun smart, look out for each other. When in a boat / kayak wear your lifejacket, and tell someone where you are going and when to expect you back.

Our Lifeguards have been upskilling over the winter,

with members attending First Aid Course, Pre Hospital Emergency Care Course, Sea Survival Course, Marine VHF Radio Course, Patrol Captains Workshop, refreshers for Instructors, and examiners to name a few. All of this is done to ensure we can provide the best skills and knowledge when patrolling

the beach to ensure our wider community is safe when playing in the surf / sea.

We have our Annual Street Appeal Friday December 16 which will have our members out and about the streets of Hawera, Stratford and New Plymouth. If you happen to see them stop and have a chat with them. They will be more than happy to share a few stories with you.

There will be sunscreen and calendars for sale, along with flyers and bookmarks to handout for free. We would like to thank Marama Ratahi in giving up her time to come down and take the photos of our guards for the calendars.

Thank you to everyone who voted for our club to receive the door sales from the Crafty Christmas. Our members are humbled to have been the winners of the voting this year.

We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and hope to see you all at the beach.

Country Connections

Leigh & Patrice & family would like to wish everyone a safe & happy holiday period

Sponsors of the Opunake Beach Carnival

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Oeo's deadly wreck remembered

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (December 2), remains of the Falcon which ran aground at Opunake in 1870 made a brief appearance on Opunake Beach last month.

The Falcon was one of many ships wrecked on the Taranaki coast in the 19th century. Among the more well known wrecks were the Lord Worsley in 1862, and the Harriet in 1834. The wreck of the latter set of a string of events leading to the first use of British troops in New Zealand.

South of Opunake, a small stretch of coastline around Oeo had seen four ships wrecked in less than a decade. The last and most well known of these was the Lizzie Bell.

Three ships had already come to grief on the Oeo coast before the Lizzie Bell was wrecked on July 24, 1901.

In the previous cases, no lives had been lost and the finger had been pointed at sloppy navigation.

The Lizzie Bell was different, as 12 of the barque's 18 crew died as a result of the vessel hitting a rock two kilometres south of the Oeo river mouth.

Two fell overboard and were later found dead jammed between the rocks. The crew abandoned ship, but their boat overturned twice before reaching land, the second time trapping six underneath who drowned before it could be righted. Another two died before the boat reached land, and two more who did make it to shore died before the rescuers arrived.

The survivors made it to the Good homestead, and the bodies were taken to

the Oeo Hotel, which was at a different location to where it later ended up before its final closure.

The locals buried 10 of the bodies at a funeral at Pihama on July 28, where local storekeeper H. Wagstaff took up a collection to pay for a memorial. When the other two bodies were later found they were buried near the monument.

The Pihama Cemetery, where the bodies of the ship's sailors lie alongside those of local residents is now known as the Lizzie Bell Cemetery.

The ship's bell stayed in the area for the next 80 years, calling children to class every day at the Oeo School until the school closed in the 1980s.

In the early 1960s the ship's anchor was recovered from the sea, and after adorning a couple of gardens found its present resting place as part of the memorial to the dead of the Lizzie Bell.

The Lizzie Bell's life had been a short one. It had only arrived in New Zealand the previous month, having made its maiden voyage from Glasgow.

There had already been three ships wrecked at Oeo before the Lizzie Bell came to its ignominious end.

The schooner Annie Wilson was carrying flour and potatoes when it stranded south of the Oeo River mouth in the early hours of April 22, 1893. The master of the ship which was en route from Lyttleton to Kaipara later said he thought he had already rounded Cape Egmont. It was raining heavily and the master couldn't see the land.

After the ship got stuck, embedded on a cluster of rocks, the breeze got up. The ship remained upright for a while, but then keeled over in the heavy seas.

The master of the Marramarua also appeared confused about his whereabouts when his steamer was wrecked at Oeo Point on May 29, 1896. The Court of Inquiry found that the master seemed to have only guessed the distance from land when the course had been set, making no allowance for currents. Just over a month earlier the Marramarua had been damaged when it struck a snag off Patea, while travelling between Waitara and Wanganui.

Less than a year later, on January 15, 1897, the steamer Manaia was wrecked in the same place as the Marramarua. The sea was calm, but the atmosphere was heavy with smoke from bush fires when it got stranded on a reef at 2am. The Court of Inquiry blamed negligent navigation and suspended the Master's certificate.



The Lizzie Bell Cemetery at Puketapu Road, Pihama.

Cliff Top Garden a sight to behold

The Garden is located off Bowen Crescent. If you head towards the clifftop car park just north of Opunake Beach you'll see a orange sign 'Walkway' and attached below a smaller sign 'Cliff Top Garden'.

The garden was set up by volunteers following an idea of local woman Heather Cormack. Rose Ratahi and others have had a lot to do with it, as well as countless others over the last three or so years. Les Ratahi keeps

the lawn area trimmed. Ian Baker has contributed by creating some attractive stonework for a drinking fountain and a handy basin arrangement for dogs to drink from - which gets plenty of use by thirsty dogs.

At present the garden is a blaze of colour from a very wide selection of plants and shrubs, both native and exotic. To mention just a sample, there are various succulents like the Aloe (made famous by Katherine Mansfield),

Californian Poppies, Rosemary, Cinerarias, various wallflowers, flaxes, herbs, geraniums & pelargoniums, as well as Cannas, Taupata, Norfolk Island Hibiscus, gazanias - basically you name it and it's probably there. There are even the occasional fruit trees such as Feijoa and citrus. The garden is bounded on the north side by an Escollonia hedge, which will eventually provide shelter from the prevailing wind.

The Committee has welcomed the plants which have been dropped off at various times from people such as Jim Barr. However, of even more use at present would be some donations of 'all purpose' fertiliser and blood & bone to help feed the plants.

You can phone Jen Trolove 06 761 8998 or Rose Ratahi on 06 761 8809 if you can help in this way or can volunteer to help. Meanwhile, come down and have a look - you won't be disappointed.



Mary and Audrey Quinn enjoy a stroll through the Cliff Top Garden Photo Taylah Smith

Craig Corrigan ELECTRICAL OPUNAKE
 Craig & Natalie wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Thanks for your support and we're looking forward to 2016
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Taranaki's iconic mountain

Mt Taranaki is a huge attraction for those who like bushwalks and for the more adventurous who really like a challenge and the experience of summiting a mountain. Those who achieve it apart from the sense of satisfaction are rewarded with magnificent 360 degree views of Taranaki and its wild coastline and further, views of Mt Ruapehu in the central North Island.

There are numerous charming huts dotted around the mountain all maintained by DOC. An around the mountain walk takes four days for the averagely fit. Huts are usually less than a day's tramp apart.

Fanthams Peak is also a

challenging walk and there is a hut that you can stay in when you reach the peak.

Brahms Falls which used to run hot over a hundred years ago is worth a visit and a slight diversion from one of the enchanting bush walks. These days the water is just tepid, a shame.

At night, watch out for some bewitching glow worms.

For the less fit and adventurous, there's also two restaurants with accommodation on the mountain which are accessible by road. There's also a cafe and a visitors centre at North Egmont and accommodation at the historic camphouse.

The mountain is also accessible by foot from various side roads in Taranaki. Both Ihaia Road in Opunake and, further north, Puniho Road, end in tracks that go up the mountain. The Waiarau Gorge Hut is perhaps the

easiest and closest to access on foot and takes several hours from the end of Ihaia Road.

Just beware though, the mountain though easily accessible to trampers has a torrid history with many mis-

calculating the risks. Even in summer the weather can be changeable with teaming rain, sleet, snow and winds that can flatten you. So make sure you're equipped for all conditions.

There are organised open

climbs run by KOPAC, the local tramping club.

If you want a bird's eye view of the Mountain Precision helicopters offer a range of scenic flights, some of which traverse Taranaki and land near a scenic waterfall.



The mountain is dotted with mountain huts.



ABOVE: : Just one of the scenic walkways to be enjoyed.



Youngsters enjoying the Opunake Community Pool.

To advertise phone
(06) 761 7016

SUMMER READING HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES AND OPUNAKE LIBRARY PLUS FREE - 5-12 YR OLDS

11 January 2017

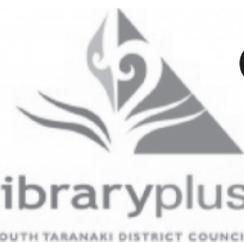
2pm - Create Land Yachts with Pam Jones, District Children's Librarian

18 January 2017

2.30pm - Design your own seascape

25 January 2017

2.30pm - Storyteller Adrian Kirk



Opunake Library Plus
on 0800 111 323
for full details

Opunake Community Pools

School Holiday Hours effective 20th Dec – 29th Jan

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Lane Swimming	6:30-10am 5-8pm	6:30-10am 5-8pm	6:30-10am	6:30-10am 5-8pm	6:30-10am	7-10am	7-10am
Public	12-4pm	12-4pm	12-4pm	12-4pm	12-4pm	12-4pm	12-4pm
AquaFit	6:30-7:15pm	9-9:45am 5:30-6:15pm		9-9:45am 6:30-7:15pm			

Entry fees: Adult \$4, Child/Senior \$3, Preschool \$1.50 Spectators FREE

Closed Xmas Day. All other public holidays remain these hours. *AquaFit as advised*

Learn To Swim Term One 2017 – Contact Denise Deans: 0274178631 or dandmdeans@ihug.co.nz

Aquatots Preschool Lessons Term One 2017 – Contact Hannah Drought 0278748981 or hmdrought@hotmail.com

All general enquiries to Hannah Drought 0278748981 – Or follow us on Facebook!



The summit of Mt Taranaki.



Santa waves from Syme Hut on Fanthams Peak
Photo Ian McAlpine

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The Painted War coming to Tawhiti



Cameron was an unwilling commander, seeing this campaign for what it was – a blunt instrument of the colonial government to plunder Maori land. Probably the only good thing to come from those months of slog was a set of superb watercolour paintings completed by his artillery officer, Lt. Col Edward Arthur Williams. Sent to Whanganui to accompany General Cameron's 3,000 troops march into South Taranaki, Williams had ample time to produce two sketchbooks of very accomplished paintings and sketches. They are a unique record of military life and campaigning on an isolated almost trackless coast and the landscape so familiar to us today – recorded for the first time.

The Tawhiti Museum has developed a new display - "The Painted War" around the work of E. A. Williams. Copies of his paintings, now held in the Hocken and Turnbull Libraries, accompany life size figures, artifacts from that period and copious scale figurines in a familiar South Taranaki coastal setting. The first part of the display will open on Boxing Day, with further development through subsequent months.

Visit The Tawhiti Museum and enjoy the latest historical dioramas created by Nigel Ogle.

Taking 90 days to travel the 90 kilometres from Whanganui to Hawera could

never be described as a rushed trip now could it? Yet in 1865 General Cameron took that

length of time to make that journey. To be fair, there wasn't a road – only

a narrow foot track in some places, and bullock wagons loaded with military supplies

are ponderously slow at best. The Waingongoro river at Ohawe was as far as they got.

The Painted War
Bringing General Cameron's campaign into South Taranaki alive through the 1865 paintings of E.A. Williams and the 2016 model making of Nigel Ogle.

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Go Further



Taranaki Women's Golf representative Celeste Mclean Tees off at a recent tournament.

Great views for a round of golf

The Opunake Golf Club is located 2.5km up Namu Road, 3kms north of Opunake. The original Club was a 9 hole links course located on the cliff tops behind the present Cottage Rest Home.

The course is contained on 125 acres, and was originally a West Coast Settlement Reserve Lease owned by John Halpin.

The present site was purchased in 1969. The new course was opened for play in 1971.

Sheep graze on the fairways, which are regularly mowed, and the greens are kept in excellent condition.

The course is 5309 metres, and is surrounded by pohutukawa and pine trees, with great views of the mountain and sea.

The par 71 course has a first nine of 36, and a second nine of 35. Overall there are four par fives, nine par fours and five par threes. The shortest hole is 114 metres and the longest hole is 436 metres.

A modern and spacious clubhouse provides members and visitors with a pleasant atmosphere to enjoy the social side of golf. The club offers golfers a hospitable welcome and a true country experience.

The clubhouse and course are also used by other groups and businesses for various activities.

Club Information.
Clubhouse: (06) 761 8070.
Address PO Box 75, Opunake.
Membership: 110.
President Aaron Langton. 0272265386 Mens Club
Captain C Cathie Ph 7617293.
Ladies Club Captain: Anne Marie Siciliano Secretary

Kaye Pointon.

Club Days: Men, Sunday.
Ladies: Tuesday. Ladies: (9
holers) Tuesday or Saturday

9.30am. Subscriptions: \$60. Summer Sub \$150.00
Men and Ladies \$300. Associate \$150.00. Greens
Junior (Primary School) Fees: on affiliated \$15
\$30.00 (Secondary School) affiliated \$10.

Golfing at Tumahu



Tumahu Golf Club is a 9-hole sheep course located on mid -Puniho Rd Okato. Mixed club day is on Sundays and Ladies club day is on Tuesdays.

Contacts: President Bruce Sim 067524482, Club

Captain Glen Kennedy 067524205, Secretary Donna Sharpe 067528050.

Subs. \$150 Full. \$30 Juniors. \$10 Green Fees. Summer Twilight Golf Thursday evenings from 5.30pm. Ambrose

or individual. Non-golfers welcome.

The Come and Try Day with a professional coach is on Sunday December 18 at 10.00am Contact B Sim 067524482

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Subs \$150 Full, \$30 Junior, \$10 Green Fees.
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Non golfers welcome.
Come and try day with professional coach on
Sunday 18th Dec 10.00
Contact B Sim 067524482

For Advertising
Please call 067617016

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Saturday 14th January 2017
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\$20 Entry Fee 8.30am Start
Gross/Nett/Stableford
3 Men's Division/1 Ladies
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New Year Open Tournament

Sunday, January 15, 2017

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\$40 includes:

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- Men's, Ladies and Non-Golfers Sections
- Tee Times 7.00am to 1.00pm

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BUSINESS HOUSE MIXED AMBROSE

Starts Wednesday, 11 January, 2017

Entry Fee \$10 per team per night
(meals available)

Tee Off: between 4.30 to 6.30pm

Teams: of 4 (golfers and non-golfers)

If you require players or are available to play contact Golf Club 761-8070 or Aaron Langton 027 226 5386

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Students \$10



DINING & ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

Taranaki



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We would like to thank Opunake for the huge support we received since we opened the doors of Locals Cafe on 11 Wallath Rd, New Plymouth and wish you all a safe & happy holiday season.

Locals cafe will be closed from the 25 h of December until the 3rd of January and re open on Wednesday the 4 h of January for 7da ys a week in 2017

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DINING & ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

Taranaki



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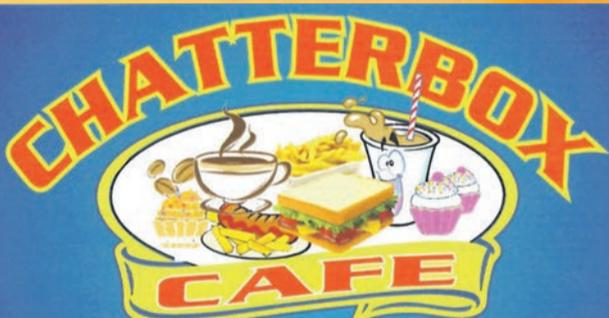
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Ian and Susan would like to thank everyone for their support and advice since we took over in July. It has been appreciated. We have learned a lot!! We are looking forward to our first summer in the shop. If you are in Opunake during the holidays or just passing through, please drop in and try our NEW MENU.

We would love to see you.

The Dove Takeaways Team would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe festive season.

We are closed Xmas and Boxing Day

Dove Takeaways

63 TASMAN ST, OPUNAKE - PH 06 761 7111
Across the road from Everybody's Theatre

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Sundays 4.30pm-9pm
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THE CLUB HOTEL

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'Meal 7 Days'



Merry Christmas - Best wishes to all and thank you for your support throughout the past year



Closed for Public Holidays. Limited product range available on 28, 29, 30 Dec and 4,5,6 Jan. Closing at 3pm on these days.

Precision for all helicopter requirements



Precision Helicopters hard at work and play.

Chief Pilot Matt Newton started the company with one aircraft carrying out agricultural spraying and top dressing for local farmers and has since grown the company to five bases with multiple aircraft around the country.

Recently, PHL has made the move to New Plymouth airport to be more accessible to our clients and to promote our tourism flights.

“Taranaki has so much potential and tourists are coming here and want to be wowed. We can do that”,

says Matt.

PHL offers once in a lifetime scenic trips with pilots who know the region well and offer an alternative to the norm.

As well as agricultural and tourism work, PHL carries out precision lifting, transportation of beehives for the honey industry, aerial power line and pipeline inspections and they currently have three aircraft based full time in the top of the South Island providing helicopter support for infrastructure companies in the aftermath of the Kaikoura earthquake.

“Because we have multiple aircraft and pilots, we can mobilise equipment to Kaikoura and it doesn't impact our work here in Taranaki.”

For all your helicopter requirements, give PHL a call.

Precision Helicopters hope to offer flights over Opunake during the Opunake Beach Carnival on January 7 give them a call to book your spot

Precision Helicopters Ltd (PHL) has been operating for over 25 years in Taranaki.

The team at Bailey Motorcycles would like to thank all our customers over the last year and wish you all Merry Christmas and a safe New Year



Xmas Hours:

24 Dec 9am - 1pm
28, 29, 30 Dec 8am - 4pm
31 Dec CLOSED



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Time for a modern written constitution

Former Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Palmer has recently co-written a book about constitutional law. We print an extract from the book below.

New Zealand is a successful state and well governed. But we could do better. Like all communities we have to keep working hard to stay successful. And sometimes that means changing the way we do things.

In our opinion the time has come to recognise that New Zealand's constitutional arrangements need an overhaul to meet the challenges of the rest of the century. We have set out our ideas in a new book, *A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand*, published recently.

New Zealand has a constitution, but it is hard to find because it is in many different locations. Incredibly, there is no one document that sets out how the system of New Zealand public power works and how the different parts fit with each other.

The first important feature of the book is the proposal that New Zealand should adopt a written, codified constitution. It will gather together in one place all of the basic rules of how public power is exercised.

The second important feature is a call to alter some aspects of how public power is exercised. New Zealand is one of only three countries not to have a codified written constitution. We are an outlier. The absence of a codified constitution makes understanding the system difficult.

In almost every other area of our lives there is a comprehensive rulebook to consult, to understand the basic rules of the game. So it makes no sense to tolerate the lack of a rulebook when it comes to the exercise of public power.

Who benefits from the absence of a rulebook? Certainly not the public. Under our current system the absence of a rulebook reduces transparency and accountability. It gives a relatively privileged elite control over how and when the basic rules of the game are obeyed, departed from, amended or ridden over roughshod.

For those reasons, we think that at a minimum New Zealand should take the step of writing down our basic rules in a single document.

We think that many of our current constitutional arrangements are sound. But some would benefit from change.

We propose that the term of Parliament be extended from three years to four years. The current three



Sir Geoffrey Palmer with wife Margaret photographed in Stratford recently.

year term is just too tight. It is too pressured for MPs to do their job in a considered way. The quality of law-making would improve if things were not so rushed.

We propose entrenching the constitution to make it more difficult for a bare majority of Parliament to override important principles.

But we don't want to convert the New Zealand constitution into something as rigid and inflexible as the constitutions of the United States or Australia. Instead, we propose that any provision of the constitution can be amended either by a special majority in Parliament or by a popular referendum.

There is long-standing New Zealand precedent for this. Since 1956, electoral law has prevented Parliament from changing the core features of our system except with 75% approval of Parliament or a majority at a public referendum.

This form of entrenchment didn't stop us switching from first past the post to MMP by referendum, or reducing the voting age by a special majority in Parliament. But it does mean that MPs can't put their hands in the electoral cookie jar just because their party has a bare majority in Parliament.

Since we have insulated some fundamental features of the electoral system

from being changed too easily, why not apply that principle to other aspects of our constitution?

We propose adding a number of additional rights to those currently protected by the Bill of Rights Act. We propose that it include the rights to privacy, property, education and a healthy environment, among others. These rights are found in many modern bills of rights worldwide.

We think it is time that New Zealand recognised them too.

We believe that a number of the core civic institutions and principles that protect public accountability should be given constitutional protection.

The essential free flow of official information to establish transparency and accountability would be recognised by the creation of a better system to ensure information is released. The neutrality of the public service, and the requirement that it give free and frank advice, would receive explicit constitutional protection.

Most prime ministers since David Lange have recognised the inevitability of New Zealand becoming a republic. Many have speculated that the time for this transition arises most naturally upon the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Now is the right time to discuss and determine what sort of new head of state we want. In our proposals we do not favour an elected head of state. We are concerned that that would be too big a shift from the current model where the Governor-General occupies an essential and important role but does not exercise political power.

An elected head of state, as in Ireland, would have his or her own electoral mandate. There is a risk that an elected head of state would end up competing with elected politicians on matters of public policy. We think this would be confusing and undesirable.

The Treaty of Waitangi has seeped into our constitution over a period of time. The prime reason for making the Treaty part of the Constitution is that it is already part of our informal constitutional arrangements, but its legal and constitutional effect is currently uncertain.

We are keen to hear what people think of our proposals. We think that having a concrete model, of the sort that we have put together, will enable people to have a meaningful debate. The absence of anything concrete explains why, in our view, the constitutional review panel in 2013 did not excite a substantial discussion

or produce any action. We have set up a website (www.constitutionaotearoa.org.nz) which provides a lot of information about what we are proposing. It sets out the text of the constitution that we propose and also the core chapter that summarises what we are proposing and why. We

are inviting people to give us their reaction through our website. We are also keen to engage with people through Facebook and Twitter. We will revise our proposals in light of what the public tell us.

Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Andrew Butler

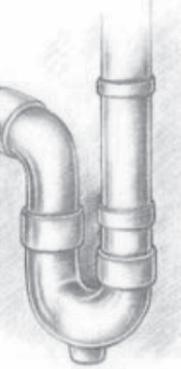
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Young Farmers join fight to boost kiwi numbers in Taranaki

Two juvenile kiwi have been released into Egmont National Park as part of a programme run by the Taranaki Kiwi Trust.

Taranaki's Young Farmers' clubs donated \$600 to help cover some of the costs associated with rearing one of the chicks.

"It costs up to \$1,500 to get a kiwi from an egg to a 1.2kg bird which can fend off predators and is ready for release," said Taranaki Kiwi Trust manager Michelle Bird.

"These birds were incubated and hatched at Kiwi Encounter in Rotorua."

"They came back to Taranaki earlier this year and have been growing inside a predator-free zone at Rotokare Scenic Reserve," she said.

Both kiwi were fitted with transmitters before entering their new home so they can be monitored using a plane.

"One of the big aims of this programme is to learn more about kiwi behaviour and how far they travel," Ms Bird said.

"Currently we don't know much about kiwi on Mount

Taranaki because of the difficult terrain.

"The transmitters and aerial tracking will enable us to monitor their movements and their survival rates."

The Trust has now released 75 kiwi into Egmont National Park since 2005.

"We're honoured to be a part of this important and rewarding project," said Central Taranaki Young Farmers chairman Nick Brown.

"As well as contributing to the donation, club members recently helped set 50 traps in private bush near Eltham."

"It's hoped that by reducing stoat and ferret numbers in the area, it will also be able to become a habitat for kiwi," he said.



Young Farmer Kiwi Rock Star being cradled by Central Taranaki Young Farmers member Stephen Hicks.

Chorus takes fibre further, upgrades broadband in rural Taranaki

Chorus is boosting the broadband experience for more households in the Taranaki region as part of a \$5 million upgrade of its broadband infrastructure across rural New Zealand.

Work has been completed on the project to upgrade broadband cabinets in the New Plymouth District at Frankleigh Park and Inglewood; and the South Taranaki District at Manutahi, Ohangai, Patea and Opunake.

In total, Chorus has upgraded 97 broadband cabinets nationwide with new VDSL broadband electronics and connected back to the local exchange by fibre optic cable.

"Slow internet speeds have been a concern for businesses and residents in these parts of the region for a while, so it's pleasing to be able to provide substantially improved infrastructure," says Ed Beattie, Chorus' GM Infrastructure.

"There's no question that access to better broadband makes a significant

difference to the lives of New Zealanders, and this programme of work shows how passionate we are about improving rural connectivity." Following the upgrade residents living within about 1.2km of the upgraded cabinets should be able to access fibre-enabled, VDSL broadband with consistent speeds up to 70Mbps. Residents and businesses based further from the cabinet will still likely experience much improved speeds depending on the distance to the broadband cabinet.

More importantly, the upgraded infrastructure means better quality broadband. For example, during peak times when lots of people are streaming online video, broadband speeds will remain consistent. This differs considerably from wireless services over mobile broadband which share capacity with other users.

Extending Chorus' network of modern, fibre-fed broadband cabinets means

even more households will be able to take advantage of faster broadband and satisfy their ever-increasing demand for internet data.

The latest figures show the average internet data usage on Chorus' network for residential connections increased to 120GB in October 2016 – a huge increase on the 44GB used by households in 2015.

"Typically, homes now have several connected devices at any one time, so we're all using far more internet data. This is borne out by recent statistics that show about half of all residential broadband plans are now unlimited. These plans are competitively priced and remove the fear of chewing through your data allowance and being charged extra," said Beattie.

Chorus has also made it easier for people to upgrade to VDSL. In most cases, if VDSL is available at an address, the upgrade can be completed remotely without the need for a technician to visit the home.



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Taranaki farmers nab remaining spots in Hawera final

The final two contestants have been decided for the FMG Young Farmer of the Year regional final.

James Lawn (27) and Nick Brown (29) finished first and second respectively at a district contest in Okato on December 10.

Contestants did everything from erecting a fence, to identifying different feed and seeds and drive a tractor.

Mr Lawn, who's spent the past two-and-a-half years travelling, is stoked to be heading to another regional final.

"It's a good feeling to know that after so long travelling I still have some of the skills I learnt over the years," Mr Lawn said.

"But it's going to take a lot of preparation to get ready."

"You can study for modules like the quiz and technical exam, but you can't prepare for other things judges may throw at you," he said.

Mr Lawn is currently helping run family dairy farms at Okato.

It'll be sheep and beef farmer Nick Brown's second attempt at winning a regional final.

"Last year was the first time I competed. It's good to be heading back there. I'm quite excited," said Mr



Young Farmer of the Year James Lawn has secured a spot in the regional final.



Young Farmer of the Year Dylan Brunton completing the tractor module.

Brown, who's the chairman of Central Taranaki Young Farmers.

"I'll be using the next few months to work on areas where I felt I was weak last year."

The regional final will take place at the TSB Hub in Hawera on April 22.

Eight contestants are vying to represent the Taranaki/Manawatu region in the

national final in Feilding in July.

They are: Nick Brown (Central Taranaki), James Lawn (Coastal Taranaki), Isabel Tait (Opiki), Michael McCombs (Marton), Blair Briscoe (Coastal Taranaki), Will Taylor (Marton), Nigel Will (Marton) and Kieran McCahon (Massey University).

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STRESS funding cuts back on summer stress

For hillcountry farmers, summer is an excellent time to get retirement and reversion fencing projects underway – and Taranaki Regional Council can help with funding.

The Council's Land Management Officers provide soil conservation advice and free personalised plans to help match land use to land capability, and those plans give access to South Taranaki and Regional Erosion Support Scheme (STRESS) funding.

The Council's Land

Services Manager, Don Shearman, says STRESS funding, which covers reversion and retirement, gives hillcountry farmers a unique opportunity to implement soil conservation measures as guardians of the land. The Taranaki Regional Council is a source of soil conservation advice, personalised farm plans and funding.

It will also help them future-proof their farms against storms and associated soil loss, as experienced in 2015. Retiring or reverting

high-maintenance and low-production marginal land can increase farm profitability and sustainability because farmers can then focus their time and money on their most productive land, says Mr Shearman.

Funds are also available to go towards poplar and willow poles, forestry, and wetlands protection to make farm and stock management easier, and to help increase farm resilience and soil retention, and assist with the protection of native flora and fauna.

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Farmers urged to report all crime

A Federated Farmers survey shows the rural sector is plagued by thieves, rustlers and poachers but not enough farmers are reporting their losses.

Farmers need to get smarter about security, and work more closely with police to deter and catch offenders, Federated Farmers rural crime portfolio leader Rick Powdrell says.

More than 1,000 farmers from all over New Zealand responded to the on-line survey, with 26 per cent saying stock had been stolen from

them in the last five years. More than 3 per cent had been hit by stock thieves five times or more since 2011.

Around 35 per cent of respondents suffered theft of stock or farm equipment in the last two years. Common targets included chainsaws, shearing gear, generators and fencing tools. Fuel was stolen from 25 per cent, household items from 8 per cent and nearly 2 per cent said firearms had been taken.

Nearly half of property thefts and 75 per cent of stock rustling/killing were not covered by insurance, and of those that were, 40-50 per cent of farmers did not make a claim - usually because of the excess on the policy.

Rick Powdrell says it is telling - and wrong - that nearly 60 per cent of respondents said they had not reported stock theft to police, and 38 per cent had not reported stolen property.

Common reasons cited included that farmers didn't think police would be interested, that police resources were too stretched, or that the theft was discovered days or weeks after it happened.

"Police have told us time and again at rural crime workshops they've hosted with Federated Farmers and FMG this year that they want to hear about all offending," Rick Powdrell says.

"It helps the local police build a comprehensive picture of what crime is happening, where and at what time. They can direct their resources accordingly, and it considerably boosts the chances of making arrests, or at the least providing accurate information and warnings distributed via Rural Neighbourhood Support and other networks."



Rick Powdrell is urging farmers to report all crime.

Reported crime also underpins the case for extra police resourcing for rural areas, he says.

The October survey shows that farmers are taking deterrence measures themselves (38 per cent have installed sensor lights, 20 per cent have security cameras and 35 per cent had placed their dogs' kennels by sheds). However, 47 per cent said they did not have locks on sheds.

Some 22 per cent belong to rural support groups and many more say they cooperate with neighbours, including taking down details about unfamiliar vehicles in remote areas.

Rick Powdrell says it is alarming that just on 46 per cent report poaching incidents in the last 12 months. Comments were lodged that it was daunting, even frightening, hearing gunshots at night and/or confronting people with rifles who had no permission to be on their land.

"Farmers should not hesitate to report crime and should regularly review their security measures," Rick says.

"We have to play our part. Police can't do it on their own. Rural people can't do it on their own."

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Weather stops play at SuperBoat championship opener

The weather won the day at round one of the New Zealand SuperBoat championships held at the Altherm Jetsprint Championship in Taranaki. The mighty methanol-snorthing SuperBoats are veritable waterborne rocketships – with over 1000hp propelling a 500kg boat with no brakes. Defending champion Peter Caughey says though visibility is a big issue at the speeds these boats race, it's the engines that are the issue when it's raining hard. "Many of the SuperBoat motors run open trumpets with fuel injection, and in heavy rain the water gets in. Water doesn't compress, it's not good for the electrics or the motor." But it's safety issues that halted the SuperBoats before the first elimination round.



SuperBoats like Peter Caughey's ENZED Sprintec racer use fuel injection and open trumpets, which don't gel well with heavy rain – and the SuperBoat class was called off after three qualifying runs. Photo by Ian Thornton.

"We're going too fast to risk an ignition failure due to water," Caughey said. With no brakes, if the engine dies at 140kph or more the boat shoots off the water and careers across the land. "We completed two runs in light rain and one in heavy. We were the last SuperBoat to run and the weather just got worse. We were very happy with the lap time we got, we can see there's a lot of potential there, the boat just got better and better, the ENZED team was making fine-tuning changes and the boat was setting up nicely for the elimination runs, which we were looking forward to." However, Caughey agrees that stopping the racing was the right call.

If one of the elimination rounds had been raced, those times and places would likely have determined the result. With qualifiers only run, there is no result, and all those who entered the SuperBoat class and crossed the start line under power will be awarded 10 points going into the second round. Caughey may not have posted a result, but he's still stoked – as boats built by his Sprintec business hit the top four times in the class. "It's always nice to have four of our boats at the pointy end of the field, which is encouraging. One of those was our new boat, with young Sam Newdick

driving at his first SuperBoat event. He has an older motor, and he's doing very well to get the times he posted." Caughey said spectators still had a good day, with the Group A and B classes going a bit slower and able to post a result. "We can't believe how many spectators stayed though, the corporates too. It's quite a spectacle, this track, it's been reworked, with new islands, and it's been well prepped by Leighton Minnell. It's a real asset to the Taranaki area, and we look forward to returning here for round three, on February 26." Caughey says it's been great to have the ENZED crew

back together and gelling well, "They're a great bunch of people and work well together. We were really starting to build momentum, and some of the opposition teams are proving very fast and competitive." Caughey admits the remaining rounds become more important with this result. All those who made the trip to Taranaki are level pegging in the results heading into round two at Meremere on February 5.

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Local boys return to play for home province

Two Taranaki born and bred players are coming home for the 2017 Mitre 10 Cup season and beyond. Jordie Barrett, who can play second five-eight, fullback or first five-eight and half back Logan Crowley have signed two year agreements with Taranaki Rugby. Both are the sons of former Taranaki Rugby players and products of Francis Douglas Memorial College.

Port Taranaki Bulls coach Colin Cooper says he was thrilled to have the two up and coming players back home.

"We have a lot of promising first XV players moving away from the province to attend university and it has been great to be able to attract two of these local boys back home. Both have gone away and improved their games and in Jordie's case made a great start to his career as an apprentice on the All Blacks end of year tour. We are excited about adding them to the 2017 Port Taranaki Bulls team as we look to improve on our 2016 result. We would also like to acknowledge the work of Tim Stuck from Francis



Logan Crowley, Coach Colin Cooper and Jordie Barrett.

Douglas who has played a big part in the development of these players," said Cooper.

Logan Crowley (20) is the son of former Taranaki player Alan, and Sue Crowley, from Pungarehu. Alan played for Taranaki 87 times between 1984 and 1995.

Crowley said he appreciated the opportunity to return to his home province.

"I am excited about returning to Taranaki as I have always really enjoyed playing rugby here and I know a lot of the people involved in the sport locally who have given me fantastic ongoing support. I played all my junior age grade rugby for Taranaki so for me it is an awesome opportunity.

Playing in Canterbury was a fun experience as I had very good coaching and playing support but signing with the Taranaki Union is an exciting development for me.

Growing up it has always been a dream to put on the amber and black so I am

looking forward to being part of the squad and really contributing to the team."

Logan will become the fifth Crowley to play for the province following in the footsteps of his father Alan and uncles Kieran, Neil and Sean Crowley.

"My family have always had a strong involvement with rugby here in Taranaki so I understand the sense of pride and how important the sport is here in the region" he said.

Crowley who, like Barrett, attended Lincoln University starred for the Canterbury Under-19 team in 2015 and was called into the Canterbury Mitre 10 Cup team this year when Alby Mathewson was injured.

This year's All Black apprentice, Jordie Barrett, is also set to make his first appearance for his home province next season. The talented 19-year-old is a very versatile player who can play second five-eight, fullback and first five-eight.

Barrett, who made a big impression in this year's Mitre 10 Cup with Canterbury said he was excited at the opportunity to make a contribution to Taranaki Rugby.

"I felt that signing with Taranaki is the right decision for me. It has been a goal of mine to play for my home province and I am looking forward to being part of a strong rugby programme and what is a very good team.

I grew up cheering on Taranaki, with first dad playing and more recently supporting my brothers Kane and Beauden, so rugby here in Taranaki has been a big part of my upbringing. Taranaki has a proud record, a lot of history and I'm looking forward to being a part of that."

Barrett who will continue his studies around his growing rugby commitments also becomes one of a select few players to play both representative cricket and rugby for the province and he said settling on his

professional rugby career for the next two years was important.

"It is good to have my playing future sorted as now I can just focus on playing well over the next two years for both the Hurricanes and Taranaki and concentrate on developing as a player and further completing my studies.

It has been a busy year for me as I went straight from playing rep cricket into rugby for Lincoln University, the NZ U20's and then with Canterbury in the Mitre 10 Cup, so it has been really full-on. The Canterbury playing environment was fantastic, so I appreciated the opportunity to play there. I have had a taste of what is required to be successful at provincial level so I'm looking forward to playing locally and being part of Taranaki rugby. I've really enjoyed my rugby this year but I am looking forward to having a good break over Christmas" he added.

Jordie Barrett (19) comes from one of the prominent Taranaki Rugby families with dad Kevin (Smiley) playing 169 games for the Port Taranaki Bulls and 33 for the Hurricanes, oldest brother Kane having captained the Port Taranaki Bulls and represented the Blues and older brothers Beauden and Scott both representing the All Blacks, and Hurricanes and Crusaders respectively.

Jordie grew up in Pungarehu and attended Francis Douglas Memorial College where he excelled at rugby and cricket. For the past two years he has studied at Lincoln University and was a member of the 2016 New Zealand U-20 team which participated in the World Rugby U-20 Championship in England and will again be available for the national age-grade squad in 2017. He made three appearances and scored 52 points.

A very talented cricketer, Jordie played for the Taranaki senior men's Hawke Cup team, Central Districts U-17, U-19 and Central Districts A



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Opunake Bowling Club

The Open Day was held in sunny but cool conditions. There was a good turnout of members as well as some new additions.

The Mixed Mufti Pat O'Hanlon was held on October 10. A smallish group played in sunny weather with the green running well. Winners. Bev Robinson, Kay Fleming and Brian Brophy.

The Lambie Pairs were held on October 24, and won by Warren Vendt and Bob Commane. Second were Terry Mullins and Chris Oliver.

Third were Grayson and Dale McEldowney. Fourth were Graeme Mills and Ian Winter.

An enjoyable mixed mufti local Farm Supplies Tournament was held on November 6.

The Julian Pairs were held on December 5. This was a full green of 14 teams of women's pairs played in wonderful conditions. Four games were played with the winners being Eileen Rothwell and Val Langton and runners up being Val Fleming and Margie Carey.



Lambie Pairs winners. From left. Bob Commane and Warren Vendt.

Bravely serving between the flags

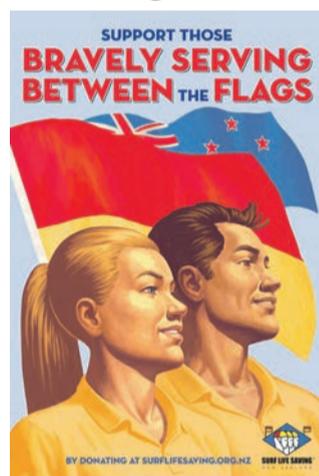
Every summer, Surf Life Saving New Zealand's volunteer lifeguards put themselves in potentially dangerous situations to help keep Kiwis safe while enjoying the beach.

In fact, over the past 10 years, lifeguards have spent over two million hours on patrol, saving over 13,700 lives.

Today marks the first day of summer and the annual Surf Life Saving Summer Appeal.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand CEO Paul Dalton says the Summer Appeal is an important time for the essential rescue service.

"Not only does the Summer Appeal allow us to celebrate the remarkable work of our lifeguards, but it's a chance to raise awareness about lifesaving services in general



and raise much needed funds to support the 4,500 volunteer lifeguards who will be on duty this summer," he says.

This year's appeal tagline highlights some of the key aspects of Surf Life Saving in New Zealand.

'Bravely'- while all lifeguards are highly skilled and go through rigorous training to earn their 'red and yellows' they often have to put themselves into dangerous situations in order to save others; not just on the beach, but as part of callout squads and search and rescue operations.

'Serving'- because many people don't realise that most of the lifeguards that patrol our beaches are volunteers, sacrificing their summer to protect others.

'Between the Flags'- the safest place to be at the beach.

Mr Dalton says while lifeguards are proud of the number of lives they've saved, they're most proud of the safety record between the flags.

"We may sound like a

broken record but when the flags are up, that means lifeguards are on patrol and this is the safest place to swim when you're enjoying the beach."

Last season alone, Surf Lifeguards saved 1,517 people from life threatening situations and they're expecting another huge summer and an especially busy Christmas holiday period.

The safety of people on the beach is Surf Life Saving's core business and lifeguards are an integral part of that.

"Without our volunteers, we wouldn't have a rescue service. Please show your support for our volunteers bravely serving between the flags by making a donation this summer at www.surflifesaving.org.nz."

Taranaki Indoor Bowls news

The South Taranaki Indoor Bowls Association recently held their Open Xmas Fours Tournament at the Normanby Hall. Twelve teams participated

playing four thirty five minute games. Outright winners with four wins, fourteen ends and twenty-six points were W.Scown (skip), Jenni Newland (three),

E.Smailes(two) and John Newland (lead). The runner-up team was A.Wilson's team from New Plymouth with three wins, eighteen ends and thirty-five points.

Lucky spot prizes were won by T.Baldwin-Gullery, G.Jackson, W.Kidd and R.Parker. The raffle was won by R.Parker.

On this month in history

Louis Pasteur was born

On December 27, 1822 Louis Pasteur was born in the Jura, France. He was a famous chemist and bacteriologist. He discovered the method of reducing the bacteria count in milk which is called pasteurization after him. He also discovered how to treat rabies with a vaccine, thus saving many lives. If a person was bitten by an animal (often a dog) with rabies death was the usual outcome.

There has never been a case of rabies in NZ

Shania Twain sells millions

On December 8, 2004 Canadian singer Shania Twain's album became the biggest selling country music album in America. Shania was born Eileen Edwards on August 28, 1965 near Windsor, Ontario. Shania is an Ojibway Indian name meaning 'I'm on my way'.

Shania was in the news several years ago when she bought

land in the South Island.

John Lennon dies

On December 8, 1980 John Lennon (of Beatles fame) was shot dead outside his apartment in the Dakota Building where he lived in New York. He was killed by a supposed fan called Chapman, who remains in prison for his crime.

Apart from his unique music John is remembered for his efforts to promote world peace.

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ALOE VERA JUICE 750mls for \$9.90 at The Health Shop in Centre City. 06 758 7533. We deliver.

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FAIR RAFFLE RESULTS – Joan Jefferies Orange C29 groceries. Sharon Bloomfield Red F10 cake. Allison Moffitt Yellow 6 tote-bag, wallet, wine.

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For wooden trolley.
Please phone Bernice 06 761 7016 or 06 761 8206

TO LET

HOUSE for rent in Opunake. References required. Phone 06 752 3799

FOUND

FOUND green rimmed glasses in Opunake several weeks ago. Phone 06 761 7016 or 06 761 8206 a/hrs

PUBLIC NOTICES



COASTAL TARANAKI SCHOOL

Start-up Details for 2017

The school office will open 9am-12pm from 30th January 2017 for uniform purchases and other enquiries. Please note Year 11-13 black and white uniform is NOT stocked at the school but can be purchased from The Warehouse. School reopens for classes Tuesday 7th February 2017. Thursday 2nd February all Year 11-13 students will be required to come into school to confirm subject selections for 2017. Friday 3rd February is a Teachers Only Day. All bus routes will start operating on the morning of Tuesday 7th February 2017.

St Patrick's School Kaponga ENROLMENTS 2017

We are a very well- resourced Catholic School with teachers who have up-to-date curriculum knowledge and teaching practices. Our school has placements available for 2017 for non-preference (non-catholic) and preference students. We welcome a call or visit from anyone interested in enrolling their child in our school for 2017. We may be a 'small' school but we offer 'big' learning opportunities facilitated by motivating and effective teachers who are passionate about kids learning and socialisation!

Please ring 027 316 2635 during the holidays or 06 764 6563 from 30 January 2017.



St. Josephs School Opunake PTA, Staff and Students wishes to thank the following sponsors for their kind donations to our recent Country Fair;

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| The Warehouse (Hawera), | Kelly and Jason Young, |
| Hawera Aquatic Centre, | Hayley and Trent Guthrie |
| Opunake Fish, Chips and More, | Merryn Kidd, |
| Everybody's Theatre, | Shayna Hastie, |
| Good Home, | Diane Brook, |
| Sandfords Livestock, | Hayley Duggan, |
| J. Swap Contractors, | Kylie and Chantal Brophy, |
| B.D.O., | Mrs Janet O' Rorke, |
| Education Services, | Opunake Auto Repairs. |
| Opunake Service Station, | |

PUBLIC NOTICES

Opunake Christmas Parade



Christmas Eve
Saturday 24th December
7pm Start Tasman Street

Welcome to our celebration. A completed entry form must be in by 11th December to guarantee your position in the parade lineup. Contact Fish, Chips and More for further information. All entries will be judged this year and prizes will be awarded based on the following criteria
Best Effort - Most Creative



CoastalCare would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a happy New Year and thank you for all your support this year.



COMBINED CHURCHES

COMMUNITY CAROLS

St. Pauls Church 7pm December 18
Rahotu 7pm December 23
Christmas Eve - St. Barnabas
Christmas Day - St. Pauls 9.30 am
The Wave 10am

COMBINED SERVICES

January 8 St. Pauls
January 15 The Wave
January 22 St Barnabas
January 29 Our Lady Star of the Sea

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CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

St Paul's Opunake Co-op & Rahotu
Opunake Cooperating Parish St Pauls, Havelock St, 9.30am every Sunday and the
Rahotu - Wesley - 11am first Sunday of the month.
Oakura - St James - 10am, 2nd & 4th Sundays.
Okato - St Pauls - 10am, 1st & 3rd Sundays.

Opunake Catholic Church
SUNDAY 8.30 am at Pungarehu (St Martins),
10am at Opunake (Our Lady Star Of The Sea).

Other areas
Manaia - Sacred Heart - 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 5pm
(2nd, 4th and 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs).
Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am
ALL WELCOME

THE WAVE

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett Street, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.30am
Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday
Men's Group 7 pm Wednesday
Youth Group 7pm Friday
Come along or contact Pastor Murray
027 688 7378

ST. BARNABAS

Anglican Church 141 Tasman St, Opunake
Sunday Services 10.00am
Communion 1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday
Prayer & Praise 2nd Sunday
Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service

OAKURA & OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE

Telephone 06 752-7199

Dear patients
Please take note of our opening hours for December and January Holiday period. Should you need medical assistance – Please call the emergency numbers 0800 611 116 or 111.

Sunday 25th Dec 2016	CLOSED
Monday 26th Dec 2016	CLOSED
Tuesday 27th Dec 2016	CLOSED
Wednesday 28th Dec 2016	9AM - 1PM
Thursday 29th Dec 2016	9AM - 1PM
Friday 30th Dec 2016	9AM - 1PM
Monday 2nd Jan 2017	CLOSED
Tuesday 3rd Jan 2017	CLOSED
Wednesday 4th Jan 2017	9AM-1PM opunake 9am-5pm
Thursday 5th Jan 2017	9AM-1PM opunake 9am-5pm
Friday 6th Jan 2017	9AM-1PM opunake 9am-5pm

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our patients a safe and happy holiday.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Expressions of interest

The Opunake & Coastal News is asking for expressions of interest from someone with qualifications keen to be involved in all aspects of putting together a community newspaper.

Please could you outline your skills and experience by sending a CV and/or letter to:

The Editor
PO Box 74
Opunake



FOR ALL YOUR FENCING REQUIREMENTS:
Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all our clients.
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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Ph/Fax: 06 761 7016 - 23 Napier Street, Opunake
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What's On Listings



JONATHAN YOUNG

Phone: 06 7591363

Or email newplymouthmp@parliament.govt.nz

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meet on the 1st Monday of each month.

OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

First Sunday of each month at the Opunake Town Hall, 1-4pm. All welcome

SCHNITZEL NIGHT

Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato

COASTALCARE – LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY

Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676

CLUB HOTEL TEXAS HOLDEM POKER

Wednesday and Thursday Nights at the Club Hotel.

CLUB HOTEL POOL

Tuesday Nights New Players welcome.

SURF INN

Every day free pool. Every Friday free sausage sizzle from 5. Every Sunday afternoon. Pool comp

COASTAL YOUNG FARMERS

Meet 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Okato Bowling Club.

TARANAKI COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MANAIA

Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB

Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

CAPE EGMONT HISTORIC LIGHT & MUSEUM

Open 11am – 3pm weekends, Bayly Road, Warea.

TODD ENERGY AQUATIC CENTRE

Family fun times 10.30am to 4.30pm.

COASTAL SINGERS

7pm every Wednesday night at the Catholic Church. Contact 761 8654.

ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS

8am to 1pm, Carpark of Touch Point, High Street, Eltham.

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY

Woolleston, The Wallace Arts Trust Collection. Friday 9 December to Sunday 29 January 2017.

OPUNAKE BASKETBALL ASSN

AGM Friday December 9th, 6.30pm at Sandfords Event Centre

OPUNAKE PLAYERS PRESENT

A Christmas Cracker - December 14 - 17 7.30pm and December 18 at 1.30pm.

MANAIA & DISTRICTS LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARADE

Main Rd, Manaia on Saturday December 17 starting at 12pm.

CHRISTMAS AT THE BOWL

18th December 2016. Refer advert for full details.

TSB BANK FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

December 18 2016 - February 5 2017, Pukekura Park, New Plymouth

TUMAHU GOLF CLUB

Summer Twilight Golf Thursday evenings from 5.30 ambrose or individual.

Come and try day with professional coach on Sunday 18th Dec 10.00. Contact B Sim 067524482.

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS – CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday 24th December 2016, 7pm start.

OPUNAKE SURF INN NEW YEAR'S EVE BAND

NLC, with music from DJ Juta. Saturday 31st December. Refer advert for full details.

COLLINS SPORTS CENTRE TAKE A KID FISHING

4th January. Refer advert for full details.

LAKESIDE LIONS POOL PARTY

6th January. Refer Beach Carnival advert for full details..

OPUNAKE BEACH CARNIVAL

Saturday January 7th, refer advert for full details.

BUTLERS REEF JON TOOGOOD

Solo and Acoustic, Saturday 7th January. Refer advert.

OPUNAKE GOLF CLUB BUSINESS HOUSE MIXED AMBROSE

Wednesday 11 January 2017, refer advert.

OPUNAKE LIBRARY PLUS SUMMER READING HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

FREE - 5-12 YR OLDS

11 January 2017

2pm - Create Land Yachts with Pam Jones,

District Children's Librarian

18 January 2017

2.30pm - Design your own seascape

25 January 2017

2.30pm - Storyteller Adrian Kirk

KAITAKE GOLF CLUB

Saturday 14th January 2017, BEACHCOMBERS OPEN TOURNAMENT. Phone office 752 7665 for Tee time.

TWILIGHT EVERY TUESDAY From 3pm \$5.00 Entry Fee. Non Members Welcome.

\$5.00 WEDNESDAYS, EVERY WEDNESDAY (including Monthly Open)

Start times available till 11am. All Golfers welcome – Stableford.

OPUNAKE GOLF CLUB 3RD ANNUAL MULTI SPONSORED TOURNAMENT

New Year Open Tournament, Sunday January 15, 2017. Refer advert.

SOUNDS ON THE SAND

Sunday 15 January, Opunake Beach, 12.30pm - 3pm, Opunake Beach

OPEN MIC TAKE 2

January 21, 2017, 3.30pm - 6.00pm at Everybody's Theatre - \$2

We need a couple more performers to join us! CONTACT William by phone 06 761 7054 or email queries to: clarkewinz@hotmail.com

GRADUATED? RECENTLY MARRIED? OR JUST PLAIN TOO CUTE NOT TO SHARE?
Opunake and Coastal News would love to share your photos with our readers!



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Promote your events in the

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Ph/Fax: 06 761 7016 - Call in at 23 Napier Street, Opunake
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People who put in public notices and display adverts in the **What's On Section** for events are welcome to additionally provide extra editorial and photos **FREE OF CHARGE, to help promote the event.**

Bill English assumes prime ministership

As of Monday December 12 the Rt Hon Bill English (54) is New Zealand's new prime minister, taking over from incumbent John Key, who resigned after eight years in the role. Mr English, whom Mr Key endorsed, was sworn in at Government House, Wellington by the Governor-General Dame Patsy Reddy. "I am both excited and humbled by this opportunity," he said.



New Prime Minister Bill English.

Mr English has now relinquished his Cabinet post as Finance minister. (It is expected that Steven Joyce will take over the position). Mr English was first elected to Parliament in 1990 (Wallace electorate). Currently, he is a List (only) MP.

Bill English has earlier held the position of Leader of the National Party, but soon resigned after losing the 2002 General Election, beaten by Helen Clark's Labour Party. "I've learned a lot since then," he comments.

Originally, there were two other contenders for the top position, ministers Judith Collins and Dr Jonathan Coleman.

The new Deputy Prime minister is Paula Bennett (47), who is the Social Housing minister, Climate Change minister, State Services minister and acting Minister of Tourism. She is the MP for Upper Harbour, an Auckland electorate which she won with a majority of 9692 at the 2014 General Election. She has part Maori ancestry (Tainui). Earlier she was a List MP, although had also won the Waitakere electorate (now abolished). She won the Deputy PM position unopposed after Simon Bridges, the Transport minister withdrew from the contest.

Mr Key cited personal reasons for his decision to resign, which he first announced on December 5 (effective December 12). He mentioned that his wife Bronagh had seen too little of him of late due to his many political commitments. Mr Key became PM in November 2008 after winning the General Election of November 8. National had won 45% of the overall vote and 59 of the 122 seats. The outgoing Labour Party won just 43 electorates, signalling the end of Helen Clark's role as prime minister. A position she had held for nine years. As well as PM Mr Key became the Tourism minister. Mr Key entered Parliament in 2002 as the MP for Helensville and became the Finance spokesperson for his party. In 2006 he became leader of the National Party replacing Don Brash.

MANA says Haere Ra to John Key

"The Dakota Access Pipeline has been stopped, the Prime Minister has resigned, and the Warriors are coming to Kaitiaki, so it's an awesome day to be alive" said MANA Leader Hone Harawira on hearing the news that the Prime minister was stepping down.

"Look, John Key has been a great leader, for the rich," said Harawira, "but I doubt that those living in car cases, caravan parks and cold, damp houses will be shedding a tear anytime soon."

"And in case people haven't noticed, Maori have also suffered massive setbacks in housing, employment, justice, corrections, education and welfare during his time," said Harawira. "The only Maori who will mourn John Key's passing

are those who clipped the ticket during his reign - those who reaped the benefits of Treaty settlements and corporate success, but did nothing to lift their own people from the mire of welfare despondency, drug-fuelled violence and suicide.

"In fact it's difficult to think of a time in New Zealand's recent history when so much has been done for so few, by taking so much from so many"

"I don't buy the line about John Key's legacy being marked by economic stability and an increased profile on the international stage, because I see where it has come from - off the backs of those who could least afford it, te pani me te rawakore, the poor and the dispossessed.

"I wish him well with his

future and I hope his family get more time with him, but most of all I wish us all strength in overcoming the mindset that only the rich should matter in life"

CTS makes most of challenges

Continued from page 3

Most Outstanding in Netball (Year 9-13), and Over 16 Runner up Girl in Athletics.

Courtney won the Carpe Diem Cup, Komene Memorial Award and the Joseph Manu Memorial Cup (Best Maori Scholar). She also won the Senior Most Outstanding (Year 9-13) award for Netball.

Amongst the various speeches the Head Students Anne-Marie Harris and Dekodda Tippett gave moving

addresses, which were poignant and even emotional as they thanked all who had contributed to their success, notably their families and teachers.

The Head Students for 2017 were announced as Kataraina Taipari and Grace Hooker.

The ceremony concluded with refreshments for guests, parents and Year 13 students in the Foods Room. Other students returned to their rooms to collect their reports

and magazines.

Other major awards (not already mentioned) included:

Whanau Champions Maunga; (2816 points)

Cheryl Vosper Memorial Award (Service to the Library); Jazmine Murray

Kgystern Manual Memorial Award (Enthusiastic Learner Year 1-6); Madison Noakes

Corbett Award (Knowledge and Kindness in Year

6); Alex Edwards-Carter Garry Brophy Cup (Citizens Award); Jessica Boyd Gold Cup (Service to Intermediate School); William Southern

Newell School Community Cup (Most Helpful Senior Student); Kataraina Taipari Head Student; Dekodda Tippett

Head Student; Anne-Marie Harris

Te Rangi Uenuku (Gaye Taingahue Memorial Award); Kataraina Taipari

Stony River Hotel and Country Diner

Award winning Restaurant

Renate and Heimo and the Stony River Boutique Hotel Team Kim, Courtney, Denise, Izzy, Gracie, Katerina, Kayla, Clare, Laura, Kevin, McKenzie, Brett, Sara, Jacque, wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

We also want to thank all our customers for their support and hope to see you back soon.

We are open at the Holiday season as usual.



We also proudly announce that we won the New Zealand Beef & Lamb Award for the second year in a row, as well as the Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence and the Booking.com Award of Excellence.

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Monday to Friday 6am - 7.30pm
Saturday 7am to 7pm
Sunday 8am to 7pm
Open Statutory Holidays and Christmas Day



A collage of talent.

The next stage for Opunake Music Workshops

On behalf of the Opunake Music Workshop, I wish you all a happy Christmas, and the very best for the New Year. We will meet once more just before Christmas on Tuesday December 20 and start again on January 3 2017.

How time flies - we've been up and running now for 12 months, drawing a mixture of young and old musicians, singers, poets, and dancers from across Taranaki. The objective of this group remains the same - to use the collective expertise of musicians and performers to enhance the performing arts in Taranaki. We aim to encourage artistes of all ages, talents and music genres to work together in an accepting, non-judgemental spirit of communication and

sharing.

Where to from here? In the last few weeks a core group of performers have begun to play together and try out their own original music. There is a strong feeling it is now time to take a quantum leap to perfect individual performances before taking to the professional stage arena.

How do we move to the next level in our musical journey? Many of us write our own original music, but if the repertoire is unknown to other musicians, then they may not be able to do justice to our music. There is now a new commitment

by workshop members to learn one another's songs, and work together to support one another's music. The email technology gives us the ability to send music to others, so we can print and download material to practice in between sessions, in our own time, at our own leisure. Still passionate about promoting Taranaki talent, we encourage anyone who would like to participate in learning more or simply helping others to develop their skills to join us on our journey.

Our grateful thanks to Father Vijay and the Catholic Church for

allowing our group to use the Church lounge, It would be appreciated if those who can afford to could make a gold coin donation to go towards the use of power etc. This payment is not a requirement for attendance - all are welcome, with or without a gold coin.

If you would like the opportunity to perform with talented musicians, singers and dancers in the music group, please join us at 7:30pm on Tuesday December 20 and January 3 at the Catholic Church lounge, 33 Whitcombe Rd, Opunake.

Anne Montgomery

New exhibition on Virtual Tart site

On the [Virtual Tart website](#) the new exhibition is Messenger. Magic Realism paintings by Paul Nikolai and Virtual Photography by Yvonne Westra.

Both of New Zealand. Do have a look - it's impressive work. Last month's Pigments Progress exhibition of painterly brushwork by three artists was so popular and received so many appreciative comments that I've put the exhibition onto a permanent home, on the [taranakiart.co.nz site](#). I hope you all have an easy family time in December. Enjoy what you've got, while you've got it.

Dale Copeland

Opunake Music Workshop
7:30pm Tuesday, 20th December 2016
Catholic Church, 33 Whitcombe Road, Opunake.
Bring your own instruments, basic amplification provided.

Next year 2017
7:30pm Tuesday, 3rd & 17th January

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Be sure to get along to see the wonderful Christmas display at St Pauls Church, Opunake.

Christmas at St Paul's

The Christmas display at St Paul's Church has become a regular part of Christmas at Opunake, and Christmas 2016 is proving no exception. The display began on December 14 and can be seen by members of the public at the church on 31 Havelock Street, Opunake from 2pm-4pm and 7pm-9pm through to December

25. From December 26 to January 10, it can be viewed by appointment.

Contact Elva (06)763-8650. Lynette (06)761-8871. Macey (06)761-8927.

ATTENTION
MUSICIANS & FRIENDS

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TAKE 2

January 21, 2017, 3.30pm - 6.00pm
at Everybody's Theatre - \$2

We need a couple more performers to join us!

CONTACT
William by phone 06 761 7054
or email queries to: clarkewinz@hotmail.com

Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park

We will be open daily from December 26 till the end of January 11am to 4pm No Eftpos. Ph 067567624 for prices and directions. We are at 356 Kaimata Road Inglewood. Come and see our beautiful new babies and take a look at our new tree house etc.



Come see the new babies at Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park.

B & R Barron

BUILDER

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Bruce and the team would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Last working day Dec 23, closing lunchtime.
Reopening IN OUR NEW PREMISES January 4
Thank you for your support during the year. Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2016

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A rebirth in the Pukeiti rain forest

long construction and fit out enters a new phase.

The old gatehouse at the iconic gardens is being revamped and extended to create the new centre, which will encompass reception, hospitality, interpretation and function areas. It will also link to the already completed vireya covered walkway and aerial extension to the waterwheel lookout.

"The building has been designed to connect strongly with its surroundings, and as with the improvements that have already been made at Pukeiti, we're confident that visitors are going to be impressed," says Greg Rine, regional gardens manager with the Taranaki Regional Council. "It'll have the wow factor."

"We measure annual rainfall by the metre at Pukeiti, so the winter and spring have been challenging for the contractors. But now the better weather's here, we're all looking forward to good progress on the Rainforest Centre.



The new Rainforest Centre is taking shape at Pukeiti.

lot to see and do. Our newly opened features, the Misty Knoll and the Keiller Home

Rhododendron Garden, are proving popular, and we've got rhodos that are

still putting on delicious displays."

Pukeiti has the largest

collection of rhododendrons of the key collections in the

world. The new Rainforest Centre is scheduled to open in spring 2017.

We wish our clients and their families the very best Christmas season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to offering you continued service in the new year.

Robin, Glenice and the team at Houghton's Plumbing, Heating & Gas Ltd

Office and Showroom:
Closed 12pm Thursday 22nd December 2016
Opens 8am Monday 16th January 2017

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On this month in history: First NZ Olympic yachting gold medal

On December 5, 1956 the Canterbury yachtsmen Peter Mander and Jack Cropp won the Sharpie class at the Melbourne Olympic Games. This was the first time that NZ had competed in Olympic yachting.

On their way to the gold

medal the pair won three of their seven races, with the Australians winning two. The New Zealanders won the gold medal on a count-back from the closest rivals, the Australians.

Peter Mander went on to become one of New Zealand's

most successful yachtsmen, with wins at world class level in many different kinds of boats.

In 1964 H Pedersen and E Wells won a gold in the Flying Dutchman class at the Tokyo Olympics.



sounds on the sand

Sunday 15 January, Opunake Beach
12.30pm – 3.00pm

Sit back and relax while listening to the huge funky soul sounds from The Blues Buffet.

Bring your beach chair and a picnic for an enjoyable afternoon. Free bouncy castle for the kids!

We encourage this event to be smokefree

For further information contact
South Taranaki District Council Events
@ TSB Hub, Phone 06 278 0646



New life at Stoney Oaks

A Danish white Red Deer fawn at Stoney Oaks Wildlife Park named Stardust (pictured) came out a red colour with white patches on her face and a white neck, but should have been white. Groenbeck the stag is her Dad.



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Paintings by Sir Tosswoollaston at Percy Thomson Gallery on the night of the recent official opening.

Toss Woollaston Exhibition visits Stratford

The Percy Thomson Gallery have scored a real coup by holding a major exhibition of Sir Mountford Tosswoollaston's art.

Specifically, the original works are from the Wallace Arts Trust Collection (1931 - 1996). The exhibition was officially opened by the

Hon Chester Borrows MP on Friday December 9 and runs until Sunday January 29, 2017. Chester kept everyone entertained with

some amusing incidents, including Mr Key's out-of-left field additions to some art created to raise funds for the Rotokare Reserve. "What the *bleep* did you do that for?" recounted Chester - to laughter from the patrons.

Also present was the Mayor of Stratford Neil Volzke and such artistic luminaries as Maryanne Muggeridge, Roger Morris and Sue Morton, (a former curator of the gallery), as well as relatives, including the artist's nephew David Woollaston, who was accompanied by his wife Lynette. David, who was obviously close to his uncle, gave a poignant and often humorous address. He revealed that his uncle loved poetry and was even party to a little truancy for David as a schoolboy. Taking David on his way to purchase some art supplies in New Plymouth, Sir Toss hid his nephew under some artist paraphernalia when he encountered a group from the primary school (Huinga) and told the teacher that the boy was "having a lie down" (technically true!). After the pair escaped their escapade undetected Sir Toss suggested, "It's best we not tell your mother about this." Flutara (Jocelyn Beath and Ross Townsend) provided beautiful musical accompaniment for the patrons as they viewed the exhibition.

Curator Rhonda Bunyan welcomed the large turnout of patrons and showed understandable pride in securing such a important collection of one of New Zealand's foremost artists. Sir Tosswoill has a strong



Tosswoollaston's work 'Mapua'.

connection to Taranaki (and was born here on April 11, 1910) with his parents sharemilking in the vicinity of Toko and eventually buying a farm in 1918. Part of the farm remains in the Woollaston family. In 1928 Tosswoill headed for the Nelson area for a stint of fruit picking where he joined the Suter Sketching Club. Later, he enrolled at the Canterbury College School of Art in Christchurch. The year 1933 found him back at the top of the South Island in Mapua where he was a private art tutor for a while. Here he painted his first masterpiece 'Mapua and landscape in Purple'. In 1935 he held his first one man exhibition. During his lifetime he also exhibited with Christchurch's 'The Group' (eg Rita Angus) and Colin McCahon.

In 1936 he married Edith Alexander (who often served as his model) and the couple had four children.

Recognition was not immediate - and for years he was Rawleigh man, notably in Greymouth (from 1949). Eventually he was able to work full time as an artist as he pursued his artistic dream and secured significant recognition.

The current exhibition has an impressively wide range of his work including watercolours, oil paintings, screenprints, ink on paper and graphite on paper. An important aspect of the exhibition is his 22 drawings (of 80 in total) of a Greymouth boy Erua (1961 - 1966).

In 1979 he was made a Knight Bachelor by Queen Elizabeth. Sadly, after becoming ill with cancer Sir Tosswoill Woollaston died in 1998, aged 88.

Make sure you find time to see this important exhibition, which ends on Sunday January 29, 2017.

Rolland McKellar



Image credit: Tosswoillaston, 'Angitia', oil on board, Collection of the James Wallace Arts Trust

WOOLLASTON

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