



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

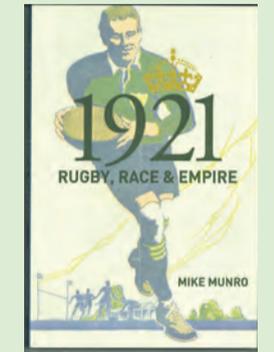
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Local news, Local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events. Delivered free around the mountain every fortnight.



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS
06 761 7016

Fifty peaks to be climbed come what may

Craig Martins and his son Harrison are a quarter of the way through their project of climbing New Zealand's 50 best tramping peaks.

Craig and Harrison are no strangers to life on the mountains. Harrison was seven years-old when he did his first summit of Taranaki with his father, and the two have been to the Himalayas together. They are also members of the New Plymouth Alpine Club.

This latest project of climbing the 50 peaks, however, had its beginnings four years ago when he picked up a copy of Wilderness magazine which had an article, complete with map of New Zealand's 50 best tramping peaks. With 13 of these done, there are 37 of them still left to do, 30 of them in the South Island. It is a project Craig is determined to finish. The project began with Craig and his 15 year-old son Harrison, and a number of Harrison's friends have since come on board.

"It started off with me, my son Harrison and his mate Alex, and as Harrison has gone through school, there's now six of us, and all of us are keen. As the group has got bigger, the boys have the maps up on their walls. It's something we all have in common. It's something we have a passion for. If this is not a positive thing for teenagers to be doing, then tell me something that is."

They are asking for help to see the project through, but Craig says they are determined to get it done come what may.

"Regardless of whoever helps us we will do it," he says.

Next on the agenda is Mt Angelum on Stewart Island, the country's southernmost mountain. They have already done the northernmost peak Te Whara, but Hikurangi, the easternmost peak, and reputedly the first in the world to see the sun has so far eluded them. They travelled to the East Coast four months ago, but the weather closed in and they weren't able to make the climb. They aim to be back there in summer.

The fifty peaks are of varying heights. "It's not necessarily about how tall they are, but how complicated," says Craig. "You can go back to a mountain and fail so many times."



On their way to climbing 50 peaks. Harrison and Craig Martins on Cone Peak Ruapehu looking towards Ngauruhoe.

He cites the peaks in the Taranaki National Park, which have a difficult reputation.

"No matter how many times we tried we didn't summit any of them."

They are, however, aiming to change that in summer.

There were two unsuccessful attempts on Mt Ruapehu, before finally reaching the summit on ANZAC Day two years ago.

There have been the scary moments, like the time they were descending a scree fall on Mt Ngauruhoe when there was a rockslide and a rock the size of a backpack came hurtling towards Craig, and then hit the ground just in front of Harrison.

There are also moments that have been sublime like making the 2075-metre Angelus Peak in the South Island.

"We had it all to ourselves. It was a crystal clear day and we could see all around. All we could see were hundreds and hundreds of peaks, all the same size as us."

After he's done Mt Angelum on Stewart Island, he has his eyes set on Ohuinga in the Ruahines and having another crack at Hikurangi, as well as Tapuae-o-Uenuku, at 2885m, the highest peak north of Aoraki-Mt Cook.

When asked which peak is his favourite, he replies quick as a flash, Taranaki.

"It's the most mind-blowing of all of them. I've shared the experience with heaps of kids up there. I've done it 20 times and



Fifty Peaks around the country to conquer.

Harrison's done it 19 times. I've seen it in all its moods. I'll keep climbing it until the day I die."

50 best tramping peaks as a "fabulous experience." "It's not as if you are sunbathing on the beach. You are battling the

elements." More on Summiting 50 Peaks. Pages 16-17.



Letters to the Editor

Send your your views to:

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 23 Napier Street, Opunake.
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You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.

Literary Awards

One must congratulate Rolland McKellar for winning the Open Short Story section with "Dear Eleanor" in the recent Ronald Hugh Morrieson Literary Awards. As I read it several times, it made me somewhat chuckle, plus all the rest of the award winning writers regardless of their ages, gender, and what secondary school they all came from.

I can also vividly remember Came a Hot Friday starring actor and musician Bruno Lawrence.

Now what I would like

to see happen is all these award winning literary books should be looked at by our top New Zealand film directors, and just maybe one or two or more could become a movie or a TV series, but it's really good to see everyone is giving writing a go, as one never knows if someone's novel or whatever could become a box office smash or an ongoing TV series like Coronation Street or Shortland Street, so one never knows what's around the corner.

*Tom Stephens
 New Plymouth*

Thieves

Low life scum. That's what you are. What you have stolen was all donated by local charities. Shame on you. We presume you get by from stealing plants, taps and hose fittings. Thanks to you, walkers and their dogs can't get a drink, and we can't water the garden. Get a life, get a job, and buy your own.

Cliff Top Garden Group.

To be or not to be is the question

The question is to mandate or not to mandate, which is becoming an extremely big issue throughout the country.

For those unvaxxed people are not only putting their own health at risk, but also their families and friends, and are having to end up in hospital themselves, maybe taking a bed meant for a person waiting for an urgent operation. I'd call them extremely naive, stupid and selfish, yet our government is now getting the blame for all of this, which is utter rubbish.

Now all we need now is an increase of deaths in our country because of this virus, yet we are seeing some people from Auckland have

been flouting the lockdowns and have been travelling into our province, but what they don't all realise is they will not be allowed to go into shops etc, as they will all be refused.

For those who have been stood down or whatever, they should not get any type of benefit at all from our government, and see how long they last on no money and being unable to feed their families, with only one income coming in, but I do feel that when the country had the vaccine, that was the time for everyone to be vaccinated ASAP.

*Tom Stephens
 New Plymouth*

All Blacks poor form

I wish to forward my opinion of the recent collapse of the All Blacks rugby performance.

My historical rugby past is one of years of involvement in the game in management, coaching and representative participation. The point I wish to make is that the All Black head selector should stand down, as I am of the opinion that Mr Foster who appears to be a nice guy should stand down or be replaced by the powers that be, as the position is beyond his capabilities.

*Gordon(Mac)Sole
 Hawera*

A Bay of Plenty view on Three Waters

An article in the Katikati Advertiser(Thursday Nov.4) stated Mayor of Katikati as claiming the council water supply to its residence and ratepayers is in a good state. That is really

*Ewen Luskie
 Katikati.*

ADELPHOS

Shut eye

We all need it and when we don't get it, we often start craving for it. Not hot bread straight out of the oven, not money and not more good friends. Although, those things could perhaps make us happier and improve our well-being. Have you ever had a bad day because you didn't get a good sleep? I bet not one of you reading this article can say no, that has never happened to me. In fact, some of you reading this may be having a bad day today for that very reason. Do you know that how we spend our day affects the quality of our sleep?

Having regular routines

around sleep help to set healthy patterns and can make it easier to get off, and stay, asleep. The body and mind function best when these are in place. So, aim for a similar time for going to sleep and waking up each day. Our diet affects our sleep (not just our waistline). Focus on not eating too many carbohydrates, sugars and fats during the day and eating fruits, vegetables and lean meats or legumes instead. And be aware of how active you are during the day.

Exercise has definite benefits for good sleep but needs to be at least three

hours before your bed time, otherwise it can stop the release of melatonin: the chemical released in the brain that helps us get off to sleep (but not to stay asleep). Along with those things, getting outdoors or allowing natural light in through a window, early in the morning, helps us to wake up and that's harder to achieve in the winter months, unfortunately.

Lastly, as there is not enough room to go into depth in this article, Jesus talked about the problems of the day being sufficient for the day (Matthew 6: 34). Melatonin is a bit like a

meerkat. It will pop its head out and see if it is safe. But it will quickly go back into its burrow (interestingly, they do not build their own) if it perceives the slightest hint of danger. So, it is with our thoughts.

Melatonin is 'allergic' to our thoughts and, in particular, the negative ones. Our thoughts can instantly stop the brain producing melatonin. On the other hand, melatonin will respond to calming our thoughts. Using such things as sleep inducing music, reading, meditation, prayer, getting off social media, turning the lights down low and even eating certain foods may all help (check out the internet on the topic of foods that encourage melatonin). You will know when your body's melatonin is working well, because you will get that wonderful sleepy feeling. Welcome it and work with it. Keep your thoughts calm and prepare to get some quality shut eye. Manaakitanga.

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COVID-19 increases your risk of stroke exponentially says Stroke Foundation

The Stroke Foundation of New Zealand is urging all New Zealanders to be fully vaccinated to fight the risk of stroke.

New international research shows that a COVID-19 infection increases your chances of having a stroke, and if you are unvaccinated that risk increases significantly.

The Foundation cites multiple studies showing that infection from COVID-19 substantially increases stroke risk by 3-10 times. There is also evidence that COVID-19 associated strokes could be more severe than non-COVID strokes.

Stroke is the largest cause of serious adult disability in New Zealand, as well as the

second-largest single cause of death in the country, after cancer. With 75% of all strokes preventable, it is the Stroke Foundation's key objective to create awareness on how to reduce the risk of strokes.

The Stroke Foundation says that COVID-19 vaccination is an effective stroke prevention strategy,

and everyone in Aotearoa should be receiving the vaccine if they can.

Jo Lambert, Chief Executive of the Stroke Foundation, says, "The message is simple. Please listen to the science, because it is telling us that if you are infected with COVID-19, being vaccinated will greatly reduce your risk of

having a stroke. If you get COVID-19, and are unlucky enough to have a stroke, being vaccinated will mean your stroke could be less severe."

The Stroke Foundation cites the National Stroke Network's Chair, Dr Alan Davis, who has reported that there is no definitive evidence of an increase

in the number of people affected by a stroke in Aotearoa over 2021. This is despite 3.9 million people in New Zealand receiving at least the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech.

Orange and red Covid-19 settings across the country

Orange and red Covid-10 settings across the country

Swathes of the North Island will enter the most restrictive setting in the country's new Covid-19 protection framework, taking effect on Friday.

Northland, Auckland, and parts of the central and eastern North Island will go into the 'Red' setting, while the lower North Island and all of the South Island will go into 'Orange'. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said no regions will enter the least restrictive 'Green' setting until at least next year, as the Government aims to increase vaccination rates

Professor Michael Plank, Te Pūnaha Matatini and University of Canterbury, comments: "The government is taking a district-by-district approach to the new traffic light system, based on a



Professor Michael Plank.

combination of vaccine coverage, transmission rates, and potential health impact. Parts of the North Island that are battling active outbreaks or have low vaccination rates will start at red. This will mean things will continue to feel similar to level 2 for people who are fully vaccinated, but life will be more restricted for unvaccinated people.

"For Auckland, the move to red will mean a significant loosening of restrictions. This is a reasonable move given the length of time Aucklanders have been at level 3, good vaccination rates across the city, and the fact that cases have levelled off and hospitalisations remain at manageable levels.

"The lower North Island and all of the South Island will start at orange. This will effectively remove gathering size limits provided vaccine

passes are used, although masks will still be required. Areas moving to orange generally have reasonable vaccination rates and don't have established community outbreaks. The big exception to this is that most of Waikato is set to move to orange despite a stubborn outbreak including ongoing unlinked cases and low vaccination rates in some areas. The decision to allow looser restrictions in these areas increases the risk of superspreading events fuelling this outbreak.

"The government has moved to the new traffic light system nationally earlier than it originally promised, which was when all DHBs had fully vaccinated 90 per cent of their eligible populations.

This has been justified in part by the additional protections offered by the

use of vaccine passes. However, in moving to the new system we must not lose sight of the fact that we still have big gaps in our vaccine coverage. The virus will find and exploit these gaps so we must redouble our efforts to fill them."

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

A challenging year



CR AARUN LANGTON

As 2021 draws to a close, it is the perfect time to reflect on all the challenges that the Council has faced over the past 12 months.

The Three Waters has been a hot topic for the latter part of this year, with our Council opposing the process. It will be interesting to see how this plays out over the next few years. A major reason for the new structure of the proposed four entities is the ability to borrow a larger amount of money. With the opposition currently stating that they would reverse the Three Waters decision if elected, it will be interesting to see if there is an appetite for overseas investment in the interim. Your council continues to work behind the

scenes to upgrade the water infrastructure in both the short and long term plans.

This year the council has spent many hours reviewing local representation which will be in place at next year's local body elections. There will be two Taranaki Coastal Ward councillor positions along with one

Māori councillor position, who will be representing a wider Taranaki Coastal area. With the change of numbers at the council table, it is very important that we have three representatives that will advocate for our people in the coastal area.

The Environmental Hearings continue to be very busy with subdivisions. It is exciting to see the growth in South Taranaki as a whole, but particularly our Coastal area. This highlights that it may be time to update our district plans in regards to our rural, industrial and residential areas of our towns. Overseas, many cities and towns are ring-fenced to stop urban sprawl. How long before we start

looking at this in New Zealand?

I am continuing to enjoy working with Andy and the team at the Coastal Community Board. It is awesome to see so many faces in our community with "can-do" attitudes who look for solutions and don't focus on the negative. This all makes our community a great place to be. I wish you all a happy and safe holiday, including time spent with whānau and friends.

Kia pai te raumati ki a koutou katoa.

Aaron Langton
South Taranaki District
Councillor
Taranaki Coastal Ward

Wedding bells in spring



Stephen Jeffries and Annie Higgs were married in the Mangatoki Church at the Taranaki Pioneer Village on October 16. They met at the Hawera Assembly of God Church in Hawera, and now live in Manaia.

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Busy time for local brigades

The Manaia Fire Brigade used cutting gear to rescue the driver of a car in a recent accident at Kaupokonui.

The Manaia brigade was called to the accident on Surf Highway at 8.47pm on Wednesday November 17 after local residents and passing truck drivers had raised the alarm.

The female driver, was heading towards Opunake with her six year-old son and approaching the Kaupokonui bridge when she lost control of her car. The car then went across the road and overturned, says Manaia chief fire officer Shane Taylor.

The driver was still "partly trapped" in the car, but her son had been able to get free. Manaia fire brigade members used cutting gear to get the driver out.

"It had just been raining and the road was quite slippery. She was very lucky," says Shane. "It serves as a friendly reminder to drive to the conditions."



A car overturned after losing control on the Kaupokonui hill.

Shane says the driver had been "shaken around" but did not appear to have any major injuries.

An ambulance took the

patient from the scene. The Hawera Fire Brigade was also called out, but were turned back.

On Saturday November 20

the Manaia Fire Brigade was called to assist the Kaponga Fire Brigade at the scene of a two car collision on the corner of Mangawhero and

Skeet Roads shortly after 8pm.

Kaponga chief fire officer Jason Hurley said a vehicle turning onto Mangawhero Road collided with one heading towards Kapuni. There were four occupants in one vehicle and one in the other. Both vehicles were towed away and the ambulance checked one of the drivers for injuries.

Jason says the accident shows the importance of paying attention and giving way to oncoming traffic.

"Both parties were lucky," he said.

The Kaponga Brigade had also been called out to a single vehicle accident where a car had ended up in a drain on the Eltham Road. The car's single occupant was uninjured.

On November 24 the Manaia and Hawera brigades helped out with scene protection at a car versus motorbike accident on South Road near the Manaia roundabout.

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Council takes government to task

On November 12, the mayor and councillors of the South Taranaki District wrote to the Minister of Local Government Nanaia Mahuta about the Three Waters reforms.

"On behalf of the ratepayers and residents of South Taranaki, we are writing to express our absolute dismay, disappointment and frustration with your government's decision mandating Councils must be part of the Three Waters Reform programme," the letter read.

"Irrespective of individuals

views of the reform, you and your officials consistently told us that Councils, and therefore our community would be afforded the opportunity, and courtesy, for full public consultation on this hugely significant matter. But now, and after the majority of Councils asked the Government to pause and rethink the proposal, you have broken your promise and commitment and taken the decision-making out of the hands of the people who actually own the assets.

"This decision is wrong on so many levels, it's anti-

democratic and in our view represents a major breach of trust.

"In the past councils have been reproached by the government for not consulting with their communities on matters of far less significance than this. For central government, it seems to be a case of do as we say, not as we do.

"While we acknowledge that there is a need for regulatory changes in the three waters activities, this move to force councils to participate without public consultation is totally

unacceptable. The South Taranaki District Council demands that you reconsider this decision and do what you said you would do, which is to give our residents an opportunity to have their say on this matter.

"Only then can we, in good faith, truly work in partnership for the well-being of our communities."

Sure signal no longer sure

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) say they are disappointed to hear that Vodafone is cutting off their Sure Signal service with little explanation, leaving many customers without a mobile network.

"Most Vodafone Sure Signal customers have been told that the service will be turned off on 10 December - this cuts off the mobile network to thousands of rural families," says RWNZ Board Member and Technology Convenor Claire Williamson.

"Vodafone are assuring their customers that they will be able to use WiFi calling, however, that is only suitable for those with good internet and/or have a cellphone that can do WiFi calling.

"This action from Vodafone means that there are many rural residents who will no longer be able to send and receive texts, pxts or MMS for business and personal reasons nor will they be able to use two-factor authentication - they are effectively cut off from the rest of the world.

"Visitors to rural properties such as rural service providers, family and friends will not be able to access the mobile network either and we are hearing of many who are concerned about that.

"Also of concern is the apparent push from Vodafone to now buy cellphones that are capable of WiFi calling whilst only allowing a few models for this.

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OPUNAKE FIRE SERVICE

The government's COVID 19 health order on mandatory vaccinations has affected many sectors, with Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ) being one of them. It has affected both paid and volunteer firefighters. Across New Zealand 89% of volunteer fire fighters have been fully or partially vaccinated. You can be assured that the Opunake Fire Brigade is in good

health and able to respond as usual. The FENZ regulations in regard to the COVID response are also a bit more stringent than the public health orders, which is why you are currently not seeing us around as much as usual. We are unable to attend public events, like market day and beach carnival. This also includes school visits and Firewise programs.

COVID regulations are affecting Fire Service



From left, Kane Bennett, Ben Pentelow and Matthew Lovell.

Our Fire Station is also not allowed to host visitors, with only Fire personal allowed on site. Recent callouts have been two motor vehicle accidents, one electrical fire, three vegetation fires, and one false alarm. We would like to congratulate Kane Bennett and Matthew Lovell, who have just completed their week-long Recruit Firefighter course at the National Training Centre in Rotorua. Both commented that it was enjoyable, but

hard work. Congratulations also to Ben Pentelow, who attended and passed a five-day Qualified Firefighter course at the same venue. Lastly, we are sad to see our Chief Fire Officer, Craig Dingle leave us. Craig has been a volunteer firefighter for 29 years, the last three years as CFO of Opunake. His experience is going to be missed, we would like to wish him all the best.

Andrew Pentelow (interim CFO)

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Young Pasifika community leaders join call to ban seabed mining

A group of young Pasifika leaders have helped Greenpeace Aotearoa launch the social media campaign, Oceanic Voices. The launch of Oceanic Voices saw several young Pasifika community leaders post key messages about Greenpeace Aotearoa's seabed mining campaign across their respective social media channels. The leaders include Isoa Kavakimotu, Brianna Fruean, Pati Apa, Tina Maro, John-Paul Foliaki, Dom Tupou, Aigagalefili Fepulea'i- Tapua'i, Sabrina Manu, and Astley Nathan. Greenpeace Aotearoa seabed mining campaigner James Hita says Oceanic Voices encourages Māori

and Pasifika communities to support a ban on seabed mining in Aotearoa and the Pacific. "This is about the rights of indigenous peoples across the world, and especially in the Pacific where communities are the first to feel the impacts of climate inaction. Together with indigenous leaders we are taking action, and sharing with our communities what needs to be done to stop deep sea mining. I'm inspired, excited, and extremely grateful to have these amazing young people coming together to tautoko the campaign." "Their willingness to be part of Oceanic Voices tells me that more people

are becoming aware of seabed mining in our waters and the Pacific but are also wanting to stop it through a ban. So my hope is that their followers resonate with the campaign and sign the petition to ban seabed mining." Pacific Media Network's Tina Maro, who is one of the social media and community leaders, says Oceanic Voices provides the perfect opportunity for Māori and Pasifika to engage with this issue. "There isn't much written about this issue to our

people; especially young Māori and Pasifika peoples. So, this social media launch is perfect for that. It will engage the issues with them but the messages are also coming from people who they will know and recognise." "Seabed mining in our waters and around the Pacific will have devastating impacts for generations to come if it continues to progress. We are tangata moana, we are people from the sea, so we have a responsibility as kaitiaki to ensure its sustainability."

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Next issue out December 16.

Parihaka Day commemorated in Okato

November 5 is the anniversary (Parihaka Day) of an important if infamous event in New Zealand's history. On this day in 1881 the peaceful village of Parihaka (with over 2000 villagers) was invaded by about 1600 Government soldiers (Constabulary Field Force and volunteers). The invasion was ordered by parliamentarian John Bryce the Native Minister. Underpinning the invasion was passive resistance to the confiscation of Maori land.

Especially targeted was land in the Waimea Plains, which was mostly intended for settlers farms.

Peaceful tactics of protesters from Parihaka included the ploughing up of settlers land as well as uprooting surveyors pegs and removing fences. The leaders of the resistance were Te Whiti-o-Rongomai and Tohu Kakahi. Both men, often referred to as prophets, were imprisoned without trial for about 16 months and sent to Otago. The people of Parihaki were totally peaceful, in response and the soldiers were greeted by children singing and even offered food.

During the invasion many buildings were pulled down and women and girls sexually assaulted.

An impressive display was set up in the Hempton hall in Okato with contributions by the Okato and Districts Historical Society, Heritage Taranaki and Mitch Phillips of Parihaka, who commented, "I'm just wrapt at all the effort people have put into this event."

It took a long time coming, but in 2017 there was an Official Apology (Seven points) from the Crown for the 1881 invasion and the appalling behaviour the Parihaka inhabitants and their leader, were subjected to. It was conceded that there was failure to recognise or respect the vision of self-determination



Mitch Phillips, one of the organisers, with a display celebrating Parihaka.



An impressive display featuring aspects of living in earlier times in the Okato region.

of the people of Parihaka, with tyranny in response to unity and autonomy met with oppression. Also, the imprisonment of people without trial was a breach of Natural Justice.

Both Tohu Kakahi and Te Whiti-o-Rongomai died in 1907 and their impressive tomb is in the centre of Parihaka.

As well as the information and photographs relating to Parihaka there was a huge amount of information and photograph with respect to the early settlement of Okato and the nearby environs. This included churches, dairy factories, prominent families, weddings, trophies, sporting clubs,

Boys Brigade, Schools, military redoubts, shops and Hempton Hall itself.

An excellent PowerPoint presentation was an important aspect of the event.

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Our next issue is due out on December 16. Please get your contributions in to us early. 06 761 7016.

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Keeping a level head

The 40 days of the Level 3 lockdown have been horrendous for most of my electorate.

So the drop to Level 2 on November 17 brought more than a huge sigh of relief and hurried phone calls to our favourite hairdressers.

The Waitomo, Waipā, Waikato and Ōtorohanga districts are rural communities which have



BARBARA KURIGER MP FOR TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY.

always looked after one another.

People have been through a huge disruption, not seeing their kids and grandkids.

They haven't been unable to hold funerals or weddings and our children have been kept home from school.

Many businesses in our region have been unable to operate in any way at all, while others have been open in limited ways.

Throughout the 40 days I stayed at Level 2.

With Auckland and large parts of the Waikato in lockdown, my colleagues were thin on the ground in Wellington. So there was a need for those of us who could, to be there and continue to lobby the Government.

During this time I have kept in constant contact with mayors John Robertson

(Waitomo), Alan Sanson (Waikato) Jim Mylchreest (Waipā), Max Baxter (Ōtorohanga) and my electorate team.

Anger, frustration and helplessness have been the feelings of many.

As I write, vaccination mandates for healthcare workers, teachers, fire fighters and prison staff, among others, have kicked in.

I've already seen first-hand the difficulty — a principal who cannot sign off a letter to dismiss a teacher he's worked with for 39 years — a teacher he calls the "best in the school".

I also wonder if people would refuse firefighters who turn up to save their lives or homes brandishing hoses instead of vaccination certificates.

Since COVID-19 came to

our shores in 2020, our lives and the limits on them, have been dramatic enough.

For rural communities, already short of these skilled workers, the effect of the mandates will be crippling.

Our community leaders and local health teams are working hard to ensure as many people as possible are vaccinated as double dose rates are a long way from the optimal 90%, while testing at medical centres and pop-up clinics, across the region goes on.

As high COVID case numbers continue, it's vital we play our part by wearing masks, social distancing, sanitising hands and using the COVID contact tracer app, so there is a record of where we've been.

I know there is fear and apprehension with the

'traffic light system' replacing levels and thoughts of whether we'll ever return to a normal way of life.

We've all missed the freedom of doing things we like to, as well as being together, when and where, we've felt like it.

Let's catch our breath and go into summer with respect and tolerance.

Finally ... 2022 will bring a new set of challenges for us to tackle so take time to rest, enjoy the company of loved ones and remember they are what's most important.

With National's new leader Chris Luxon at the helm and Nicola Willis as his deputy, I'm looking forward to tackling mine.

*Barbara Kuriger
MP Taranaki-King Country*

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Venture Taranaki Chief Executive to depart soon

The Chief Executive of Venture Taranaki, Justine Gilliland, has announced she is to depart the organisation in 2022 once a successor for the role is found.

Justine who has led the organisation since March 2019, originally started with the agency as the GM Transitional Economy in September 2018 where she conceptualised and initiated the creation of the Taranaki 2050 Roadmap.

During her tenure, the agency stood up the National New Energy Development Centre - now known as Ara Ake; delivered the Taranaki Story, a major resource for Taranaki enterprises that tells the positive story of the region and its exciting future; developed and defined alongside the community the Taranaki 2050 Roadmap and pathway

plans to a low emissions future; conceptualised and initiated PowerUp to support and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship; successfully secured funding for Branching Out, an innovative food and fibre diversification programme; and designed and stood up the regional covid-19 response fund, along with countless other regional initiatives.

Board chair Joanna Breare said Justine should be immensely proud of what she has accomplished and praised her for her leadership and vision during an unprecedented period of uncertainty and challenge.

"Justine's vision for a thriving Taranaki started with building a thriving Venture Taranaki and I would like to thank her on behalf of the board and her colleagues for her work and dedication over the last few years as she steered the organisation, as well as the region in many ways, through some challenging waters," says Joanna.

Justine's resignation comes as she focuses on her governance career, adding to her existing director roles at Manaaki Whenua, AGMARDT (The Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust), and EDNZ.

Justine left Wellington in 2018, returning home to Taranaki with her young family, and she is looking forward to having more time with them.

"With this new direction, comes the opportunity for another to pick up the reigns at Te Puna Umanga and take the organisation through its next phase, as I look to focus on my governance career and spend more time with my family," said Justine. Justine will remain with Venture Taranaki/Te Puna Umanga until a new Chief Executive starts, expected to occur in the first part of 2022.

Prior to joining Venture Taranaki, Justine held the position of Deputy Director-General Sector Partnerships and Programmes at the

Ministry for Primary Industries, where she led multi-million-dollar investment programmes spanning sustainable growth, Māori partnerships, and regional development, and the establishment of Te Uru Rakau (Forestry New Zealand) and the 1 billion trees programme.

Justine also previously led MPI's research and development and other external grants and funds programmes, and ran the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission of Inquiry. She has held numerous other public sector leadership roles across strategy, communications, policy, operations, and innovation investment functions, and has been admitted as barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand.

Justine grew up in Taranaki, attending Sacred Heart Girls' College before completing arts and law degrees at the University of Otago.

Barbara Kuriger
MP for Taranaki-King Country
Backing Rural and Provincial New Zealand

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Opunake High School student chosen as youth parliamentarian

Thomas Tito-Green (aged 16), who attends Opunake High School, was chosen by Glen Bennett MP for New Plymouth, as a youth parliamentarian to attend the Youth Parliament which meets in July 2022.

Just two will represent New Plymouth – the other youth parliamentarian is Bethanie Luke of Sacred Girls College, who was chosen by the Hon Andrew Little MP, a member of the Cabinet.

As part of the selection process Thomas (Taranaki Tūturū and Ngaruahine) was obliged to give a speech



Thomas Tito-Green with a picture of his grandfather George Tito who was an inspirational influence.

at Novatel in New Plymouth on Saturday 27 November in front of a four person panel. "It was pretty nerve-racking," he confessed. He spoke on issues he feels strongly about, including the need to combat global warming and the importance of ensuring equity for Maori.

After the ten would-be youth parliamentarians had finished their respective speeches they faced "quick-fire questioning." One question Thomas faced was *who has been an inspiration to you?* He chose his grandparents George and

Mary Tito who have sadly passed away.

The Youth Parliament meets every three years with young people aged between 16 and 18 engaged in debate. Just like the usual Parliament there is a Speaker, a Clerk of the house and a press gallery to report on proceedings.

Next year Thomas will study mathematics, english,

biology, music (he plays the piano) and Te Reo Maori. He will be busy as he will also be a prefect, as well as the student representative on the Board of Trustees.

When he leaves school Thomas intends to complete a degree in either law or anthropology.

Community action drives to smokefree cars

After a decade of campaigning, community groups are celebrating a milestone as a law comes into force making it illegal to smoke or vape in cars with children and young people present.

The change will benefit the hundreds of young people under the age of 18 who are exposed to second-hand smoke in cars each year, which can lead to serious health impacts including asthma, glue ear, chest infections and an increased risk of sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI).

Bridget Rowse, Chair of the National Smokefree Cars Working Group, says the push for smokefree cars has been a grassroots movement led by New Zealanders with a collective desire to protect tamariki.

"This change is going to lead to better health outcomes for some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Opening the windows is not enough to prevent the harm caused by lingering second-hand smoke in cars, which is why it's so important to drive smokefree. We have seen great work happening throughout New Zealand to support whānau to take this step to protect their children," says Bridget.

The law change is the culmination of a years-long



Fun in a smoke free car.

nationwide effort, which saw community groups and advocates rallying behind this cause. With the law taking effect, organisations in 14 regions are being supported by Te Hīringa Hauora | Health Promotion Agency to plan and run activities to educate, inform and encourage people to make the change and drive smokefree.

"With local people and organisations steering this, each region has taken its own approach to getting the word out about this milestone in a way that speaks to their respective community. We're looking forward to seeing the smokefree cars activity continue to roll-out across the country over the summer," says Bridget.

As well as things like promotions at community venues, quizzes and sports tournaments, some regions

are showcasing local talent. In the Manawātū, five local kuia and their mokopuna have been enlisted as the region's newest models to feature as the faces of its 'Drive Smokefree for Tamariki' billboard and signage campaign.

In the Hutt Valley, the #TAGS rangatahi group is celebrating after years of work in its local community that's brought together schools and sports clubs, the local council, marae and health services. Working with Regional Public Health, the rangatahi are spreading the word through a video campaign featuring young people delivering drive smokefree messages which will be shared with the community.

Leah Clark, Public Health Advisor at Regional Public Health and founding member

of the National Smokefree Cars Working Group, has been involved with smokefree cars since 2011 through her work with #TAGS and other advocates around the country. Leah says momentum built with support from a wide range of groups, not least of which are the youth who will directly benefit from this change.

"Our young people have shown enduring enthusiasm, initiative and an eagerness to take ownership of encouraging whānau to make the change and drive smokefree. Children and young people have been some of our strongest advocates and have played an important role in New Zealand's journey towards smokefree cars," says Leah.

The Smoke-free Environments (Prohibiting Smoking in Motor Vehicles Carrying Children) Amendment Act 2020 was passed in May 2020, and came into force on 28 November 2021. From 28 November, it will be illegal to smoke or vape in cars carrying a child or young person under the age of 18.

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1921, Rugby, Race and Empire

by Mike Munro

It is 1921 and New Zealand is still struggling with the prolonged suffering of World War One. The Great War has taken a terrible toll, and the country continues to live with the consequences.

The effects of another recent international calamity, the great influenza epidemic of 1918-19 which killed around 9000 in New Zealand also continues to be felt.

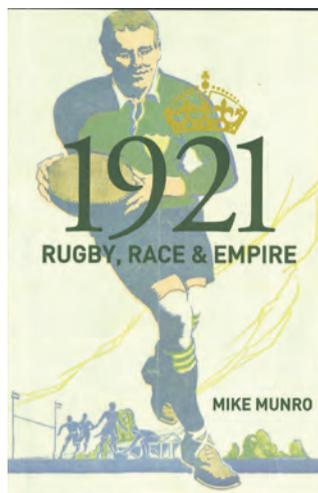
But 1921 brings a welcome distraction. For the first time, the South African men's national rugby team, the Springboks, will tour New Zealand beginning a rivalry that continues today.

Mike Munro who grew up in Opunake describes the tour in his fascinating book Rugby, Race and Empire, just published.

Feted wherever they go, the Springboks captivate the country. A blow by blow accounts of some of the visiting teams encounters with provincial teams and tests makes is also described.

The touring Springboks however are a whites-only team and the collective ire of New Zealand is raised when a South African correspondent files a report intended for the audience back home is leaked by Napier telegraph workers.

The report bemoans "the spectacle of thousands of Europeans frantically cheering on a band of coloured men to defeat members of the own race". There are also allegations that some Springboks



1921, Rugby, race and Empire, recently published, by Mike Munro.

resented having to play the Maori and in later claims that a number of them turned their backs during a pre-match performance

by a Maori cultural party.

The Springboks returned in 1937 and in 1956. Maori were excluded from the All Blacks touring squads of 1928, 1949 and 1960.

In 1965 when the Springboks next visited they were met on arrival in Auckland by a small group of anti apartheid protesters.

By 1981, the protests had escalated and divided the country as many will remember. Some commentators described the country as being in a state of near civil war, as Mike Munro noted in the book.

The author also gives an interesting account of how the dreaded 1918 influenza arrived in New Zealand which was thought to be via two troopships, containing sick soldiers which docked in Auckland. One of these was the Niagara which had

sailed from Vancouver on

September 28 1918 bound for Auckland. On board were, incidentally, were New Zealand's wartime coalition leaders, Prime Minister William Massey and his 'co-premier' Joseph Ward, who had been attending a meeting of the Imperial War Cabinet among other business. As James Belich described in Paradise Reforged, Massey and Ward came home "bearing news of imminent victory and, possibly, the viral vectors of the world's worst pandemic since the Black Plague".

The tour coming so soon after the end of World War One and the influenza epidemic 1921, Rugby, Race and Empire is a true portrayal of the times and the calamitous events that defined it. A gripping read.

A gripping read.



The cenotaph in Opunake unveiled in the summer of 1921. Mike speculates that his grandfather who had returned from Europe two years earlier after serving in France with the Wellington Mounted Rifles, was in all likelihood an attendee.



Mike Munro

Mike Munro has worked in the media, communications and political domains, including as a top-level advisor to two prime ministers. He is an avid rugby fan and a student of New Zealand history.

This is his second book. The first, Road from Rosehall, the story of an ancestor's emigration journey, was published in 2015.

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Horse-and-buggy rides popular in Okato



Popular horse rides at Okato story page 20.

How to grow passionfruit

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ripe when the skin turns purple and fruit fall to the ground. Consistent watering is required in the summer to help prevent fruit drop and premature wrinkling of the fruit.

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Passionfruit require regular watering through their flowering and fruiting stages.

Passionfruit are subtropical but are very easy to grow when planted in the correct position. The vines are ideal for quickly covering trellis, pergolas and growing around the deck with the bonus of fruit on plants over eight months old.

The plants need full sun and shelter from winds and frost. It is essential that they are planted in a light, free draining soil. Passionfruit are best planted out in the spring once all risk of frost has passed. Dig through

plenty of compost, firm down and water well.

Once you have planted your vine, pinch off any side shoots, train the leader until it reaches the trellis or support. Then pinch out the growing tip to force the production of laterals. These are then trained along the support. Pruning should be done in October or November – never in winter.

It is particularly important to water regularly throughout the flowering and fruiting period from spring until

the end of summer. When watering, keep the water off the foliage to avoid fungal problems. Mulching will help retain moisture.

Feed at least twice over the spring, summer, and autumn months with a slow-release Citrus fertiliser. During the fruiting period feeding with a liquid fertiliser is also recommended.

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On the evening of December 16, Santa, complete with the traditional sleigh aboard a truck will traverse the streets of Manaia. Accompanied by a couple of decorated golf carts, each with three elves and a driver, he will depart Manaia School and make his way along the streets of Manaia except for South Road, which is part of the state highway. The trip is expected to take two and a half to three hours. The parade will be minus the usual crowds, with children and other spectators watching from the confines of home.

Meanwhile residents will

be encouraged to decorate and light up their homes along the way in suitable yuletide fashion.

"We're hoping people will have costumes, displays and performances of sorts," says Mary Moore of the Manaia Community Services Group.

There will even be three anonymous judges awarding prizes for the best decorated houses.

Mary says to the best of their knowledge no other town has tried anything like this before.

"The idea just came off the top of our heads."

She says the only example she's come across of anything similar is a small town in the southern states of the USA where a parade is lined up "like a train" and people walk by.

Manaia Community Services Group member Jade

Budd said despite COVID they believed something should be done.

"Everything was getting cancelled. The sadness was starting to kick in, and that's not Manaia. It was affecting the adults as well. We decided that we've got to celebrate with everybody, but with distance."

Fellow Community Services Group member Amanda Pretty agrees.

"We didn't want to let the kids down because of COVID. When you get lemons you make lemonade."



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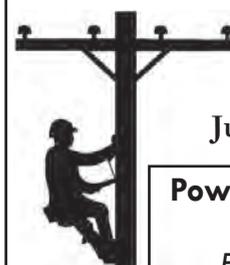
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Property Brokers consultant has community at heart

Manaia-based lifestyle/residential sales consultant Annie Jeffries is the latest addition to the Property Brokers team in Taranaki.

She says she was drawn to Property Brokers' community ethos, with 83 branches around the country concentrating on the smaller provincial centres rather than the larger metropolitan areas.

"Property Brokers is like a family and we all work well together," she says.

She has previously worked in sales and marketing for newspapers in Whanganui and Whangarei, and shifted to Manaia 10 years ago.

For the last nine years she has been helping out at Manaia School where she is a Life Walk Coach and runs programs at the school.

"We need to have more things for children to do in Manaia," she says.

Annie and her husband Stephen are also hospital chaplains at Hawera Hospital.

"For Stephen and I, our passion is about doing things for other people. We look at life as being not about us, but about helping others."

Another interest is gardening, her garden had been in the Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival for a few years and she has been on the organising committee. But a health event three and a half years ago meant having to prioritise her time a little better and have a change in direction.

So when she saw Property Brokers advertising for somebody in the South Taranaki area she applied for the position.

"I told them I do voluntary work with the school, and they said that's good, we like people who are invested in their community."

She cites her previous sales and marketing experience as well as an interest in people as being among the assets she brings to her new position in Property Brokers Taranaki Team.

"If you have a heart for people you will relate well



Annie Jeffries is the latest addition to the Property Brokers team in Taranaki.

to them," she says.

"I work anywhere from New Plymouth through the entire South Taranki area," she says.

Annie describes herself as someone who likes to stay busy, and she is being kept busy with promoting one of Property Brokers Taranaki's latest promotions celebrating their first birthday.

"When you list with us in November or December you will receive our Premier Summer Marketing package (valued at \$2,250) at No Cost and when we Sell your home you choose a Breville Barista Express Coffee Machine or a Weber BBQ on us as well."

At the moment she says she has several people wanting to buy in Taranaki especially in her community of Manaia, so if you are thinking about selling give Annie a call on 021 2023677

"Real Estate takes patience but is a great way to meet people who usually become long term friends not just clients."

She says she enjoys living in Manaia and understands why people want to come and live here..

"People come here because it's a close knit community and we look out for each

other. The beach is just around the corner, glorious mountain views and only 10 minutes from Hawera and you have got the lovely community spirit here."

She says she notices newcomers taking pride in their properties, and there are fewer rentals and more permanent residents in our little town.

She knows of people from Auckland who specifically want to settle in Manaia because they have family links here.

"The Taranaki property market is in high demand with homes selling at good prices and quite quickly. So you may be surprised at what your property is worth, with one small lifestyle in Manaia recently selling for \$625,000 Yes in Manaia so give me a call today.

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Introducing new Bayleys' new sales consultant

Hi there, I'm Justin a sales consultant for the Bayleys Residential and Lifestyle Taranaki team. Growing up on the Taranaki coast and being involved with my wider community is a real privilege and I welcome the opportunity to provide best of class service for all your property needs.

I was raised and educated in Opunake. Therefore, I understand the benefits of life, attractions, and features that make up this incredible part of the province. I would also like to offer my support

and time in helping with any upcoming events or volunteer work needing to be done in the near future. More importantly, if you list and sell through me, Bayleys Taranaki and I will donate to your favourite community group or charity organisation.

With the median sale price in Opunake consistently rising and the low number of properties coming to market, this creates a great opportunity to sell as there is very little competition out there for the large number

of buyers looking to buy. Our REINZ records show the current reported median price in the area is \$361,000 which is up 9.4% from the year prior.

If you are considering selling, looking to buy or simply want to know what your property is worth in today's market, give me a call. Also, if you refer me to a friend or family member and it results in a sale, I'll personally give you \$500. Call me 0278596134

Justin Shirtcliffe



New law on decommissioning could be costly overkill

A new law on decommissioning oil and gas fields has good intentions but is overkill, according to Energy Resources Aotearoa.

"We strongly support operators taking responsibility and paying the costs for decommissioning, which is what all good operators do," says chief executive John Carnegie.

"The problem is these changes go way above and beyond what's required to

protect taxpayers.

"It's pleasing to see a few changes made at select committee stage, but many of the major problems highlighted by expert submitters remain.

There is still duplication and costly over-layering, like requiring financial security as well as payments into a decommissioning fund.

"Former permit holders can still be held liable for fields they transferred and no longer have any input into

the management of fields. This is a fundamental change to business law, and like moving the goal posts after the ball has been kicked.

"This is another blow to investment confidence at a time when our energy sector really needs new investment. This year we've seen blackouts, job losses and high prices for users thanks to an energy shortage.

"From here we'll work with officials to help the new regime work as well as possible."



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Kaponga WI turns 90



South Taranaki WI President Phyllis Malcolm presenting Mollie Nicholasher 60 year membership badge.

November 8 was a memorable occasion for the Kaponga WI as they celebrated 90 years since forming. A sub committee of five was formed to plan the day which was held in the sunshine outdoors with drinks and nibbles in the sunshine outdoors followed by the formal part

of the day. The tables were beautifully set with lots of colour. A minute's silence was held for past members and the WI Aspirations were read. The South Taranaki Federation President Phyllis Malcolm was present and proposed toasts to the NZ Federation and to Kaponga WI. Fiona Collins read the minutes from the first

meeting 90 years ago and Fiona also researched and wrote the history from the last 20 years. Thank you Fiona, a mammoth task but very interesting. Grace was recited and a toast to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was proposed.

We were served a beautiful buffet meal at the hotel and we wish to thank again the staff who looked after us so well.

All present received a gift

of goodies to take home along with a potted colour plant each.

The cake was made by Gillian Frandsen and iced by President Jo Ellis's daughter and featured the latest WI badge and several pansies which is our emblem. The cake was cut by President Jo and our long standing and treasured member Val Eliason.

A special award was made to Mollie Nicholas

for 60 years membership of Kaponga WI. Mollie has been involved heavily in everything over that time and is especially remembered for the plays and comedy she took part in.

There was a presentation of awards to all members to show appreciation for everything done to keep our WI progressing and fun.

While enjoying the beautiful cake with tea and coffee our talented

member Jo Jones and her partner Lindsay Berquist entertained us with some country music and singing. Thank you both.

Finally there were many people to thank but more importantly the day was made so special because of the members themselves, and we hope we can enjoy each other's company for many years yet.

Carolyn Nicholas



Kaponga WI members celebrate 90 years of WI in Kaponga.

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Summiting 50 Peaks

Helping raise awareness of mental health after over three years of taking on Project 50 Summits and achieving 13 to date, I decided to turn it into something a bit more than our personal goal. Next week, seven of us take off to Stewart Island for a week to climb New Zealand's southern-most tallest mountain, Mt Anglem, "Number 14." The project so far has taken us all over the country, sometimes achieving and sometimes failing, and enduring multi days of hardship. The Tararuas come to mind, still one trip never to be forgotten; mid-winter four summits, eight days, eight nights, zero results, and helped a search and rescue party. Two months later, seven days, seven nights, four summits climbed, from Northland (Te Whara), to Coromandel (Pinnacles), Raglan (Kario), and Pirongia (Waikato).

We made three attempts at climbing Mt Ruapehu over three years. Climbing Ngauruhoe we were inches from getting taken out by a backpack-sized boulder on descent.

Mental health needs attention. There are generally double the fatalities that there are on the



Fanthams Peak at sunrise looking out to sea.



At Taurangi Lodge. From left. Marley Campbell, Harrison Martins, Cayden Marsh, Alex Bengston.

road. I had a brush with it myself this year. To talk, to be open, and share the dark times can help, so primarily the 50 Summit Project is turning into a fund raiser and is aimed at anyone in need, and also secondly to hopefully get some financial help to summit the 30 South Island summits. Right now

we are seven, myself, my son Harrison, Alex, Cayden, Joe, Marley and Ethan. Six full of go-hard 15-16 year-olds with loads of energy, focus, passion and drive. After three very amazing trips to the Himalayas with

Continued page 17.



Harrison and Craig atop Taranaki.

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Summiting 50 Peaks



From left. Cayden Marsh, Craig Martins, Harrison Martins, Joe Edwards at Waingonoro Hut.

Continued from page 16.

my son (to Everest and two to Annapurna 2016-19)), the project is an obvious next direction to go. After Stewart Island, we will be heading back to the Ruahines in the New Year to climb Onihinga. Recently Harrison, and Joe on his 16th birthday, and

myself summited Te Atua Parapara in the Ruahine National Park in some of the most abysmal conditions, a great achievement.. After hopefully summiting Ohinga, we drive up to the top of East Cape to Hikurangi, New Zealand's most easterly mountain, and from the summit hope to see the sun rise, the first in the world to see this high point,

finally. In mid-January we will be down to Kaikoura to climb Tapuae-o-Uenuku, the highest of the 50, and the highest mountain north of Mt Cook.. This was one of Hillary's first challenging peaks. And then the journey continues. To help, regarding the funding for mental health we have a



At Waiua Gorge. From left. Jasmine Leatherby, Millie Moss, Joe Edwards, Ella Griggs, Cayden Marsh, Reece Griggs, Harrison Martin, Alex Bengston, Marley Campbell, Ethan Jensen.

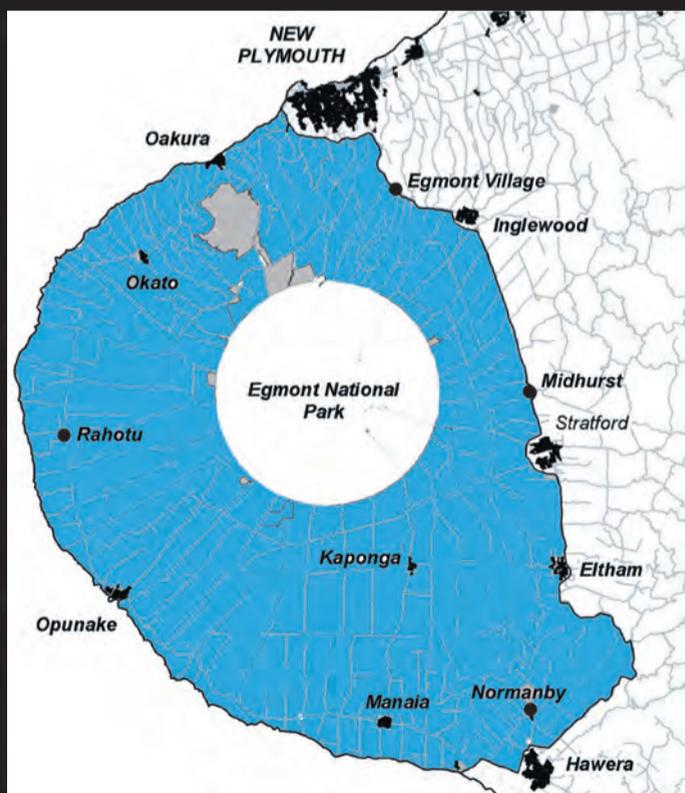
bank account. Donations can be made online to 50 Summits. 15-3953069523980. Money will go towards local mental health. Another personal goal is to have an AA meeting operating in Opunake. Help for us to summit the final peaks would also be appreciated. To be continued

Craig Martins.



Craig and Harrison on an earlier summit of Taranaki.

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

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Upgrade of funeral premises impressive

South Taranaki Funeral Services has undergone an impressive upgrade.

The premises at 268 High Street, Hawera has a whole new look with emphasis on a modern, welcoming chapel and foyer.

Owners Glenn Rogers and John Fullerton opened the fresh-look chapel at the Thursday 25 November Bizlink Hawera Business after Five function.

Glenn was delighted to see friendly faces within the South Taranaki business community, family, friends, and supporters attending the socially distanced gathering. "It's a treasured turnout – it really warmed my heart," he commented. "We've worked so hard to bring South Taranaki Funeral Services into 2021 and holding such a function, in a safe way, is a challenge at the moment. To be able to celebrate our hard work was a blessing."

South Taranaki Mayor and special guest Phil Nixon formally cut the ribbon and heralded the extensive upgrade of the chapel. "It's fantastic," he enthused and spoke of opportunities offered by Glenn and John's enterprise.



The exterior of South Taranaki Funeral Services at 268 High Street, Hawera.

Phil made special mention of the framed Herbert E Rogers watercolours adorning the foyer walls. Herbert was Glenn's great grandfather and Glenn is proud to be able to display Herbert's works

throughout. In a humorous aside, Phil told the tale of a young apprentice electrician, collared to help carry coffins for McCormick's Funeral and Furniture, which was near

the youngster's workplace. That electrical apprentice was Phil. That business is now known as South Taranaki Funeral Services.

Glenn's father- Robbie Rogers- travelled from his Rotorua home to attend the function. He was a valued guest who shared more about the history of the original watercolour paintings created by his grandfather, Herbert E Rogers. Herbert, born in the United Kingdom, arrived in New Zealand in 1910. After creating an impressive body of art, he passed away in 1945.

Apart from the improved surroundings, "Welcome to the new look," Glenn provided an excellent supper catered to everyone's tastes, whether sweet or savoury with plenty of refreshments. There were several speeches including one by Racquel Cleaver, Bizlink Hawera Chairman. She praised the appeal and scope of the

new renovations. Also present were Petra Finer and Nikki Watson, Bizlink Co-ordinators.

Glenn acknowledged the many people who had contributed to the upgrade. One of these was Vicki Fox from Quirky Fox who framed the many pictures in the Chapel and foyer. One photograph depicts a street scene in Hawera

Continued page 19

from earlier times; pictured was McCormick's Funerals and Furniture, mentioned earlier. "That's where this funeral home started," explained Glenn.

Glenn mentioned Marcus, who recently joined the firm. "He's my right hand man. I couldn't run the business without him."



Mayor of South Taranaki Phil Nixon cuts the official ribbon while owner Glenn Rogers watches.



Robbie Rogers, Glenn's father with a watercolour by Herbert E. Rogers, Glenn's great grandfather.

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SOUTH TARANAKI FUNERAL SERVICES

Upgrade of funeral premises impressive

Continued from page 18



The attractively upgraded Chapel.

After mentioning a considerable number of people Glenn concluded, "A lot of people think I'm a one man band - I'm not." He is grateful to his partner John and the many people who have contributed and supported him in this venture. Glenn credited his parents

Robbie and Joan with giving him the leg up he needed to truly start his career and become a certified funeral director. "They believed in me from the start, told me I could do anything and gave me the opportunity to make my dream come true." One of the special features of the modern chapel is

its capacity to readily seat 200 people, another is the sound desk and video delivery functions. There are screens located in the foyer, both large and small chapels and the arrangement room, allowing for comfortable smaller or larger services. Webcasting is also

available both on and offsite.

The huge screen perfectly displays personal tributes.

The many pictures around the walls of the chapel pay positive tribute to Hawera's past in an interesting fashion.

The attractively appointed chapel is well lit with natural lighting pouring in the windows, and a myriad of modern inset lighting.

Everything is state-of-the-art. South Taranaki Funeral Services has directional microphones to ensure everyone can hear speeches, special seating for anyone needing assistance, an onsite wheelchair and scooters.

The premises are wheelchair friendly. The chapel stage features a gentle easy access incline.

The entire premises are a controlled ambient temperature using whisper quiet heat pumps.

Safety features are an important consideration, such as the hose reel embedded in the chapel wall. Nearby, in the kitchen, is a defibrillator.

The renovations certainly



An early photograph of Hawera is of interest to these two people. On the right is where McCormick's Funerals was sited, the forerunner of the present business.

uphold Glenn's vision of a the celebration of someone's "bright, relaxed place for life."

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- 5 IT ALKALIZES THE BODY**
You suffer from serious health complications when your body is acidic. Sea salt helps extract excess acidity in the body and make it more alkaline.

- 6 IT STABILIZES BLOOD SUGARS**
Celtic sea salt benefits also include its ability to stabilize blood sugar. People with diabetes have a hard time maintaining their blood sugar levels, and that is when Celtic sea salt can be of great help.
- 7 IT IMPROVES ENERGY**
You are going to feel tired when your body does not have enough sodium and trace minerals. The solution is to include Celtic sea salt in your diet, which helps regenerate hydroelectric energy in the cells.
- 8 IT PREVENTS MUSCLE CRAMPS**
Your body will start cramping up when there is an electrolyte imbalance. In other words, you experience muscle cramps when your body loses sodium.
- 9 IT HELPS WITH KIDNEY STONES**
If you have been dealing with kidney stones for a while now, consider replacing refined salt with Celtic sea salt..

- 10 IT HELPS CONTROL SALIVA**
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Horse-and-buggy rides are popular in Okato

On Saturday November 20 many people had the unique thrill of a ride in a buggy transported by two Clydesdale horses with local identity Glenys Putt holding the reins, with assistance from Jade Pearce-Young. The event was a fundraiser for the Okato and Districts Historical Society, with a delicious meal at Stony River House an added attraction. During the ride

up Kaihihi Road the tuneful playing of a piano accordion by talented musician Aaron Bosch was a special bonus. Onlookers appeared along the road, with many pictures taken.

The short journey started off from Okato Domain at 11.30am and ended up at Stony River House. Naomi Dowding-Smith was one of the riders accompanied by her two sons Cormac (5) and



Arrival at Stony River house, with Glenys Putt holding the reins. Jade Pearce-Young ensures the horses are stationary.

Declan (2). Another person enjoying the rides was Claire Brown, a member of the Okato and Districts Historic Society; she supported both days.

Just before enjoying their meal diners listened to an interesting talk about the

former hotel by well-known story teller and author Lesley Dowding.

Situated at the corner of the Main South Road and Lower Kaihihi Road, the hotel was built in 1875 by Robert Gray, a Hampton Road farmer. After his death at age 82 his

son William took over. After 137 years, and many owners, the hotel ended its life as just a hotel on April 2012, the final proprietors being Peter and Katie Simmonds. These days Stepping Stones, a kindergarten and Stony River House occupy the

historic premises.

At 12.30pm a second horse-and-buggy trip departed from Okato Domain. There was one brief 'hiccup' when Glenys' dog Bonny jumped off the buggy to greet people who were watching the imminent departure. "She just loves kids," explained Glenys. As the party set off, snapping many pictures was a lady who commented "I think it's an awesome experience for everyone." She added, "My children (who were aboard) are just so excited."

It was a memorable experience for one three-year-old Lillyana Schlotjes, who got to sit beside Glenys, as can be seen in the accompanying picture.

Glenys has owned the buggy for about two years. She explained that it was designed in America, but actually constructed in Poland.



At the reins is Glenys Putt with Lillyana Schlotjes (aged 3) beside her.



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Dairy farmers looking for a bit more scale or for a bigger first farm, you best consider this one.

Comprising of approximately 160.25 hectares (395.99 acres) in total, being 79.30 hectares freehold and 80.95 hectares West Coast Lease, this farm is currently milking approximately 330 cows through an extremely tidy, modern 44-bail rotary cowshed and with its young stock grazed on farm produced 101,383 kgMS last season.

Being predominantly flat to easy in contour, with some Lahar on the Waiteika Road frontage, this farm has plenty of mowable country, is well subdivided and raced, and has a reliable water supply.

Along with two tidy homes on farm and plenty of sheds for storage, hay and calf rearing, there is real opportunity to take this farm to the next level.

Take the time to come and view this farm as you will see the potential here. \$4,600,000 ONO Plus GST (If Any)

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Located on Waiteika Road, Opunake this farm comprises 128.28 hectares (316.99 acres) of flat to easy contoured land with a little Lahar and is currently milking approximately 285 cows through a very tidy 30 ASHB cowshed.

Being largely square in shape and serviced by two main race systems, this farm has tidy fencing and a reliable water supply which makes the farm management all the easier.

The two homes comprise of a large, lovely and well maintained 3 bedroom, 2-bathroom family home, in a mature garden setting and a tidy 3-bedroom cottage.

With a good range of support buildings and good infrastructure in place, there is genuine opportunity to purchase a farm with some scale in a reliable farming area with a consistent production history.

If you are looking for a farm with some scale and further potential this is a must see.

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Comprising 207.6 hectares and located on the Ihaia Road, Opunake this farm is currently milking 250 cows through a very tidy 30 ASHB cowshed complete with ACR's and in shed feeding.

Being flat to easy in contour, this farm is well raced and subdivided, with a reliable water supply, tidy race systems and fencing in place.

Complemented by two extremely tidy and well presented family homes and plenty of support buildings for storage, hay and calf rearing, everything is in place to simply move in and carry on farming.

This farm has scale, presents well and provides a real opportunity for a sharemilker stepping up to their first farm or an existing farmer growing their farming operation.

Representing good buying, the vendors are motivated to move to their next venture.

\$4,100,000 plus GST (if any)

Blair Burnett
M 021 190 7728



TENDER | THIS IS ONE TOP FARM

2344 Opunake Road, Awatuna

eieio.co.nz #KPR00046

Tender Closes
4.00pm Friday
10th December 2021
at McDonald Real Estate Ltd
50 Tasman Street, Opunake

Open Day
Friday 02 December
12:15pm-12:45pm

Bordering both the Opunake and Auroa Roads, this productive 67.98 hectare (167.98 acre) dairy farm is currently milking between 170-180 cows through an extremely tidy 20 ASHB cowshed with an in-shed feed system and last year produced a little under 73,000 kgMS.

Being largely flat in contour with an excellent T race system, very tidy fencing and a reliable bore water system, this farm is very well set up and is a dream to manage.

The house is a 4-bedroom brick and cedar home with 2 living areas, 2 toilets and a large outdoor decked area. Recent improvements include a new Metro fire, HRV system, water filtration, kitchen alterations and new carpet.

This farm presents very well and in today's market represents good buying. Come along to the open days or book a time to view as you will be impressed with what is on offer here.

Blair Burnett
M 021 190 7728

Ben Johnston
M 027 422 0030



FOR SALE | GREAT FIRST FARM OR EXCELLENT LARGER RUNOFF

341 Puniho Road, Newall

eieio.co.nz #OAR00281

For Sale
By Negotiation

Viewing
By Appointment Only

Located on the Upper Puniho Road is this 130 hectare approximately (85 hectare effective) dairy farm, which is currently milking 190 cows through an excellent 9-year-old 36-bail rotary cowshed.

With two large 3-bay sheds and an old woolshed, there is plenty of room for your hay, storage and calf rearing facilities. Currently supplying Open Country, production has been consistent over recent years (last season production was 83,675 kgMS).

This farm is flat to easy in contour, is well subdivided, has good race systems and a reliable water supply.

There is a very tidy 3-bedroom family home with attached double garaging, plus the bonus of a 1-bedroom self-contained cottage.

This property has plenty of potential and for a first farm you will be hard pressed to find better value for money on the market today. Genuine and motivated vendors say the farm is seriously for sale.

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M 021 190 7728



TENDER | VERSATILE OPUNAKE RUNOFF

955 Opua Road, Opunake

eieio.co.nz #OAR00358

Tender Closes
4.00pm Thursday
2nd December 2021
at McDonald Real Estate Ltd
50 Tasman Street, Opunake

Viewing
By Appointment Only

Located at 955 Opua Road, Opunake is this very handy and versatile runoff comprising 58.34 hectares (144.17 acres) of land which is currently growing dairy replacement heifers, rearing calves, and cutting supplements.

With tidy race systems, fences and a reliable water supply in place, this farm would be an ideal block to grow your young stock close to home, winter cows and/or cut and carry some supplements.

The contour of this property comprises a mixture of flat, easy and rolling land with some Lahar, there is plenty of mowable contour for the making of supplements.

Support buildings include a disused cowshed and yards, along with a good-sized barn/calf shed.

If you're looking for a runoff or support block, this is one you must look come and look at.

Blair Burnett
M 021 190 7728



Environmental efforts good reason for celebration

It's more important than ever to celebrate the tremendous energy that many put into improving the region's environment, says Taranaki Regional Council Chair David MacLeod.

Announcing the 16 winners of this year's TRC Environmental Awards, Mr MacLeod says it's a chance to lift our heads above the challenges that 2021 has brought.

The awards recognise

a wide variety of environmental undertakings across the region, including: a Ngāruahine iwi initiative that saw the return of threatened freshwater species to waters where they hadn't been seen for years, a Rotokare educational programme whose graduates refused to leave a 22-year effort on behalf of QEII Trust that resulted in perpetual protection for thousands of hectares of

Taranaki bushland.

Mr MacLeod says it's reassuring to see people of all ages and all walks of life, and organisations ranging from iwi to corporates, taking action to protect and improve the region's environment, and getting good results.

This year's winners:

Environmental leadership in business. Taranaki District Health Board, and Mitre 10 and Mitre 10 MEGA, New



Bruce and Christine Maechler of Rahotu.



Students of Coastal Taranaki School.

Plymouth

Environmental leadership in dairy farming. PW and J Campbell Trusts Partnership, Waverley, Woodleigh Ltd, Waverley, and Bruce and Christine Maechler, Rāhotu

Environmental leadership in land management. Neil Phillips, New Plymouth, and Holmleigh Trust Partnership (Peter and Nicola Carver) Hāwera

Environmental action in the community. Valda Poletti and David Clarkson, New Plymouth, Keith Holswich, New Plymouth, Te Korowai

o Ngāruahine Trust, and Wildlife.ai Trust

Environmental action in education. Ratapiko School, Waitara East School, New Horizons Aotearoa, Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust, and Coastal Taranaki School

"In this year's lineup we see tangata whenua, farmers, students, trusts, agencies and companies, and committed individuals off their own bat, rolling up their sleeves and getting on with it," says Mr MacLeod.

"In a challenging year

like the one we're going through, it's more important than ever to celebrate efforts like this, and be inspired by them."

The usual presentation ceremony at a catered evening function cannot take place this year because of COVID-19 restrictions, so the awards are being presented in a series of ceremonies at the Council chamber in Stratford..

This year's awards take to the total to 329 since the programme began in 1993.



Congratulations

to the 2021

Environmental Award winners

Environmental leadership in business

- Mitre 10 and Mitre 10 MEGA New Plymouth
- Taranaki District Health Board

Environmental action in education

- Coastal Taranaki School
- New Horizons Aotearoa
- Ratapiko School
- Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust
- Waitara East School

Environmental leadership in dairy farming

- Woodleigh Ltd Middleton Family
- PW and J Campbell Trusts Partnership

Environmental leadership in land management

- Bruce and Christine Maechler
- Neil Phillips
- Holmleigh Trust Partnership Peter & Nicola Carver

Environmental action in the community

- Keith Holswich
- Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust
- Valda Poletti and David Clarkson
- Wildlife.ai Trust









Bruce and Christine Maechler



Waitara East School



Mitre 10 & Mitre 10 MEGA New Plymouth



Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust



New Horizons Aotearoa



Holmleigh Trust Partnership



Wodeleigh Ltd



Te Korowai o Ngāruahine Trust



PW and J Campbell Trusts Partnership

Taranaki Regional Council ☎ 06 765 7127 ✉ info@trc.govt.nz 🌐 www.trc.govt.nz

Richard was determined to get it right

Richard Meyer was determined to get it right when it came time to upgrade his effluent management system. He knows all too well the importance of investing in something that is not only going to futureproof the farm, but also increase efficiencies in making use of the effluent nutrients. After taking a keen interest in the effluent management system installed on a friend's farm, he took their advice and gave Nevada a call...



LLOYD THOMAS

short-term solution to get the muck spread. There's real value in effluent, and I wanted to get a system where we can really make use of the resource and cutting down the operating costs to make it happen.'

Located in Manaia, South Taranaki, Richard runs a 170-cow dairy farm spanning 80ha. For a while he had shared a pump and irrigator with his uncle on the neighbouring farm, however the old equipment was inefficient and not worth the effort. So, for the past few years Richard had got a contractor in, however he knew this was not the long-term solution.

When a friend in Stratford got a Nevada system installed, Richard took a keen interest. He liked the simplicity of the operation, and his friend was happy with the system and service, so recommended he give Nevada a call. Lloyd took a drive out to visit Richard



Getting things future-proofed on a Manaia farm.

on farm and they worked together to plan out his system around his goals of being futureproofed and efficient.

While using a contractor Richard had needed two ponds for storage, but after checking the main effluent pond for any council

compliance issues, including DESC, Lloyd concluded with a new system the second pond was no longer needed.

'We always recommend effluent storage being more than the minimum council requirements. This means farmers aren't worried if

there's a wet winter full of heavy rain, or they increase their herd. Richard's main pond has more than enough storage, so now he can fill in the second pond and have more land for grazing.'

– Lloyd Thomas, Nevada Effluent Management Specialist

Lloyd designed the effluent system for maximum efficiency. Since electricity was available, an electric system was ideal for the most effective use of power, and to enable Richard to automate the system – reducing labour. The new effluent management system consists of a Nevada 9m electric pond stirrer and Sabre PC pump leading out to a Spider Deluxe travelling irrigator.

‘The new system is exactly what we were hoping for. It's simple to operate, we just flick a switch and away it goes, and there's the auto shut-off function if anything happens. It's easy to adjust the application too. The product is awesome, and we'll be recommending Nevada to everyone. We've really appreciated working with them, and we're absolutely happy with the whole design, install – just the whole experience.’

Lloyd Thomas
Nevada Effluent Management Specialist

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Crunch time for contractors

Federated Farmers say their concerns about the serious shortage of experienced agricultural machinery operators is proving justified as summer approaches.

A shortage of experienced operators is being felt across

rural New Zealand, and the pressure is building on both farmers and rural contractors, Feds immigration and employment spokesperson Chris Lewis says.

‘Unfortunately, we all saw this coming a long way out. Federated Farmers has repeatedly explained the implications of having no international seasonal rural workers to the Immigration, Primary Industries and Workplace Relations and Safety Ministers, the Primary Production Select Committee and the CEO of WorkSafe.

‘The shortage is leaving both contractors and farmers in the lurch and we have serious concerns for the coming season. These are complex machines that require experienced operators,’ Chris says.

Rural contractors deal with a workload that is both seasonal and weather reliant. An experienced team of operators is needed to ensure

that arable and forage crops can be planted and harvested at the required times.

‘Without enough operators the industry is facing a loss of production and contractors are facing health and safety risks, both through long hours worked by the staff available and being forced to put inexperienced operators in charge of machinery.’

Stress also comes on for farmers who are relying on contractors to prepare supplementary animal feed for when grass is short, Chris said.

‘Rural contracting companies have done all they can to attract and train new staff, but a willing young Kiwi can't match the experience of those workers who have come straight from driving the same machines in the Northern Hemisphere.’

Feds is urging farmers and contractors to sit down and work together to plan how to work with the limited labour and time available.

‘This is not going to be an ordinary season on the farm,’ Chris said.

On this month in history First ascent of Aoraki Mount Cook

On December 25, 1894 the first ascent of Aoraki/Mount Cook was achieved after ten earlier failures.

The three successful climbers were Tom Fyfe, Jack Clarke and George Graham. Part of the

motivation was to ensure the mountain (3754 metres) was climbed by New Zealanders. They were aware that an Anglo-American climber, with a Swiss guide Mattias Zurbriggen, were planning to make the ascent.

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Tributes to former minister and farming leader

Former Taranaki-King Country MP Shane Ardern who served with John Luxton remembers him as a perfect gentleman.

John Luxton held a number of cabinet portfolios in the 1990s including Minister of Agriculture, and after retiring from parliament was the inaugural chairman of DairyNZ. He died on November 14 aged 75.

"Everyone liked John, he was such a genuine nice guy," says Shane. "Sir Bill English summed it up perfectly when he said John was the MP most people in parliament disagreed with, but the MP most people in parliament liked. He held clear and focused views and was often ahead of where most people were thinking. He would put forward something that was edgy, but he did it in such a way that everybody respected his views."

He remembers John Luxton as someone who was "super fit" and used to run marathons.

Mr Luxton entered parliament as MP for Matamata in 1966, succeeding his father Jack Luxton. He went on to be Minister of Energy, Minister of Maori Affairs, Minister of Housing, Minister of Police and Minister of Agriculture.

DairyNZ chairman Jim van der Poel and chief executive Dr Tim Mackle have also paid tribute to him.

"John has had a major role in the success of New Zealand's dairy industry. John has always demonstrated strong leadership and longstanding commitment to the sector," says Mr van der Poel.

"John was instrumental in a number of significant policy and legislative changes in New Zealand, including the foundation policy work that led to the formation of Fonterra and the deregulation of producer boards.

"One of his major achievements was shaping the development of DairyNZ – the first industry-good body of its kind and the largest in Australasia."

Dr Mackle says he will



The Hon. John Luxton. 1946-2021.

remember Mr Luxton for always being very supportive and being a statesman and diplomat who could bring people together.

"John was an influential leader who unified the dairy sector from dairy companies through to local and central government departments,"

he says.

"He led by values, had enormous integrity, and always put the best interests of those in the rural sector first. We will miss him."

Mr Luxton's achievements during his time as chairman include launching a new strategy for sustainable dairy

farming and a new water accord in 2013 alongside former Prime Minister John Key, championing investment in research and development to improve on-farm innovation and the competitiveness of the New Zealand dairy industry, advocating for education

and the ongoing investment in people to improve the skills and capability within the industry.

He was also key in establishing DairyNZ's role in policy and advisory, establishing the Waikato Dairy Leaders Group and chairing the industry leader's forum, and leading a record dairy levy vote in 2014, increasing levy support from 75% in 2008 to 82% in 2014. Mr van der Poel says he

was instrumental in guiding a generation of rural leaders, many of whom have gone on to hold leadership roles within the sector.

"From myself personally, but also from the whole Board, we will always be indebted to John for this contribution. His legacy will live on. It was a privilege working with John and we send our deepest sympathy at this very sad time to his family," he says.

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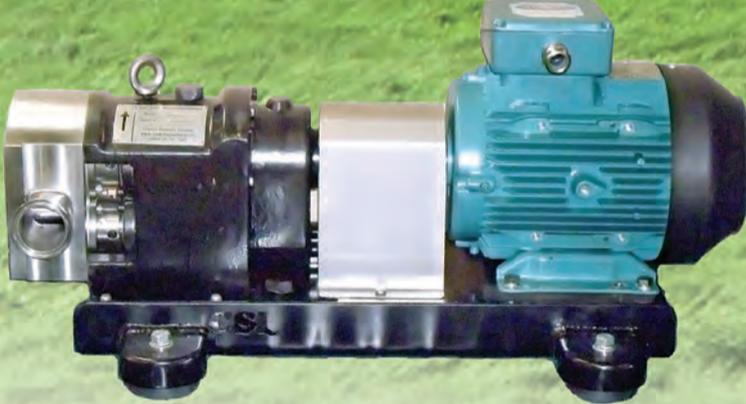
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A groundswell of protest hits the streets

Billed as the Mother of all Protests, Groundswell came to Hawera on November 21. The nationwide protest brought farmers and rural people from all around the country into their local towns in protest at what they

saw as eight unworkable regulations including the Three Waters Reform affecting farmers, growers and rural communities.

Four months earlier the Howl of a Protest had also drawn country people into their towns in protest. On that occasion Hawera had been left off the list with the emphasis being placed on Taranaki people making their presence felt in New Plymouth.

This time Hawera was included. They came in tractors, trucks, cars and utes and congregated at the racecourse early on a Sunday afternoon. They then set off on the drive along Waihi Road, before turning on to the State Highway and then on to Collins Street, and along High Street through the town's shopping centre, before finishing by King Edward Park. Sandfords trucks mingled with farmers on their tractors and agricultural contractors in their vehicles.

Passing motorists were giving toots and waves of support as they drove past the parked vehicles.

Hawera Groundswell co-ordinator Neville Wallace said about 160 vehicles of various types would have taken part in the protest. He was there in his Navara ute sporting a sign saying, "If you eat today thank a farmer. If it's on your table thank a trucker. If you eat in peace thank a veteran."

Neville says he's been a farmer all his life. "I've never done anything like this before," he said. "I was impressed with the support from the public standing at their gates watching us go by, and there's been great support from the local contractors."

Among those driving a tractor was South Taranaki District Council mayor Phil Nixon who is himself an Inaha farmer. He singled out the Three Waters reform for criticism, which he said had been characterised by broken promises.



Hawera Groundswell co-ordinator Neville Wallace.

"We were told we could opt out, but that's been taken out," he said. "We were told that there would be consultation with the community, but that hasn't happened."

"I'm really pleased to see that so many people turned out, as well as the number of people in front of their gates who gave us the thumbs up."

Normanby farmer Ted Gane had a sign on his tractor saying "How about honest consultation?"

"I'm a fourth generation farmer and I feel as though I should sell the farm as the regulations are killing us. I've got a couple of boys who are keen to farm, but with all these rules I'm thinking, am I doing the right thing by them by holding on to it? I enjoy the farm. I enjoy working with the stock, but beyond the farm gate it's something else."

"I'm sick of all the rubbish this crowd in Wellington is forcing on us," he said. "Carbon credits are a load of junk. They are trying to make us pay for the air that we breathe. They are trying to force gross emissions on to the farming community when they should be looking at net emissions."

Normanby farmers Adam and Josie Werder were there helping out with the



Groundswell rolled its way through Hawera.

organisation of the protest. "It's a busy few months for the contractors so we weren't sure how many of them would turn up," said Josie.

Adam said they were there to let people in towns about their concerns. He said the farming community had been subjected to a range of

new regulations including the Three Waters reforms, Significant Natural Areas and the diesel tax among others.

"A lot of people aren't aware what's going on," he said. "If people are not happy about something, then they are not happy for a reason."



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Speedway gets a start - at last

After three previous attempts to get the speedway season underway were thwarted by weather and covid concerns, competitors were finally able to face the green light when racing at the MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway took place for the first time on November 20.

It was a different experience at the track with Covid regulations meaning there were no food trucks, scanning in was mandatory and masks required to be worn while walking around, but a good number of people made the most of the warm weather and the chance to get out and do something, to come along and spectate at the Smith and Sons Renovations sponsored meeting, with some of those people also making the most of the pop up vaccination van that was on site to grab a Covid vaccination at the same time.

Six classes were on the race card, with four of those racing for their City of New Plymouth Classics - Superstocks, Saloons, Minisprints and Adult Ministocks.

Carl Shearer, in his new 'Rees' built car was in fine form and recorded a seventh place in race one, followed by a first and a second in



The first races of the Stratford Speedway season got underway on the 20th of November.

the next two to win the Superstock classic ahead of Gisborne contracted racer Bruce Williams who survived a ride around the wall in race three courtesy of Brad Uhlenberg and Zane Riddick who impressed to come home third overall.

Tyler Walker debuted his new car and after suffering mechanical issues in the first two races, he won race three by a good margin and showed just what the new car (Roger) can do.

After tapping the wall in the first race, Thomas

Korff gathered everything together to win the City of New Plymouth Classic for Saloons. His second place in race one, followed by two wins, the last after a daring drive around the outside of front runners Blake Hooper

and Richard Dreaver ensured that he was unable to be caught on the points chart. Hooper was second while Craig Korff and Richard Dreaver tied for third.

Cameron Hurley was the most consistent driver of the

14 Minisprint pilots on hand and won the Minisprint Classic after recording two third place finishes and a fifth. New Zealand ranked number three Bayley Betts was second while Mark Phipps was third. Newcomer to the class Ella Sharpe was looking good for a podium finish but had a little bad luck when a crank sensor wire fell off, causing her car to come to a stop on the last lap of the last race.

Fourteen Adult Ministocks faced the starter for their first race which was won by Gary Adamson but it was Roger Dettling who took overall honours after recording sixth, first and fourth to win the Classic by just one point from Palmertson North racer Jack Lammas-Martin. Malissa Alexander was third, just one further point behind Lammas-Martin.

Modifieds and Stockcars completed the race program with Shaun Bloeman dominating the racing in his new Modified and winning all three races, seemingly with ease while Stockcar race wins went the way of Bryce Jensen (two) and William Hughes.

Jarrod MacBeth

Sandfords Manaia Golf Club results

November 8. Monday night Ambrose. 1. 20 Whacks. 2. Rama Rd. 3. Cory's Team. 4. The Bots. 5. Golfing Gibbies.

November 13. Club championships Men. Senior Sam Jones. Runner-Up Caleb Symes. Intermediate. Greg Elliott. Runner-Up Jim Ngere. Junior. Grant Gopperth. Runner-Up. Jamie Johnson. Limit. 1. Grant Hastie. Runner-Up Craig Jones.

Ladies. Silver Fay Ford. Runner-Up Claudia Munro. Bronze I. Marina Gopperth. Runner-Up Michelle Cathie.

Bronze II. Christine Vanner. Runner/Up Margaret Putt.

Juniors Ambrose. 1. The Champs. Last. The High Hopes.

November 15. Ambrose. 1. Tui & Red. 2. Double Bogey. 3. The BAs. 4. Winks Rd. 5. 20 Whacks.

Closed Xmas Hamper. 1. Grant Gibbs. 2. Jackie Higgins. 3. John Oliver. 4. Ralph Symes. 5. Michele Furness. 6. Jamie Johnson. 7. Carolyn Koch. 8. Wayne Baker.

Wednesday November 17. Te Ngutu. Ladies sixth in Rosebowl. Marina Gopperth

Bronze 1 champion of champions.. Christine Vanner second

November 20. Men's team. Sam Jones Senior Champion of Champions. Greg Elliott third. Intermediate. Grant Gopperth third Junior Men.

End of month. 1. N.Murfitt. 2. Nathan Ngere. 3. Denis Hurcomb.

November 27. Saturday Men. 1. Paul Hunn. 2. Liam Campbell. 3. Trevor Larsen. Junior. Putts. 1. Carter Symes. 2. Luke Norris. 3. Destiny Climo. 4. Drej Climo. Max Bailey.

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Stratford Speedway's second meeting!

It was the turn of the Modifieds, Stockcars and Streetstocks to shine at the MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway on Saturday night when they raced for their City of New Plymouth Classic trophies, their first silverware of the season.

Eight Modifieds were on hand to contest their event, including Wellington driver, Dave Smith. Shaun Bloeman continued his form from last week to win the first race ahead of Blair Luscombe who's car was performing much better compared to the previous meeting after he replaced the mufflers that had clogged with the internal baffling. Race two saw Bloeman and Ricky Paul tangle through the second turn with Bloeman being sent to the rear of the field while Tony Zehnder ran a great race up front to grab his first checkered flag of the season. After a dubious start in Race three, Carl Hinton ran at the front of the field for the duration of that race to grab the win. Overall points saw Hinton and Luscombe tied with Hinton claiming first place overall after winning a run off while Bloeman was third.

Bryce Jensen looked to be on track for victory in the Stockcar class after



Last Saturday night (27th November) the Modifieds, Streetstocks and Stockcars made their first appearance of the season at Stratford Speedway.

winning the first race and finishing fifth in the second. However, while running in third place in race three, with just one lap to go a wheel bearing let go and turned

his car to the infield. Tyler Walker, driving Emilio Hatchers car recorded first and two second placings to win the City of New Plymouth Classic. William

Hughes finished two points behind Walker for second while Mark Duthie, who was racing for the first time this season claimed third place.

With fourteen cars,

Streetstocks produced some close racing. Nick Smith held on to win the first race after several challenges from both Adam Young and Darron Jeffrey for the lead

in the later laps of the race. He then finished second behind brother Dylan Smith and again finished first in race three to win the Classic with near maximum points ahead of Dylan Smith. Ron McGrath came home in third.

Completing the race program on the night were Youth Ministocks, Superstocks and Saloons. The new drivers in the Youth Ministock class had their own race to start with before joining the more experienced drivers in the later races. Chase Korff won the 'newbie' race while the other races were won by Cory Symes and Corban Swan (2). Lukah Philips was unlucky, after leading race two for the duration, she was passes by Swan on the last turn of the last lap. Superstock races were won by Haydin Barker, Blair Uhlenberg and Sheldon Arapere while Saloon victories went to Thomas Korff, Blake Hooper and Craig Korff.

The next race meeting at the MG Taranaki Stratford Speedway is on Saturday December 11th, with racing starting at 7pm.

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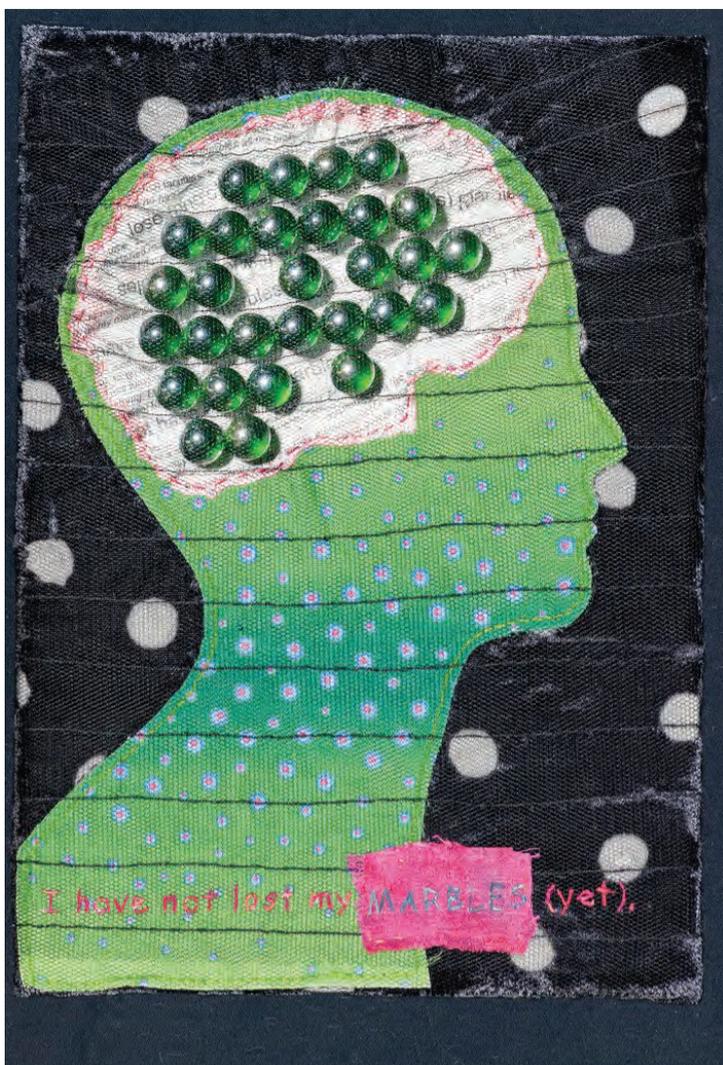
I Haven't Lost My Marbles (Yet) - Solo exhibition

An exhibition by Jeanette Verster.

For her exhibition Jeanette took the idea of an alphabet book and created a work for each letter of the alphabet that deals with an aspect of aging. The works are made of a wonderful range of special fabrics and papers, carefully stitched and embellished. Each letter has its word - for example W is for Wrinkles, D is for Downsizing. There is a gentle respectful humour in the pieces and everyone can relate to them.

To go with the exhibition there are a few smaller works and a beautiful photographic alphabet book.

At 'from out of the blue studio gallery', 18 Halse Place, Opunake. The exhibition is on now until December 20. The gallery is open Thursdays - Mondays 1 - 5pm or by appointment. Ph. 021 407 424.



Above: An artwork from the solo exhibition *I Haven't Lost My Marbles (Yet)* by Jeanette Verster. The exhibition is on now at the 'from out of the blue gallery' in Opunake until Dec 20.

Te Ngutu Golf Club Tournament

Last week Te Ngutu Golf Club hosted their first Pro Am. A very successful day saw 20 Golf Professionals, New Zealand's top amateurs and 74 local team players.



Above: The Leading Professionals were Sam Jones (3rd), Kerry Mountcastle (2nd) and Luke Toomey (1st) pictured with Melissa Cleaver from CMK. Left: The winning team was 'Tim White Electrical'. Pictured from left are James Hydes (amateur) Vernon Cleaver, Deidre Cleaver, Helen Kelly and Paul Johnson.

Beaches - Gardens - Cafes - Restaurants - Walkways - Accommodation - Art

Awesome Opunake

Play, Stay and Enjoy



Our Major supporters are:



Keep an eye on the Opunake Facebook page for regular updates.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

- **OPUNAKE BEACH CARNIVAL:**
Saturday 8 January, 2022
Stalls, Hourly raffles, Big Dig, Pageants
- **2022 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF HISTORIC MOTORING:**
Wednesday 19th January, 2022
DESTINATION OPUNAKE

Opunake is our destination and lunch stop. The main street will be closed for the parking of 516 vintage vehicles built from 1906 to 1981 for public viewing.

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Above: Alexandra Lawn (Fuzz), Christine Ryan (Snarkey), Michelle Julian (Captain Jane Hook), John McCarty (Smee).

The pirates of Peter Pan

Opunake Players pirates are ready to show you how bad they can be. These pirates are ready to show you how bad they can be. How bad is that? They are so bad... well... you'll have to find out when you come along.

See ad for more details. Covid says "Remember to bring your mask."

KAPONGA HOTEL
Cafe, bar, restaurant and accommodation. Under new management.
The cafe will now be re-opened 9am-2pm Mon to Fri
Trading Hours: 11am to late 7 days a week
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
KAPONGA HOTEL 49 Egmont St, Kaponga 06 764 6770
Follow our Kaponga Hotel facebook page for daily promotions and updates.

OPUNAKE PLAYERS AT THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE PRESENT

PETER PAN

DECEMBER 2 - DECEMBER 11 2021

Tickets \$20 Adult
\$10 Children Under 13
Under 5's Free on your knee.

Tickets available from 15 November at Sinclair Electrical and Refrigeration Opunake

Amanda Stone Productions
- Live, Laugh, Perform -

COASTALCARE

Haumaru ki Tai - Health and Community Centre

Invitation Reminder

It has been a little over six years since CoastalCare opened with 20 different health service providers.

We spent \$2.25 million to build a magnificent facility and thank to the massive generosity from our Opunake and Coastal community, plus grants received, we opened debt-free.

Today we have 32 different health service providers with two more flagged to start in the new year.

Room space at CoastalCare has now become quite congested and we need to make some improvements to the floor space usage to keep the services functional.

The first stage of our remodel is to enclose the Medical Centres ambulance load out bay area and it will become the Red Zone! All covid associated work, including checking any respiratory symptoms and covid testing will be serviced in this new area, this will be starting soon.

For the internal space alterations, the costings could be in the \$250k region, we have limited funds of our own and although grant monies will hopefully make some contribution, we believe we will need to meet this cost.

We also intend to run a cull cow/beef scheme, we will be communicating with the farming community in the near future.

To show the community what we've been up to and intend to do in the near future, we are having an "open doors" showing on Sat Dec 4th 10am - 12 noon.

It will include a continuous sausage sizzle, with complimentary refreshments.

Thank you for your previous support, patronage, and interest in what we provide for your community.

The team at CoastalCare

DID YOU KNOW?

CoastalCare offers for hire, quiet, private, well-appointed rooms for meetings, training opportunities and social gatherings.

Our permanent residents are: Opunake Pharmacy, Opunake Medical Centre, St. Johns Ambulance, Plunket, Health Board Services, Coastal Printers

For a full list of services and happenings here at CoastalCare find us on facebook or visit us at www.coastalcare.co.nz

CONTACT
ARETHA LEMON
Facility Manager on
06 761 8488

Our Christmas issue is due out on the 16th of December. Our deadline for content is December 6. Call us now on 06 761 7016 to ensure you get in it.

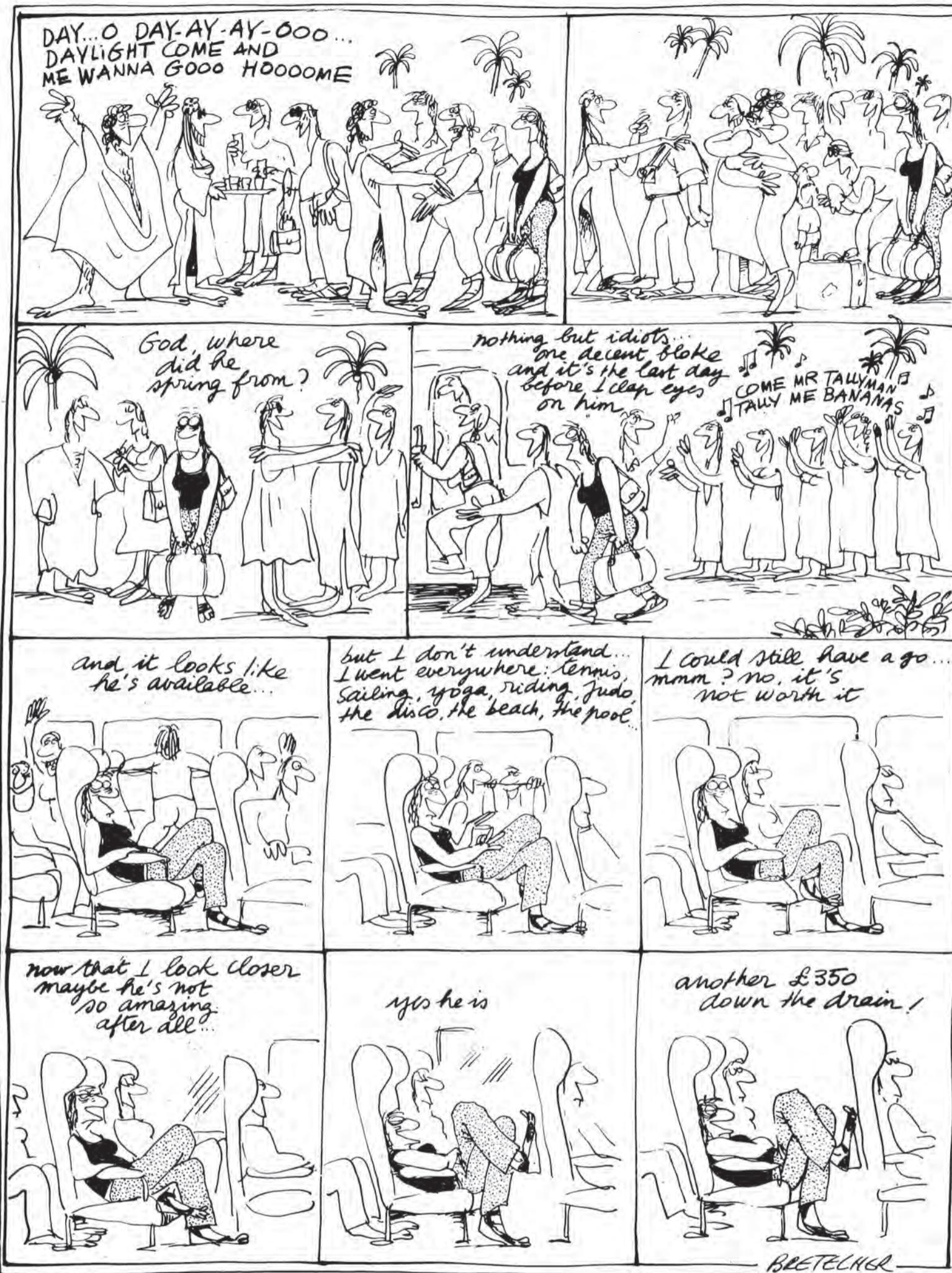
EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

72 Tasman Street, Opunake - www.everybodystheatre.co.nz - Phone 027 383 7926
December 2021
Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs and Senior Citizens \$8, Under 4 free

<p>THE RESCUE Documentary, 1hrs 47mins Exempt Sun 5th Dec 7pm Sun 19th Dec 1pm</p>	<p>A BOY CALLED CHRISTMAS Adventure, Family 1hr 46mins PG Sat 4th Dec 1pm Fri 24th Dec 1pm</p>
<p>DUNE Sci Fi 2hrs 35mins M Sat 4th Dec 7pm Sun 12th Dec 7pm Sat 18th Dec 7pm</p>	<p>ENCANTO Animation, Family 1hr 42mins PG Fri 3rd Dec 7pm Sat 11th Dec 1pm</p>
<p>ETERNALS Action, Drama 2hrs 37mins M Sat 10th Dec 7pm</p>	<p>SPIDERMAN - NO WAY HOME Action, Adventure 2hrs 28mins TBA Fri 17th Dec 7pm Sun 26th Dec 1pm Tue 28th Dec 7pm</p>
<p>ROSE PLAYS JULIE Drama 1hr 40mins M Sat 11th Dec 7pm Sun 19th Dec 7pm</p>	<p>WELCOME TO SMELLVILLE Animated, Family 1hr 25mins PG Sat 18th Dec 1pm</p>
<p>MATRIX - RESURRECTIONS Action, Sci Fi 2hrs 28mins M Fri 31st Dec 7pm</p>	<p>SING 2 Animated, Family 1hr 52mins PG Mon 27th Dec 1pm Fri 31st Dec 1pm</p>

Stuck for a Christmas gift? Then grab a Centennial Book. Great value at just \$35 each. Support Local. Phone us now to reserve your copy.

FIASCO



What's On Listings

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

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

Opunake Friendship Club: Meeting last Monday of each month in Opunake Town Hall at 1.30pm. All welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOVEMBER 8 TO DECEMBER 4
Pamela Lines 'Watercolour Reflections' exhibition: At Lysaght Watt Gallery, Hawera.

DECEMBER 2 TO 11
Opunake Players Production of 'Peter Pan': At the Lakeside Playhouse, Opunake.

DECEMBER 4
Pungarehu Golf Club Lamb Tournament: At Pungarehu Golf course from 9am.

DECEMBER 8
Manaia Golf Club AGM: At the Clubrooms, Bennett Rd, Manaia. Starts 7pm..

DECEMBER 11, 18, 26
Stratford Speedway Racing: At Stratford Speedway. Racing starts at 7pm.

Pastimes
 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all my customers and thank you for your support

- Open 7 days until Christmas 8.30am to 5pm
- In December we are open everyday until Christmas
- Saturdays till 3pm, Sundays 10am to 3pm

87 Tasman St, Opunake Ph 06 761 8151

The Opunake & Coastal News wishes all of our readers a safe and enjoyable build up to Christmas. The next issue is due out on December 16 and is our largest issue of the year. We urge everyone who would like to contribute to the paper to contact us early. Please call us on 06 761 7016 or email us on editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz.

Club Hotel RESTAURANT, BARS, TAB, GAMING LOUNGE, BOTTLE STORE, ACCOMMODATION

Happy Hours Sun, Mon, Thurs 4pm-7pm

100 TASMAN ST, OPUNAKE - PH 06 761 8213
 email: clubhotel.opunake@gmail.com

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 Rahul Tyagi - email: rahotutavern@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES



MANAIA GOLF CLUB INCORPORATED

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 7.00pm

To be held at the Clubrooms, Bennett Drive, Manaiia

All members welcome



Next Meeting is on December 6, 2021 at 5.30pm

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

BUDGET ADVICE available by appointment, home visits or at Coastal Care office. Phone 0800 333 048.

TRADES & SERVICES



Contact Phill - 027 236 7129

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HCL BUILDERS for concrete work. Ph 027 236 7129.

LAWNMOWING, and section maintenance by local contractor SOS. Free quote. Ph 027 605 8437.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is due out on December 16.

McNEIL DECORATING – for all your painting and decorating. Ph: Jason McNeil 027 233 4584.

HCL BUILDERS for all kitchens. Ph 027 236 7129.

WANTED TO BUY

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

CHURCH NOTICES

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

Okato Co-operating Parish
Okato - St Pauls – 10.00am, 1st and 3rd Sundays each month
Okato - St Pauls – 5.00pm, Evensong, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month
Oakura - St James – 10.00am, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

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

St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays

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

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

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

SITUATIONS VACANT

Apprentice Industrial Electrician – Permanent Full-Time Position

Hawera based company seeking 2 electrical apprentices to start February 2022.

Taranaki Industrial Electrical Services is a successful industrial electrical company with a reputation for providing quality work to its customers through electrical contracting services to the dairy, oil and gas industries and through nationwide safeguarding of machinery to AS4024.

To ensure your success in this role, you will need:

- A genuine desire in becoming a registered electrician
- Enthusiasm and commitment to keeping up with the required learning
- Resilient work ethic and takes pride in their work
- Knowing the importance of teamwork and communication
- A positive approach to health and safety
- A willingness to work outside of Taranaki for brief periods
- A driving licence: Restricted or Full
- A sense of humour

As part of our recruitment process all candidates are required to pass a pre-employment drug test and provide a Vaccine Pass.

Applications close on Friday, 10th December 2021 at 4:00pm.



Please forward applications including CV and references to lena@ties.nz
Ref: Apprentice Electrician

SITUATIONS VACANT



CATERER NEEDED
Be your own boss at Te Ngutu Golf Club.
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and tournament days.
Further information contact Julie on 027 445 8705



We are a small family owned ECE Centre in Okato, Taranaki and we are seeking 2 new team members to join our team for 2022.

2 Positions Available

- A fully qualified ECE and registered teacher for a One Year Fixed Term Contract to cover Maternity Leave (32 - 40 hours per week). Start date beginning of Term Two 2022.
- A fully qualified ECE and registered Teacher (Permanent 32 – 40 hours per week). Start date beginning of Term One 2022.

We are looking for a motivated, passionate, and easy-going individual who has a sound knowledge of all ECE standards, be fun loving, friendly and can work well in a team.

If you would like more information, please contact Katie Simmonds on 027 715 7348 or send your current CV, cover letter and two referees to kjssteppingstones@gmail.com

Closing date for applications is 3pm Friday 17th December 2021.



OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS



Our Christmas Edition and Holiday Guide will be out on the 16th of December.



The deadline if you would like to wish your customers and clients a Merry Christmas or feature your business in the Holiday Guide is December 7. Get in touch with us now!
Email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
Ph: 06 761 7016

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BARGAIN
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