



Inside



Jock Kirk signs off. Page 12



Last day for historic church. p13.



Keeping rural communities connected.. Page 17



Art with a social conscience. p 24

Popular picnic table no more

Ron Brewer wants the South Taranaki District Council to reinstate his cliff top table and seats. The former Egmont Plains Community Board member had installed the table and seats which overlook Opunake Beach back in 2004. The first he knew about them being taken down was when a nearby resident mentioned it to him in conversation.

South Taranaki District Council community facilities manager Phil Waite says an assessment on the stability of the Opunake cliff top area was required as part of the Opunake Beach Master Plan and in order to provide for the safety of people walking or sitting near the cliff tops, seating and fences were being shifted further back from the cliff edge. Once the fences are shifted, the seats would be brought back, he said.

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (August 18) Ron Brewer had recently replaced the table's macro-

carpa slab with tantalised pine. "It's quite popular and certainly gets used a lot," he said at the time. "Most of the surfies come along and study the surf from here." The table is next door to the Cliff Top Garden which is an integral part of the Opunake Walkway.

He said he had decided back in 2004 that having a table and seats overlooking the beach where people could stop, eat their lunch and admire the view would be a good idea.

"There's 50 pavers there, there's the concrete I put down, the table, the timber and the screws, and they're going to rip it all up," he says.

A fortnight ago Opunake business owner Brian Collins said he noticed the table top and seats had been taken along with other seating along the same stretch of road leading to the lookout.

"I thought they had been vandalised to start with," says Brian. "I saw Ron about a week later and said I see the local vandals have been wrecking



All that remains of Ron Brewer's cliff top table and seats.

your table. He didn't know anything about it. He rang the South Taranaki District Council to tell them and they said they had taken it away themselves."

He said the Council had cited the possible damage caused by slips. Neither Ron or Brian say they accept this argument.

"I just can't see the reasoning behind this at all," says Ron. "I would like to know who is pushing this. If you have trees growing on top like you have here, there's little likelihood of it slipping away. You have tree roots everywhere."

He said the table is next to a

popular lookout and car park which overlooks the beach. Below is another carpark and picnic table which would presumably be hit in the event of a slip, but these are still being allowed to stay.

He said he had been told that recent slip dangers in nearby Middleton Bay had prompted the Council to take action but even here there are other tables and seats which would similarly be affected that have been left alone. It's also still possible for campervans to park close to the cliff top, he said.

Brian Collins says he has lived in Opunake all his life and some of the cliff top seats have been there all that time.

"Where Ron's seats are, there's been no slips in all the time I've been there," he says.

"It's no closer to the cliff than the mosaic sofa. The Hawera people are making decisions for the Opunake people without any consultation and without even looking at it themselves. Is this just the start of something, so that the day's going to come when we can't even look over and see the beach?"

Phil Waite says the report drawn up by specialist geologists had said slips had been occurring for some time, most recently in September 2015 at the base of the goat track.

"Further around the coast, although not at the campground area, a section of cliff at one of the headlands, close to the cliff top walk, collapsed just a few months ago."

Continued page 3



As recently as August Ron Brewer had placed a new top on the table he had built in 2004.

Our last issue for the year is on December 22.

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 email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz
 You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.



Remembering Ronald Hugh

Re Opinion. Ronald Hugh Morrieson. This was a good article. The Morrieson Bar was named after him as the band played there often at Victoria Street, Hawera. The book Pallet on the Floor is around Patea. The two-storey house Beaconsfield on the hill at Patea was used in the film. I have in my possession the swan from the house Mrs Morrieson used at Christmas time with egg nog.

I have sent quite a few articles from your paper to NZ film buffs and they have been very interested. They now read from your website.
*Denise Valentine
 Hawera.*

Water

For some time now the

people of Opunake have been unhappy with the colour and taste of the water.

Council staff have been flushing the pipes to try and fix the problem but the issue is still causing concern,

Councillor Bryan Roach and I attended our regular Engineering meetings with other Councillors and senior staff. We discussed water issues around the district and reports that show that most of our water supply is compliant.

As your representatives we are happy to see that the water quality is compliant but we feel very strongly that we all deserve better. Discoloured water with dubious taste at times is not an acceptable level as far as we are concerned.

Senior staff took a very positive response to our concerns outlining that some new technology was

viewed very recently that could allow council to clean the water pipes in sections without the need to flush.

If the trials show some benefit then that will be looked at as a good option to sort out these issues.

However it was pointed out that many of our underground pipes may have to be replaced over the next ten years. The trick is to know which ones. We can set up expensive cameras etc but a very cheap and effective way is to ask for your help.

How can we as citizens help ourselves?

The most effective way to help is to phone the Council help line whenever you have a problem with water quality. Council staff will log all calls into a system so that two things can happen:

Action can be taken as soon as possible to deal with the issue.

Information gathered can be collated to see what areas of town are showing up as consistent problems. From this we may find some pipes are damaged or need urgent replacement in particular parts of the town.

All you have to do is call 0800 emergency mazda (0800 111 323) and give details of your address and a brief explanation of what you see as the issue and we as a town will be well on the way to having much more than compliant water.

Please do what you can to help. It is going back to the future where we work together so we can be together.

My phone number is in the Opunake phone book and my mobile is 0274223890. I have a new council email clem.coxhead@stdc.govt.nz

Regards and best wishes
*Clem Coxhead
 Hawera*

A super sight

RIGHT

The super moon on Monday night was a sight to behold.

This was taken from an Opunake backyard at around midnight.



Adelphos

No one can be fully controlled by another person without feeling resentment. They may go along with the control because of fear, financial insecurity or co-dependence and see no way out of the relationship. This can unfortunately happen with spouses, partners, family members or co-workers. No truly free person wants to be controlled because force and control is against our natural free will. Our human nature desires to be free: to be able to make our own choices. The *Magna Carta* of King John, President Lincoln's *Emancipation Proclamation* abolishing slavery, the *New Testament* and numerous political documents declare that real freedom only comes when there is the free will to choose. Psychologists tell us we would much rather have our choices **influenced** and not controlled by others.

Choices

But who hasn't been influenced in making some poor choices in this life? We are all human and make mistakes, Adelphos included. Some choices and decisions are little ones like what kind of pizza topping to choose. Bigger decisions might be to stop smoking, to lose weight, to remedy an abusive relationship or to not overspend and live free from the stress of debt. A good question to ask is, "How would that choice influence the future me?" Another strategy could be making a list of pros and cons in making that big decision. Whatever the choice, it should ideally involve a decision that both respects one's self and others. Jesus summed this up in his **new commandment** to "love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34) and in the oft paraphrased golden rule of doing to others as you want

them to do to you (Matt. 22:39). This verse uses a form of the word **agape** which means a love that comes from God, and, he called this the **second great commandment**. Therefore, truly loving and respecting others is only possible when we make choices that choose to love and respect ourselves first. Are we then actually not loving and disrespecting our own self every time we choose to disrespect others? Counsellors often use the term "positive self-image" (instead of self-love) which can influence good decision-making for ourselves and others. However, please don't confuse this self-love with the egotistical love in the mythical story of Echo and Narcissus who "self-ishly" fell in love with himself and stared at his own reflection in a pool of water until he died. Narcissistic Personality

Disorder (NPD) is being increasingly diagnosed in many Western cultures. But what about the **first and greatest commandment**? It is to love God "...with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind..." (Matthew 22:37-39). Here we can choose to be influenced by a mutual agape love between God and ourselves. In many cases the empowerment to fulfill the second commandment seems to flow from the first one. This is the kind of love we see building supportive caring communities (especially in the nakiJ). At the end of the day we are all responsible for our own choices. I hope you can freely choose what you want in life—be it relationship wise, financial or spiritual.

Adelphos

EDITORIAL

Our Postal Service – what gives?

What's with the postal service these days? They once used to tell us in advertisements what an efficient service they were – letters delivered the very next day and so on. Our community newspaper has had a number of issues with the service; here's a few examples: A letter (with their pay) to one of our delivery people, correctly

addressed, was returned this week. (We had posted it about a month ago). The address (we wrote) on the envelope was (a certain number) Barretts Road, New Plymouth 4310. Someone from NZ Post had scrawled "Try Road not Street" – the trouble is that's exactly how we had addressed it. I phoned the person to whom the letter was addressed (perhaps they

had shifted) to check if the address was correct – it was. Next, the NZ Post 0800 number was phoned. Having spent minutes listening to piles of irritatingly irrelevant messages someone replied and after being told of the problem said, "I'll be back soon when I've looked into it". Seconds later a recorded message broke in saying that the memory capacity

was full please phone again. Then I was cut off. A while ago a letter was sent to someone in Eltham with an important message. A week passed and they had still not received it. The unacceptably late delivery caused us some grief. We send a newspaper to some MPs and, as most people know, no stamps are required (it's free) if the

destination is Parliament. It seems that some employees at NZ Post are not aware of this. An envelope addressed to an MP (at Parliament) was returned last week with the message "insufficient postage." When I phoned to complain it was apparent that whoever I was speaking to at NZ Post was also unacquainted with their own rules and regulations

in this regard. Eventually, the employee came back and said I had to contact Parliament to find their Free Post details (to put on envelopes), which I duly did. But why did I need to even do this if the NZ Post employees were adequately trained in this respect. What on earth has happened to our once efficient postal service?

Welcoming Freedom Campers

Showing around a fellow newspaper publisher who arrived with a campervan the other night, who'd arrived for a brief visit en route to Auckland, I took him round the usual attractions in Opunake. He'd driven up from Christchurch the previous day from where he produces a community paper. The Akaroa Mail is another fortnightly publication and we send each other our papers and have chewed the fat over the trials and tribulations of putting out a fortnightly newspaper ever since we met at a newspaper's conference some years ago. His too is an independent publication and he puts out a popular newspaper and one of the oldest incidentally, as it dates back to 1876: 'The talk of the Peninsula since 1876'

it states under the masthead. It was dusk, the setting sun concluding a stunning day and a lovely evening as I showed him the usual sights: Where Sportsman of the Century Peter Snell lived, his statue, the Lake, the Events Centre, Everybodys Theatre, the Opunake Players playhouse, the new health centre. We went to the beach and he noted the no campervan sign. I guess that would affect the camp ground business he commented. Then we visited Middletons Bay. Again those no campervan/Freedom Camping signs loomed large. A great expanse of beach, a few fishermen trying their hand at a bit of surf casting, otherwise it was deserted. Plenty of room for a few campervans I would have

thought. And there are toilets at Middletons Bay. There are places you can park up I said feeling uncomfortable as we drove along the cliff top. More signs, this time grudgingly allowing three campervans at a time with a lengthy list of conditions. Embarrassed, I found myself apologising. Making excuses. Akaroa boasts a growing number of cruise ships which boost its 700 population to thousands. In 2017 Akaroa was voted Australasia's Best Cruise Destination. It's a huge boost to the local economy of the picturesque town. But back to Opunake. What is the problem with camper vans. We too should be welcoming tourists to the area. Especially since

tourism has now surpassed tourism as New Zealand's biggest export earner. And here we are in a little country town doing our utmost to discourage them. New Zealand is known for its friendly people, so come on, how about welcoming all tourists. Make Opunake campervan friendly. Let these campervanners do their bit to foster tourism and spread the word to the rest of the world when they return home to their friends, their family. We can't afford not to.



Tourists parked up in the main street of Opunake. Nice sentiments.

More Opunake & Coastal News' out there

We have printed more copies of the Opunake & Coastal News. Copies of the paper are now also available on stands at the following places:
New Plymouth
 The Challenge Spotswood petrol station at Spotswood.
 The Health Shop on the ground floor at Centre City.
Westside Grille, Tukapa Street, Westown.
Waitara
 Outside the North Taranaki Community House Trust, 67 McLean Street.
Stratford
 Perera's Paper Power, 234A Broadway, Stratford
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Final issue for the year December 22

The next edition of the Opunake & Coastal News is on December 22. This will be our final issue for the year. This bumper edition will include a holiday

guide of what to do over the holidays, a Dining/Accommodation Guide as well as Christmas messages. It would be appreciated if people could get their adverts into us as soon as

possible. The deadline for editorial for the Holiday Guide is Wednesday December 13. The deadline for Christmas messages is Friday December 15.

Popular picnic table no more

Continued from page 1
 "Given the Council has been made aware of these issues based on the expertise of engineering consultants and geological evidence, we now have a responsibility to take steps to reduce the risks to the public. "We are also going to remove some limbs off trees along the goat track in

order to relieve some of the pressure of the weight of the trees growing in the bank. This work will require an arborist and a crane. "We know that the goat track and cliff top are extremely popular spots, especially in the summer/peak season with the views that they offer of the coast and campground, and

we hope to get this work completed before Christmas. This does depend on the availability of a crane for an arborist to de-limb trees, contractors and the weather. While we hope there won't be any major slips, there are no guarantees and the safety of the public is not a risk worth taking."

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FIRE SERVICE NEWS

Your Christmas tree maybe a fire risk

Many of us opt for an imitation Christmas tree because they are easily sourced and are maintenance free. Some folk however, like to have the real deal and go for a "live" tree because of the smell it brings into the house and because it is traditional. Now I had never thought of a Christmas tree as a potential fire risk, but after reading a Fire Service article the other day, my thoughts have changed.

Real Christmas trees require care. Regular watering will prevent the tree from drying out and make them safer for tree lights or other electrical decorations. The Christmas tree is best securely positioned in a cool place away from busy areas, stairs and doors. This will reduce the risk of being knocked over eliminating any strain on the electrical attachments they may be wearing.

It is advised to turn off the tree lights before you go to bed and whenever you go out at night. If the tree becomes dry and starts shedding needles, you should remove it from the home. Dry, "gummy" needles will burn extremely quickly should they be ignited and it doesn't take too much for this to happen. In fact sun shining through a glass window can act like a magnifying glass and set things going. Don't take the risk. Get rid of your desiccated tree otherwise you may see our fire trucks coming up your drive.

When you do toss the dried tree out, don't leave it up against the house or car shed. This can create another fire risk, so try to dispose of it

promptly and reduce the chance of a fire.

Still on the Christmas topic, don't have a bonfire to burn all of the Christmas wrapping. It has happened where we have been called out on Christmas Day to put out such a fire. Remember we like our Christmas dinner warm, and maybe washed down with a Christmas drink....or two, so don't do anything foolish.

We missed the finishing touches to our beauty sleep on the morning of November 22 when the alarm went off at 4. Recent arrivals to our fine town woke to the sound of water gushing from their hot water cylinder and spreading through their newly purchased house. We arrived with squeegees and mops and got to work with the clean-up. It didn't take too long before we had most of the water outside, gave them the name of the local plumber and were on our way again. Luckily the weather was going to be quite warm over the next few days so things should dry out nicely for them.

The alarm sounded again on Sunday 26th when we were called to a car versus a truck and trailer at the intersection of the Kahui and the Wiremu Roads. The car was going down from the Upper Kahui but when it reached the junction, the driver realised the brakes weren't working. Unfortunately a truck and trailer unit happened to be in the firing line and they were flipped onto their side with the cab overhanging a drain. Luckily, there weren't any serious injuries but both vehicles probably won't sur-

vive. A crane had to be called in to lift the truck back onto its wheels.

I don't know what it is about getting us out of bed at around 4 in the morning to sort out water tank issues, but it happened again on the 30th. We were turned out to Headlands Hotel, when the water operated lift reservoir tank sprung a leak and sprayed water everywhere. The lift had been serviced the day before, so I'm picking the agent had missed reconnecting something once it had been checked. It was great to see the owners, ex Opunake fire fighter Mark and Penny Burt again, but not under those circumstances. I'm guessing that after they had mopped up about 150 litres of water, they would probably make a friendly phone call to the service company asking for a "please explain."

The weekend was an extremely busy time for us. It kicked off around 10:30 on Saturday night when we were called to help out at an incident outside the Lotto agency on the main. There had been an altercation between three young females and one started having epileptic fits. The ambulance was otherwise engaged so we were sent to help out.

No sooner had we finished with that incident, when we were dispatched to a residence on Tasman Street where the occupier decided to have a bonfire at the back of his house. The neighbours thought the house was on fire so did the right thing and called it in. We had a chat with the resident and he

agreed not to throw anything else on the fire, so we were off.

The next call out was to a house fire on Whitcombe Road on Sunday evening. The residence was severely smoke damaged but luckily, very little structural damage was caused. The residents were out at the time and are very grateful for the quick actions of a neighbour who dialled us up. A few more minutes undetected and the house would have been a total ruin. We called the Kaponga brigade to assist us, not because we like them, but because they have a Thermal Imaging Camera to detect the hot spots and we don't.

The two raffles we have had running had both been drawn by the local Police. The winner of the fire engine was Andrew Cotter (Fire Risk Management Officer for Taranaki) and Jessica Ranapai's daughter Georgia was the lucky winner of the chocolate raffle.

We will see you all at the "Crafty Christmas" evening at the Event Centre on Thursday 7th as we will be on the door collecting the entry fee. We are also responsible for the setting up of tables, crowd control and helping booth owners with any heavy lifting. In return, we are given the proceeds from the door sales, so please support your local fire brigade and this worthwhile event. Please put some extra change in your pocket because we will also be running a raffle or two and we want to see your name in print as a lucky winner.

Secretary Beau

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Meet Wai

Wai is leading New Plymouth District Council's bid to cut water use this summer. They want everyone to become a Wai Warrior and

change our behaviour to water. It's vital that we cut down as water restrictions come into force a month early



The change needs to be one from wasting water to water usage that is more sustainable in the future. Wai means water and Warrior is a person who takes on a good fight, in this case, saving water.

because of the dry weather and high water use.

For more tips, head to <http://bit.ly/2hLF66Y>.

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Chairman's chat



Welcome to our new regional newsletter

Kia ora tātou katoa, greetings to you all. Today we're launching Talking Taranaki, which will appear online and in community newspapers every couple of months.

It's designed to let you see the many ways in which the Council and community are working together supporting livelihoods, improving lifestyles and taking Taranaki forward. As Chair of the Council, I get a

good overview of the progress being made and where more effort is needed. I'll be sharing these insights with you in Talking Taranaki.

And I can think of no better way to start than with our new video, Taranaki Taku Tūranga - Our Place. It's already generated a lot of interest online, so sit back and enjoy!

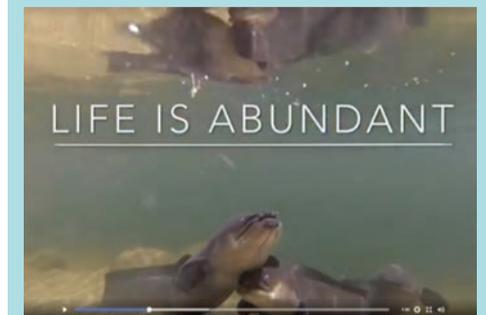
David MacLeod



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Around & about the region

Eely good news ...



New underwater footage by one of the Council's Environment Officers offers a rare glimpse of the abundant life and creatures in a Key Native Ecosystem in north Taranaki. Dozens of regionally-distinctive longfin eels (tuna) and schools of juvenile whitebait can be seen in the Ōākura stream, where the private landowner is working with the Council to enhance indigenous biodiversity.

www.trc.govt.nz/taranaki-underwater/
www.trc.govt.nz/key-native-ecosystems/

Looks good and can get better

The latest trends from more than 20 years of monitoring the ecological health and physical and chemical state of our rivers and streams show most measures are improving or not changing significantly. And in-stream life – the primary indicator of water quality – is again the best since measurements began, according to the Council's 2017 waterway report card, published in October. "We're firmly focused on working with the community to achieve further improvements," says the Council Chair, David MacLeod.

www.trc.govt.nz/healthy-waterways-report-2017/

Progress and surplus

The Taranaki Regional Council finished its latest financial year well within budget and with pleasing results in key environmental programmes, Chair David MacLeod says.

www.trc.govt.nz/trc-reports-progress-and-surplus/

Your Councillors

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Stratford Constituency

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Taking Taranaki forward

Environmental champions – but who knew?



Hāwera Christian School's 'Habitat Heroes' were among this year's Environmental Awards winners.

The Council has made 16 Environmental Awards for 2017 and, as always, there was a real buzz at the presentation ceremony on 9 November.

The overwhelming feedback each time is that so many people aren't aware of the fantastic work taking place all over the region to care for and improve the environment.

The awards are a great way to showcase and recognise these efforts.

Presenting the awards, Council Chair David MacLeod praised the commitment and determination of the award winners, saying it explains why Taranaki is at the forefront in environmental achievement in so many

ways. "If there was a Ranfurly Shield for good work in the environment, we'd have that in our trophy cabinet too," Mr MacLeod says.

The awards were made in five sponsored categories, and bring the total to 265 since they were started in the 1990s.

This year's awards went to a wide variety of individuals and organisations including farmers, schools, businesses large and small, community groups and trusts, and a marae-focused waste minimisation campaign.

"Looking at this year's winners, we can be assured that the region's in good heart, more than ready to tackle the challenges that lie ahead," says Mr MacLeod.

Winners and video profiles:
www.trc.govt.nz/award-winners/

Improving lifestyles

Garden paths you'll want to explore

The Council's three public gardens – Pukeiti, Tūpare and Hollard Gardens – are gearing up for summer after hosting bumper crowds during the recent Powerco Taranaki Garden Spectacular.

Pukeiti's been the scene of much excitement since the opening of the new Rainforest Centre but gardeners at all three properties busied themselves with improvement projects over winter, and the results are now evident.

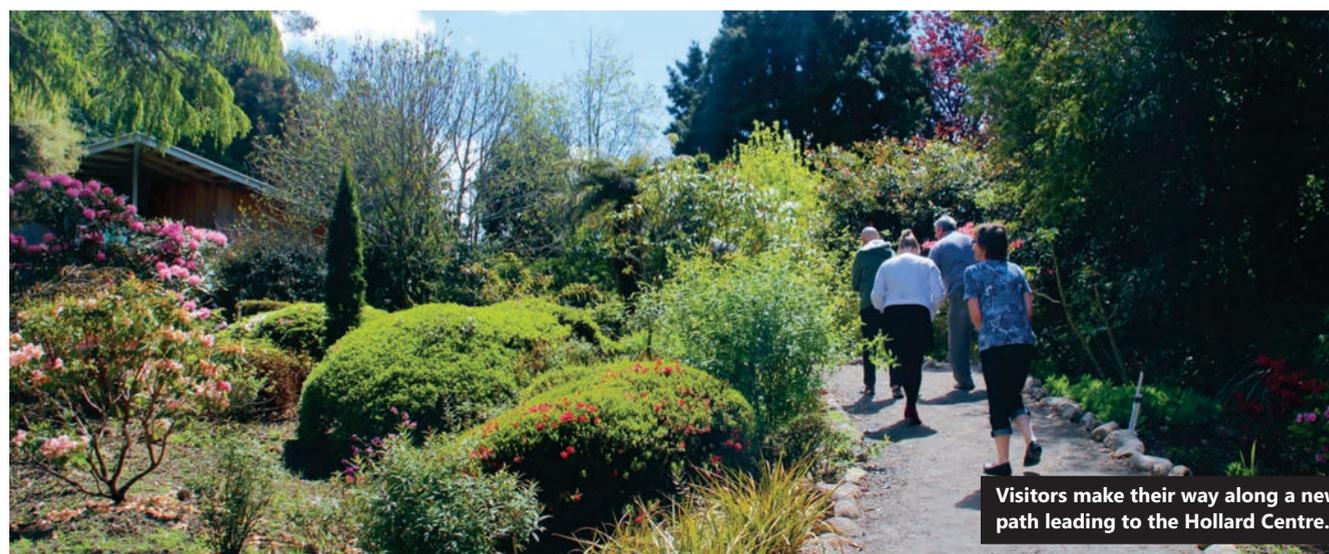
"Tūpare, Pukeiti and Hollard Gardens are all looking stunning going into the summer season," says the Council's Regional Gardens Manager, Greg Rine. "Tūpare's immaculate landscaping has been fine-tuned to good effect, and the old driveway entrance to Hollard

Gardens has been replaced with an attractive path that meanders through colourful plantings to the Hollard Centre. It's a big enhancement to the visitor experience."

The three gardens are open all day, every day, and a full summer schedule of free public events is planned at them all, including music, garden fairs, family fun days and home gardening workshops.

Visitors at any time can enjoy the free gas barbecues at Tūpare and Hollard Gardens, the quirky playground at Hollards, and Pukeiti's Explorer Treehouse Trail especially designed for kids.

See www.trc.govt.nz/gardens/ and www.trc.govt.nz/whats-on/



Visitors make their way along a new path leading to the Hollard Centre.

COASTAL COPS

A busy time for the police



CONSTABLE KYLIE BROPHY

Over the weekend a 14 year old female was assaulted at a party on King Street. She had been attending a party where she was attacked by two other females. As a result of the assault she was admitted to hospital with concussion and substantial bruising about her face and head. Inquiries are continuing at this time.

Rural property owners please be aware there has been some activity that is of concern to us. There have been a number of reported rural burglaries in our area over the recent weeks where petrol and various small items have been stolen. We ask that you be vigilant and if you notice anything out of the ordinary note it down, suspicious people or vehicle. No information is too small.

November till March is considered the cannabis growing season. This affects

everyone in our area, whether you are a rural landowner or urban dweller. The 'growers' will not hesitate to use you, your neighbours, or your property for their own means. With your help we can put a serious dent in their income and prevent the goods from making it to the streets.

Please keep your eyes and ears open while out and about. If you note anything suspicious give us a call.

Jotting down a registration number of vehicles parking on rural roads where they are not normally known to park may supply us with the link we are looking for. We can't be everywhere all the time but with your help we can make those dishonest individuals out there think we are.

As many in the community are aware there are grave concerns of the easiness of and the willingness of some

people in our community supplying drugs to our younger people. I can't fathom how it is that some think of this as acceptable behaviour.

To those concerned I hope you are aware of how far reaching your activities are in affecting others. Think of your own family, partners and children, their involvement in the community whether it be employment, school,

community groups or business and the stigma attached once you and your involvement are exposed.

That's about it for now. Remember, if you have any information for us call in to the station. We are more than happy to help. Alternatively you can call Crimestoppers at 0800 555111 with all anonymous information.

Kylie Brophy

Greetings to all and our apologies for the lack of column of recent issues.

We have been busy since the last issue dealing with all manner of incidents and offending including assaults and threats using firearms and other weapons.

These matters are currently being investigated by Taranaki detectives with charges currently before the Courts.

DOC appeals for help after attack on seal

Department of Conservation rangers are appealing for the public's help after a dog attack on a fur seal at Back Beach last weekend.

A member of the public saw owners 'egging their dog on' to attack a female fur seal at New Plymouth's Back Beach on Sunday. The small seal was injured and distressed, leaving a pool of blood on the rocks, but managed to escape into the water.

Department of Conservation Senior Ranger/Supervisor, Biodiversity Callum Lilley said people need to keep their dogs under control (and even better on a leash) when there's a seal or other wildlife on the beach.

"It's disappointing that

these people didn't have their dog under control and appeared to be actively encouraging it to attack the seal." Mr Lilley has asked anyone with information about the attack to contact the DOC New Plymouth office.

"We remind people that it's an offence under the Marine Mammals Protection Act to disturb, harass, harm, injure or kill a seal. A dog owner whose dog attacks a seal could face prosecution." Anyone charged under the Marine Mammals Act with harassing, disturbing, injuring or killing a seal faces a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment or a fine to a maximum of \$250,000.

Kekeno/seals are particularly vulnerable at this time of year, young are leaving

their mums, mating is happening, and new pups are being born," said Mr Lilley. "People need to respect our marine wildlife, give them space and importantly keep their pets under control."

Mr Lilley said seals are wild animals and can defend their territory aggressively.

"Adult seals can move surprisingly quickly on land. While they can look harmless, seals are capable of inflicting injuries to dogs or people."

Summer is also a time when DOC gets phone calls from the public about 'distressed' seals. It's about knowing what is normal behaviour for a seal, said Mr Lilley.

"Seals sneezing, coughing and having weepy eyes, flapping flippers, lying immobile

on the beach, or pups spending time away from their mothers, is all completely natural seal behaviour and we don't need to intervene."

It's best to keep at least 20m away from a seal, leave it an escape route to the sea, don't feed or attempt to touch a seal.

But if you find a seal that is severely injured, entangled in marine debris, in immediate danger (such as on a road) or being harassed by people or dogs, please call the DOC 24 hour emergency hotline: 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

Anyone with further information about the dog attack on the seal at Back Beach can call the New Plymouth DOC Office on ph 06 7590350.

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Return my children to me, says lone protester

Amanda (not her real name) has staged a one woman protest outside the Ministry for Vulnerable Children Oranga Tamariki (MVCOT) office in Hawera for many weeks. (Until a name change in April of this year they were known as Child Youth and Family or CYFs). Her children Janet (not her real name) and John (not his real name) were taken into care by order of the Family Court several weeks ago. Both children are of primary school age.

Comments Bev Markham, Regional Manager Taranaki/Manawatu, Ministry for Vulnerable Children, "This is a

complex situation, and staff at the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki, are working closely with the family concerned. We can't go into to the details of the case but our focus is always on keeping children safe. We want to protect the children's privacy as much as possible. Children cannot waive their right to privacy and neither can adults on their behalf. This is an important recognition of a child's vulnerability and the potential ramifications for their safety and wellbeing. Acting in the best interests of children is at the heart of everything we do." She continues, "Ultimately it is the Family Court who

consider all of the information available to them and make decisions around placing children in care."

This is Amanda's story:

Seated on the footpath she holds two boards - one has about 35 photographs of her missing family, as well as of her deceased husband, while the other states 'CYFs - MVCOT Please let my babies come home.'

Amanda, in her 40s, is a successful business woman, who has no criminal history and describes herself as non-violent by nature. "I'm the least violent person I know," she explains. She also has a grown up family - adult chil-

dren and even granddaughters. "It's a nightmare," she says of the situation she finds herself in.

However, she has a sad story to tell. Several years ago, her husband who was her children's father, committed suicide. (As suicide is a reality in their home, she was greatly concerned when her daughter started making comments of concern). Amanda immediately sought help, but struck trouble when the GP she encountered "he was a locum and very old" refused to sign the necessary forms because he objected to the style of counselling Amanda had chosen (Footprints). He

also didn't believe a child of Janet's young age, could be making the comments which alarmed Amanda.

The locum instead referred Janet to Taranaki Base Hospital Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). However at the appointment she came up against a brick wall. She was told that nothing could be done for four months. She was told to go back to the GP who had already said no and insist that he sign the forms. Fearing the loss of her beloved child during that unacceptable wait time, she made her concern clear. Perhaps she even said things that weren't optimal, such

was her frustration. She was told, "It's your responsibility to keep her alive." Amanda and Janet left the appointment.

"Four days later the police came with ministry social workers and took my young son away. They then enticed my daughter to the hospital (she was staying with a CYFs approved caregiver friend) on the pretence that the ministry approved friend could take both children home with her once they have been assessed. Instead both children were taken out a back door, taken to Hamilton and neither have ever been seen again."



Sunset and surf

This stunning photo of swimmer at Opunake Beach was captured last week, as the sun slowly sunk into the horizon.

Photo: rena tarrach

On this month in history Arthur Lydiard dies

On December 11, 2004 NZ's greatest athletics coach Arthur Lydiard died while in Texas, United States. He was on a lecture tour. At the 1960 Rome Olympics five of his protégés competed. Two

of them won gold medals. Firstly, Peter Snell won the gold in the 800 metres final in an Olympic Record time. An hour later Murray Halberg won gold in the 5000 metres.

In the 1964 Tokyo Olympics two of his athletes won medals; gold for Peter Snell and bronze for John Davies in the same event, the 1500 metres.

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Next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News - our final for the year - is on December 22. This will also have a Holiday and Dining and Accommodation Guide in it. Get in early if you want to be in it! Phone (06) 761 7016

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Potential for heartland New Zealand

Last week I visited Hokitika on a fact-finding mission as the National Party's Energy & Resources spokesperson. The West Coast has much in common with Taranaki. Both are regions that depend on Primary industry, both are looking to diversify and are working to build tourism opportunities based on natural attractions. And of course, both have the world's best Whitebait.



JONATHAN YOUNG MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

the West Coast is that it's all rain and coal mines. As we know there's a perception of

Taranaki being all about rain, cows and oil rigs - so there's much to be learned from looking at the actual facts.

While mining is a dirty word in many quarters, that view overlooks the importance of the industry. Coal for instance is used for more than just generating heat and light. I saw a piece of Silicon steel, created from a lump of coal, which is used in electrical applications to minimise power loss. Similarly I was shown a box of groceries that

all require coal. Everything from milk and table salt, to tomatoes and canned produce rely on coal at some stage of their production.

The rehabilitation of old mining facilities is an important final step in their life cycle. I visited Oceanagold's Reefton mine where all buildings and roading are being removed to leave a lake and bush covered banks and hills. I visited the site of a former goldmine

that, after one year is now pasture for cows, producing 'white gold'.

Both regions are looking to tourism as an opportunity and there may be lessons for us in that. The West Coast is currently the focus of a Tourism New Zealand campaign to attract Australian visitors. The region was chosen due to its proximity to an international gateway, an existing high level of awareness with Australians, and for the range of tourism

product and experiences on offer for the international visitor.

The West Coast and Taranaki are heartland New Zealand. Both regions have the potential for a bright future based on learnings from the past. Both need to work hard to balance environmental and industrial needs - and, as leaders in primary industries, they need to be seen to be doing so.

Jonathan Young MP

COUNCILLORS COMMENT

Summer is here

Tena koutou katoa.

After the wettest spring I can remember, summer seems to have arrived with a vengeance, so it's time to start thinking about how best to look after ourselves, our properties and our animals throughout the hotter months to come.

Ironically, water conservation is now a reality in New Plymouth District and could possibly become a real consideration for us sometime in



Cr Bonita Bigham

the new year, so developing water-saving habits early could make all the difference in the long term. Things like watering gardens in the evenings to reduce evaporation, not washing vehicles unless they really need it, putting only full loads into your washing machines and a really easy one that you can do every day of the year... not leaving the tap running while you brush your teeth.

Council's investment in water system upgrades and leak detection over recent years will contribute greatly

to seeing us through, but any effort we can make now will also pay off later. For more water-saving tips, visit the Council's website, www.southtaranaki.com.

No doubt the opening of our rural pools on Wednesday December 9 will be a huge hit with the youth throughout the district. Our lifeguards are mostly young people from within our own communities. It can be daunting for them to ask people (especially older people) to obey the rules, but they are there to keep us all safe and ensure the pool-going experience is great for everyone, so please work with the lifeguards while they do their jobs.

Please show the same respect and consideration to the lifeguards at Opunake Beach too and I hope that we continue to look out for each other in all our other beautiful waterside or land-based attractions. If you are unfamiliar with swimming, biking or hiking conditions, ask for guidance from the locals or the experts, it just may save

your life or someone else's.

We all know that in the past couple of years our district has seen significantly increased tourist numbers for a variety of reasons and we also know these increased numbers have created some angst within our communities, so this year Council is employing Freedom Camping Ambassadors throughout the district to help our visitors understand and adhere to our bylaw.

Another seasonal reminder to note is that liquor bans are or will be in place, permanently or temporarily throughout the district, including Manaia and Opunake. Be sure to check the Council website for exact details as ignorance won't stop you getting a fine.

Council and Egmont Plains Community Board supported summer events to plan for and look forward to are the Manaia Santa Parade Extravaganza on Saturday December 16 from 10am to 2pm (parade at noon), the Opunake Christmas Parade

on Sunday December 24 at 7pm and Sounds on the Sand at Opunake Beach on Saturday January 13 at 12.30pm (Sunday if wet).

The Opunake Beach Carnival is on Saturday January 6 starting at 10am while Kaupokonui Beach is taking a break this summer and will be back with a great carnival in 2019. My deepest gratitude to all the volunteers for all the hours you put into organising these awesome events every year for our communities.

Finally, I wish you all a wonderful summer with your friends and whanau, wherever you spend it. But please remember, it's really a time for being present, not just getting presents, being party to joy and happiness, not just getting happy and joyful at parties ... and most importantly, coming home safe, happy and refreshed for the year ahead.

No reira, mouri ora kia tatou katoa.

Cr Bonita Bigham

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Days of Egmont Plains maybe numbered

Opunake and Manaia may be about to go their separate ways. As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (October 13) the South Taranaki District Council is going through a representation review to look at ward boundaries and other issues associated with the next council elections due in 2019. Three proposals on new ward boundaries to come from the review all have the towns of Opunake and Manaia in separate wards. Currently both towns are in the Egmont Plains Ward.

Coral Hair and Gordon Campbell from the South Taranaki District Council had reported on progress of the review when the Egmont Plains Community Board met on October 4. Six weeks later they were back when the board had its final meeting for the year on November 15. They were in the process of briefing the community boards, and there would be a combined community board meeting on November 29, Coral told the board. The South Taranaki District Council would come up with an initial proposal which

would go out for public consultation before a final proposal would be drawn up

Ten options had been cut down to three, she said. Two of the proposals involved shifting the Egmont Plains boundary from the Inaha Road to the Auroa Road, a third proposal based on a plan originally drawn up by Cr Gordon Lawson would see the boundary shift to the Kaupokonui Stream. In each case Opunake would stay in what's now Egmont Plains, while Manaia would join what is now the Tangahoe Ward.

Before the South Taranaki District Council was formed in 1989 there had been an unsuccessful attempt to get the Manaia-based Waimate Plains District and the Opunake-based Egmont County to go their own way as the Egmont Plains District. These two areas had been subsumed into the South Taranaki District, but the name has stayed as the name of the ward and the community board.

Now, Gordon says it may be time to revisit that name.

Continued page 9



JONATHAN YOUNG
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

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Life membership for RSA president

There was a surprise for Manaia RSA president John Graham at the annual Christmas lunch last week. He had been looking forward to presenting certificates of recognition to five of the association's members when he was surprised to receive a life membership himself.

John has been president of the Manaia RSA for the last eight years and was vice president for some years before that.

"I must thank Pierce Joyce and Goldie Whalen who got me into the RSA," says John. "I'm very dedicated to the same committee we have had for the last five to six years."



David Black presents life membership to Manaia RSA president John Graham.

He lists the setting up of the pine grove near the Manaia Golf Club which has been used for Armistice Day commemorations for the last three years as one of

the high points of his time as president. Three seedlings descended from the lone pine which had given its name to the battle of that name during the Gallipoli

campaign had been planted here in 2015. A number of seedlings had been raised in the Scion research nursery in Rotorua collected three years before that from the

Turkish red pine, itself a descendant of the original Lone Pine.

"We applied, hoping for one, and ended up getting three," John said at the time.

"I had an uncle killed at Gallipoli, and the seedlings came from that area."

John had planted one of these, while Manaia RSA life members Tom Thompson and Aileen Joyce who were among those receiving certificates of recognition last week planted the other two.

Also receiving certificates were Jim Washer and Rex Binns. Known as a farmer in Otakeho and former director of the Kiwi Dairy Co-operative, Jim Washer served as a driver with 31 Battery of the 7th Anti Tank

Regiment in the Italian campaign during World War II, while Rex Binns was a veteran of a more recent conflict, the 1961-3 Malaya Emergency.

RSA member David Self said the numbers attending the lunch reflected the strength of the Manaia RSA

"I'm very pleased that we have grown to have had 50 people at the lunch. A few years ago if we had 35 we would have been lucky," he said. "It's good to see the way the community gets behind the RSA in Manaia."

Forty artists mark 20 years



At the Tart Art Exhibition opening, from left, Anne Holliday (with Jess), Paul Hutchinson and Steven Boothe.

At the Molloy Gallery in Tataraimaka, (open weekends 10-4) there's the Tart Art Exhibition, a really

good-looking show by our Tartists. Artworks from 40 Taranaki artists, celebrating 20 years of the Virtual Tart website. If you're around on Friday December 22 there'll be a celebration there. A pot-luck BYO shared feast from 6.30, then music in the sculpture garden from 7.30. Should be fun, and you're all invited.

In other news, the future of art in Taranaki is in good hands with artists coming along like this. The December exhibition is by Myf and Stu, young adults

who've decided to make their lives as artists.

Do have a look, send them appreciative notes. You know what a difference it can make.

Collage artists... start now. ICE20 will be in August. Deadline mid July.

At the Govett Brewster, a good-sounding suite of exhibitions opens on December 9 from 5pm. All welcome.

Dale Copeland

Days of Egmont Plains maybe numbered

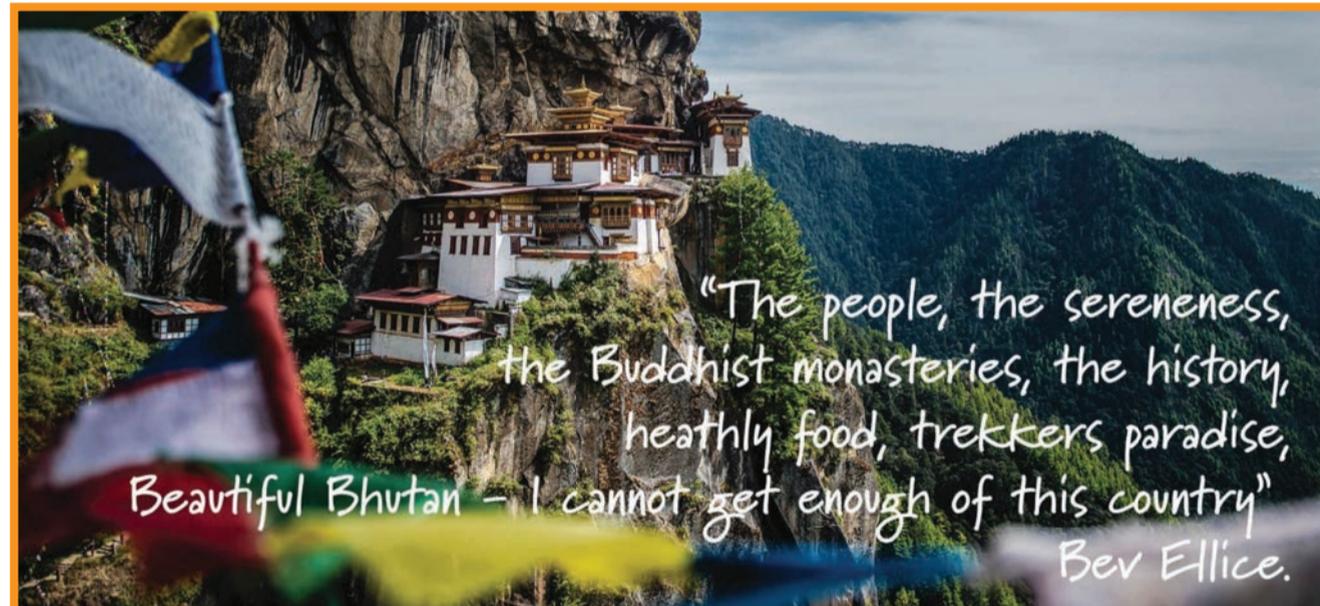
Continued from page 8

"There's some suggestion that Egmont Plains doesn't necessarily describe the area that well, particularly if you cut off the Waimate Plains, then you lose the reason for having Plains in the name. Also the name Egmont is not popular in some circles."

Communities of interest also needed to be considered. "If the Manaia people say

they don't want to be part of Tangahoe and send us that message we will have to listen," he said.

Nevertheless, he said there was also the view that many people in Manaia go to Hawera for schools or shopping, so their sympathies may lie more in that direction. They might also like the idea of being the main town in the new ward.



"The people, the serenity, the Buddhist monasteries, the history, healthy food, trekkers paradise, Beautiful Bhutan - I cannot get enough of this country" Bev Ellice.

Bev Ellice has just returned from Bhutan and can share with you first-hand experiences.

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Legal challenge to Amazon warrior

On Tuesday, a legal challenge was to be announced against the world's largest seismic exploration ship at a public rally on Parliament Lawn. Greenpeace has been calling on the Government to take a stand against the oil industry, end oil exploration, and revoke the exploration license of the Schlumberger-operated Amazon Warrior, which is currently seismic blasting for oil in the middle of a blue whale habitat.



The Amazon Warrior

At the rally, Greenpeace want a declaration that Schlumberger requires an additional permit from DOC under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and without it, must stop seismic blasting. Greenpeace says it only been granted a permit by the Ministry of Energy under the Crown Minerals Act. Anyone undertaking activities that could disturb marine mammals, including whales, must seek a permit under the MMPA, says

Greenpeace campaigner Kate Simcock. She says there is clear evidence that seismic exploration disturbs and even injures whales. Schlumberger's operation will see it firing seismic blasts into the seabed to search for oil every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day, for up to three months.

"The impacts on blue whales in this area are likely to be torturous, interfering with their communication and feeding," Simcock says. Last week, the government had approved Schlumberger's application under the Crown Minerals Act to search for oil across 19,000 square kilometres of the Taranaki Basin on behalf of Austrian company, OMY. Simcock says the ship is looking for the oil and gas that can't be burned if we want a stable climate. The

area is also a blue whale habitat and the whale's only known feeding ground in New Zealand. "We know that we can't burn most of the fossil fuel reserves we know about if we're to stabilise our climate. Searching for more makes no sense, and the time to act is now," she says.

"Jacinda Ardern has said that climate change is her generation's nuclear free moment. In 1985, going nuclear free meant taking a moral stand in front of the world against the powerful US military by stopping their nuclear ships.

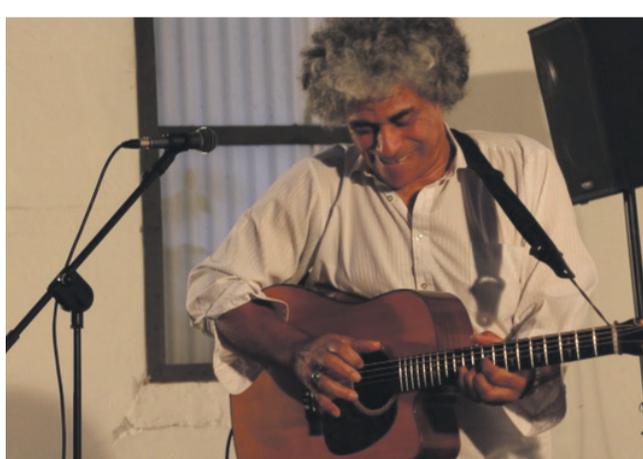
"We want to send the message to Jacinda Ardern that we all have her back. To take action on climate change we need to be bold and brave together. We need to be that little country in the middle of the Pacific that stood up to the oil industry and stopped their oil ships."

Last week a national gathering of Māori leaders came to an agreement to oppose all seismic testing and oil exploration in the waters of New Zealand. The Iwi Chairs Forum passed the resolution to seek amendments to the EEZ Act to give effect to this opposition.

And on Saturday, Climate Justice Taranaki held a march through the streets of New Plymouth to oppose the Amazon Warrior in their waters.

This followed a petition and pen letter to Ardern by Taranaki iwi calling on her to halt seismic testing off the Taranaki coastline. Over 10,000 people added their name in less than a week.

Paul Ubana Jones at Pihama



Paul Ubana Jones performed at Pihama Lavendar on Friday November 24. The consummate musician gave a great show before an appreciative audience. So nice to see a true professional. We hope he will return

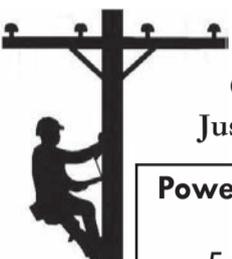
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Enviroschool Bronze Award

At Opunake Kindergarten we are proud to be an Enviroschool and have recently been working toward our Bronze award.

We worked together as a team deciding how we were going to achieve this and realised we were already doing what was needed to become a Bronze.

These are some of the steps we have taken:

Reducing, reusing and recycling, making firebricks, growing vegetables, composting, worm farming and beach clean up.

Lauree Jones the Regional Co-ordinator of Enviroschools presented us with our certificate along with our magnificent Enviroschool sign at our recent Whānau night.

We will now be working toward our Silver Award.



Left: Lauree Jones, Shirley Dons, LeeAnn Mullin, Danni Newsome and Suzie Pentelow unveil the Enviroschool noticeboard. Keira (2) and Ava (5) enjoy the celebrations.

Composting Workshop

Opunake Kindergarten recently hosted a Composting, Worm Farm and Mulching Workshop which was facilitated by Dee Turner.

Fourteen people attended the workshop to learn about Composting, Worm farming and Mulching to improve the quality of the soil in their gardens. We learned that to make a good compost you need 30:1 carbon: nitrogen ratio mix to make a good compost and get organisms working.

Carbon: cardboard, straw, hay, newspaper, punga fronds.

Nitrogen: grass clippings, animal manure, weeds, coffee grounds, urine,

Additives/activators: comfrey, wood ash, egg shells, vermicast/vermijuce, seaweed, EM, molasses, blood and bone.

Don't use pine needles/gum leaves and walnut, weeds- only if you intend carrying out the process properly and monitoring the heat of the compost. If using noxious weeds - steep in water first for a few weeks, don't use domestic animal faeces.

Dee also talked about the processes for Worm farming, Mulching and Mulch pits and gave us lots of information to take home to improve our garden.

Thank you to Sustainable Taranaki and Dee Turner for providing our community with such a valuable learning experience. We learned so much about composting, worm farming and mulching.



Dee Turner explains about the process of composting to the group.

Moana Room Celebrates its 1st Birthday

On the 14th November 2017, the Moana room celebrated their first birthday. The special day was celebrated at our Whānau night. The celebration included cutting of the cake and releasing balloons that contained a whakatauki that highlighted the value of Whānau.

Cutting of the Cake:



Teachers LeeAnn and Leonie cut the Birthday Cake to celebrate the Moana Room first birthday.

Hawera man meets war heroine

In recent issues the Opunake and Coastal News has been serialising a letter written by John McLean (Jock) Kirk, father of well known Taranaki artist Graham Kirk, who towards the end of World War II was a driver for a New Zealand officer tasked with making contact with liberated New Zealand POWs. In our September 29 issue he talked about his meeting with war heroine Odette Sansom. Years after the war in the following report from the Hawera Star, he again reminisced about that time.

"One of the most thrilling stories of courage and heroism during World War II was that of Odette Sansom, who served as a British woman secret agent. A New Zealander who actually saw and spoke to this courageous Frenchwoman just after she had been liberated from a concentration camp in Germany is Mr "Jock" Kirk, a well known resident of Hawera.

"I was a driver attached to the United States 9th Army when I saw Odette," said Mr Kirk this morning.

"I talked to her for about half an hour- she told me her name was Churchill. She looked very thin and I could see she had been ill treated. During our conversation



John McLean (Jock) Kirk

she offered to show me the marks on her back, but I did not want to see them."

Although he did not attach much importance to their meeting at the time and had dismissed Odette as just another unlucky victim of the war, Mr Kirk was able to recall just how he came to be associated with her.

"I was in England prior to going to the Continent, and they wanted a certain number of drivers and officers to contact prisoners of war as soon as they had been released from enemy prison camps. I was chosen as a driver, and our job was to assemble these prisoners so that they could be flown to Paris or Brussels.

"It was during this mission when our headquarters were

at Hagenow, east of the River Elbe, North Germany, that we had to go to a camp somewhere between Hagenow and Schwerin. We had a big German car at the time. One day a British soldier told us that there was a woman who said she was British in a house nearby. She was with a number of other women, but did not think she was British because she spoke English with a French accent, the soldier said.

"My chief who was also a New Zealander, acting as a liaison officer, Captain Robert.D.Hoggans realised



Odette Sansom

that Odette was someone of importance," said Mr.Kirk. "He realised that we would have to get her away from the house, as it was shortly to become Russian occupied territory. We got

her away and I drove her to Hagenow, which I think was a divisional headquarters. I never saw her again after that.

"I spoke to Odette while I was waiting at the truck. She told me she had three children back in England. One thing she could not understand was why she had been kept alive when all her companions had been put to death by the enemy. She told me she thought it may have been because with Churchill as a name, the Germans thought that possibly she could be exchanged for a high ranking prisoner held by the Allies. I did not know whether she was any relation of Winston Churchill, but I think that was the reason she had not been killed," Mr Kirk added.

It was only some years after the war, when he saw a photograph of Odette with her three children in a New Zealand newspaper that he realised she was the woman whom he had met, Mr Kirk said. "If credit should go to anyone I think Captain Hoggans should be the one who should receive it," he added. "I do not think Captain Hoggans returned to New Zealand after the war. He came from either Invercargill or Dunedin."

Opunake and Coastal News forerunner now digitalised

'Papers Past' provides access to millions of pages of historical NZ papers in a digitised manner and has

just added the Opunake Times, which was published between 1894-1949.

Papers Past enables anyone in the world to use key words to search any of the papers that have been digitised.

The day after it went live a researcher based in France search his father's name, it came up with results showing that his father appeared on the 'causality roll of honour' that was printed in the Opunake Times on 24 December 1941 and also that his father wrote a letter to the Opunake Times describing his time spent in hospital over Christmas

called 'A Soldiers letter' printed in February 1942.

The researcher then went to the Puke Ariki web browser and commented on images of his father, linking the story in the old paper and the images on file. A truly international tool.

Puke Ariki has the contact details of the researcher in France who has since provided more details of his family's history and would also be happy to comment further.

A comment from an initial email 'Papers Past as it is a truly remarkable resource. The Opunake Dudleys

descend from some of the first Canterbury colonists in the 1850s and it was following up some of the original colonists' stories that led me to Papers Past. And then I thought I'd try looking for my father Jim Dudley, I was extremely lucky that the Opunake Times had just come on line.'

Papers Past has been used by the Opunake and Coastal News in researching historical stories used in this paper.

The Opunake Times was digitised in partnership with Lysaght-Watt Trust and Puke Ariki (NPDC).

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Last day at St John's Otakeho

It was the first church on the Waimate Plains and Sam Hunt wrote a poem about it. The Church of St John the Divine in Otakeho was consecrated on March 14 1894 by the Bishop of Auckland and head of the Anglican Church in New Zealand the Rt.Rev. W.G. Cowie. A hundred and twenty three years later on November 26, 2017, the Rt.Rev Philip Richardson, Bishop of Taranaki and Archbishop of New Zealand led a service to deconsecrate the church..

"One of my predecessors in a time of celebration established this place for worship," Archbishop Richardson told the congregation at the church's last service. "We have gone kind of full circle, as now, not only as Bishop of Taranaki, but as Archbishop of New Zealand I am saying the words of deconsecration.

"While we may say farewell to this building, we are still the church, we are the body of Christ, uniquely and wonderfully made, called to praise God and serve our neighbours."

The Archbishop took the final communion held in the church, assisted by long time Women's Guild leader Mary Coombe.

He said he hoped that whatever the future held, the church building could still



The Rev Peter Barleyman speaks to the congregation at St John's. Behind him is Archbishop Philip Richardson.

be used to benefit the wider community.

The Rev Peter Barleyman said that in due course the church would be put up for tender and there had already been people expressing interest. With the church containing a number of items that had been donated over the years, representatives of local families and groups like the RSA would be consulted about what would happen to them.

Mr Barleyman spoke about the history of the Otakeho

church. Although it wasn't consecrated until 1894, it had been opened on Easter Day the previous year. An early list of church members showed 80 families, and the number of people being confirmed in the church right through to 1910 were greater than those at Manaia and at Okaiawa.

The building, which carries a Historic Places Trust classification was built by Thomas Witton. Its architect, Frederick de Jersey Clere designed over 100 churches, many of them still in use throughout the lower North Island.

Archbishop Richardson also noted the church's history.

"Generations of stories are contained in these walls, and you can feel the prayers of the past in every crick of this building," he said.

The Rev David Self said his links to the Otakeho Church go back to taking services as a lay reader here in 1966. When he left for a visit to England in 2002, the Rev Beverley Chatterton took over taking services. Her first one there was also the first with Bev Perrett as organist. All three were at Otakeho for the final service.

Mr Self recalled the time poet Sam Hunt wrote a poem about the church.

"My son Michael ran a Manaia Spectacular and invited Sam Hunt and Gary McCormick, and Sam Hunt

did a poetry presentation at the Manaia Town Hall. He came out to Kaupokonui and stayed at Nigel McLeod's little cottage. He came along the road here, saw two horses in a paddock and wrote this poem."

Also at the final service were John and Linda le Fleming who had been married in the church, with two-year old granddaughter Ember Raubenheimer who took the opportunity to ring the church bell for the last time. John's cousin, Otakeho farmer Rod le Fleming was one of several to raise a toast to the church. Rod said he was the fourth generation of his family to have links to St Johns. His father, Gordon had been a long serving office holder here. Among the items which the le Fleming family had donated to the church was the organ which had been

shipped out to New Zealand and dedicated 100 years ago on August 24, 1917.

Rod said the church carried a lot of memories.

"I got married here twenty three and a half years ago to my beautiful wife," he said.

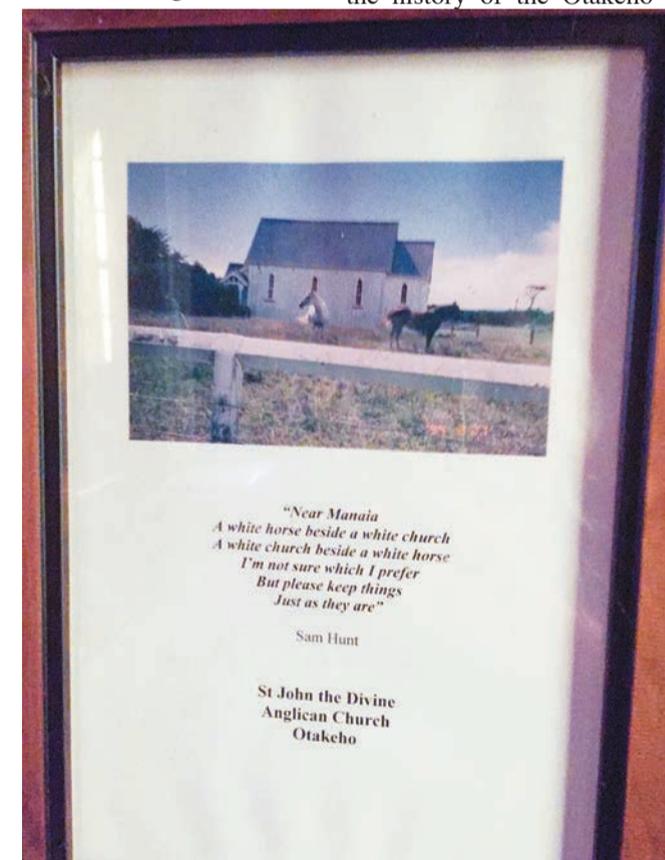
Another family with long links to St Johns is the Young family who had donated the large stained glass window on the east side of the church. Jonathan Young

MP, whose father Venn had farmed in Otakeho and later became an MP and cabinet minister, was another who raised a toast to the Otakeho Church.. He said he and all but one of his siblings had been christened here.

"This place is still an anchor point for our family. I am sure that the future of the Otakeho Church wherever it is will be positive," he said.



Catching up. Jonathan Young MP and Lorna le Fleming.



St John's Otakeho is remembered in a poem by Sam Hunt.

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Okato Christmas Parade one of the best around

The Okato Christmas Parade was held on Sunday November 26. The popular event was organised by an organising committee of the Okato Community Outreach, consisting of Suzette Taingahue, Joy Burmeister, Kat Moffit and Catherine Hewson. Evidently, people came from far and wide to view the spectacle, such as the family all the way from Lepparton. "We always come because Okato has the best Christmas Parade," the lady explained.

With a hiss and a roar the Christmas Parade set off at 6.30 sharp from the south part of Carthew Street, Okato heading north, led by a police car, bagpipers and drummers playing 'Scotland the Brave' followed by the

iconic draught horses and cart (Glenys Putt with the reins) often seen trotting through Okato.

This year there were 18 floats and the four judges had a hard job deciding who was best. This year the judging panel included Jan Putt, Darcy Julian, Graeme and Gwenda Hewson. The Pitone Demons - on their zippy Honda motorbikes - were adjudged winners. The other placegetters were Coastal Taranaki School (second), Stepping Stones (third), AFFCO Coastal Rugby (featuring their Under 8 Rugby Taranaki Champions) (fourth) and the Okato Lions Club (fifth).

Other floats included St Patricks Church' Christian themed float with angels, Three Wise Men and a large



The Pitone Road Demons were the winners on the day

star (to be followed).

The Coastal Young Farmers had a live cow on board with the float driven by (what else but) a tractor, of course. The cow was patted constantly by people in Christmas hats presumably to keep the animal calm. "Snow to sand we're working the land," was their motto.

The Coastal Pony club had riders on horses and ponies of all sizes. One pony had a small cart to tow.

The Stony River Hotel float included some musical accompaniment, with

someone playing a button accordion as he walked alongside.

The environmentally best float had to be the car with "zero emissions." "Electrify your Christmas" was the challenge issued.

The Best Smiles Award - if there was one - would have to go to the parents and children on the Okato Playcentre float.

After the parade was over, having completed two circuits of Okato, free food

was on offer in (and near) St Lukes Hall, including a sausage sizzle, burgers and cake slices.

Well done to everybody who helped make the event so successful, including sponsors, organisers and float creators. The Okato Lions did a great job as marshalls as did Traffic Management who controlled the traffic. If you missed the occasion Ray Haywood has made an informative video, which he'll doubtless be pleased

to share. Facebook (Okato Community Noticeboard) is well worth a look, with about 150 pictures.

Last word goes to committee members who were, "Absolutely delighted. It was lots of good fun. Good to get the community together to enjoy the chance to mix and mingle and catch up with each other. Thanks to sponsors and all the wonderful people who helped make it the amazing day it was."

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Double murder suicide in Otakeho



The Blennerhassett grave in the Otakeho cemetery

New Year was marked with tragedy for Otakeho back in 1902 after two local settlers were murdered by a neighbour who then took his own life.

On the morning of December 31 1901, on the Taikatu Road, William Hill(52) shot and killed William Harold Blennerhassett(37) as he was taking a load of milk to the dairy factory and then killed William Arthur Blennerhassett(53) who was cutting hay. Hill then returned to his whare where he shot and killed himself. Newspaper accounts of the time variously described the victims as being father and son, or referred to W.A.Blennerhassett as a father-in-law and uncle to the younger man. There appeared to be a family connection to their murderer, with whom there was a long standing feud over land. Some time before Hill had suffered concussion after falling from his horse while bush

fell.

Hill was a single man who lived alone .

“He is we are told a man of almost giant stature,” noted the Taranaki Herald, “and like most big men, usually inoffensive.” He was however known locally as a good shot.

The inquest was held on New Year’s day 1902 at W.H. Blennerhassett’s home. The day before the murder there had been a heated argument between Hill and the younger Blennerhassett. William Leith who had previously done some work for Hill said he visited Hill that night and noted he had a gash to the forehead.

“Long William struck me,” he told him.

Leith said Hill had told him Blennerhassett had thrown a two foot long piece of guard railing at him during the course of their argument which hit him on the head.

Hill said he had tried unsuccessfully to find the offending piece of railing.

In what was later taken as an ominous sign of things to come, Hill could be heard practicing his shooting later that day.

The next morning, William Blennerhassett had taken a load of milk to the dairy factory and at around 8am was taking a second load there. Meanwhile William Blennerhassett had gone to cut hay in a nearby paddock.

W.H.Blennerhassett’s wife Catherine said she watched her husband driving along the road until he reached a hollow in the road near Hill’s gate then lost sight of him, and then saw a figure in dark clothes coming out of Hill’s gate carrying what could have been a gun or a stick, then heard a shot. She then ran and saw her husband lying over the milk cans. It is believed Hill then met the older man coming out of the hay paddock and shot him before going home and taking his own life.

At the inquest, the Manaia doctor Hardman Good said W.H.Blennerhassett

had been shot twice in the head and neck, while W.A.Blennerhassett had a gunshot wound on the right breast above the nipple. Hill had two gunshot wounds to the breast within two inches of each other, with the gun almost if not actually touching the chest. Dr Good said he didn’t think the blow to the head the previous day could have caused mental derangement.

The jury found that Hill had killed the two Blennerhassetts and then killed himself.

W.H.Blennerhassett left a widow and four children ranging in age from seven months to six and a half years.

On August 20, 1902, the Auroa correspondent to the Hawera and Normanby Star noted “Mrs W.H.Blennerhassett leased her farm on the Taikatu Road to Mr Hunt from Okaiawa and has gone to reside in Hawera.”

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Less rain for Taranaki in November

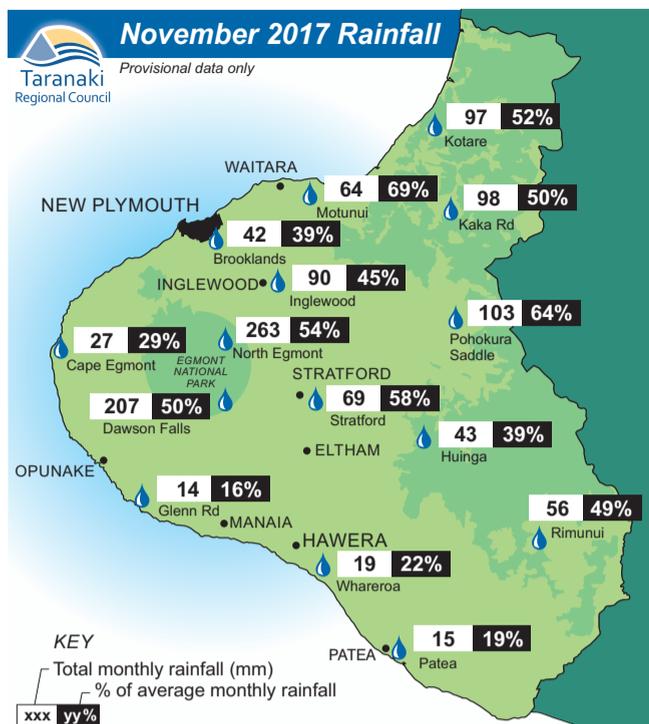
Less rain in November for Taranaki After a period of too much rain, Taranaki now faces the problem of too little.

of the region by between 16% and 97% according to Taranaki Regional Council figures.

The average rainfall for the month was just 45%,

with many sites having no rain since November 16. Eight sites recorded new November minimum rainfalls for the month, these sites were Hillsborough (54.5 mm), Mangati (51.6 mm), Stony – near Okato (50.5 mm), Taungatara (36.5 mm), Kaupokonui (14.0 mm), Duffys Farm – Whareroa (18.5 mm), Patea (15.0 mm) and Ngtuweru (18.0 mm). Inland rainfall sites were looking at recording low rainfall totals for the month, but they had a boost in their rainfall totals thanks to some mid afternoon thunderstorms near the end of the month.

Kaupokonui near Manaia, recorded just 14.0 mm (16% of normal) rainfall, while



Omaru at Charlies Clearing recorded 103.0 mm (97% of normal), with almost half of this (50.5 mm) falling between the November 25-30. 24.5 mm of this fell in just one hour, due to inland convection.

Year to date rainfall totals are now sitting between 95%-135% of normal, with the average being 120%. North Egmont is the only site that has recorded below normal rainfall to date.

With one month to go the rainfall as a percentage of the full calendar year is sitting between 87% and 123% for the region, with Ngtuweru (99%) and North Egmont (87%) being the only two sites to yet reach their mean annual rainfall.

Nigel, Jenny & Staff wish to thank their customers for their support in 2017 and wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

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Merry Christmas everyone!

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New rules welcomed

Federated Farmers and Fish & Game have given the thumbs up for the Government's plan to tighten rules on farm purchases by

foreign buyers. "If we're going to have rules that the sale of productive land to overseas buyers should bring employment, public access, additional development or other benefits over and above those a domestic buyer would bring, they should be robustly applied. Follow-up checks need to be made that undertakings given actually happen," says Federated Farmers vice-president Andrew Hoggard.

"The Federation is pleased the Government has announced it intends to boost the Overseas Investment Office's resources to enable them to effectively perform these roles. It's also a plus that the new directive is broader and simpler in its application, taking in all rural land larger than five hectares (other than that used for forestry).

"But equally we're pleased the Government is not closing the door on overseas investment in our primary sector. History has shown that foreign expertise and money can make a positive

contribution to New Zealand, especially as a number of overseas owners become New Zealand citizens and, along with their families, make an ongoing positive contribution to NZ society," Andrew says.

"As a nation highly dependent on overseas trade we also need to ensure that our domestic policies do not undermine our international efforts to continue to break down artificial barriers to trade in overseas markets. "Farmers and others will watch with interest to ensure the new directive is applied fairly, and not unnecessarily restrictively."

Fish & Game say tightening the rules is long overdue, saying the Overseas Investment Office has been falling short of its obligations in recent years. Fish & Game Chief Executive Martin Taylor says the Office's poor performance has been hurting New Zealanders wanting access to the outdoors.

"Kiwis have been increasingly shut out of their

own outdoors because the OIO has been aiding and abetting exclusive capture of our recreational resources," Martin says.

"There is frustration among the outdoor recreation sector that the OIO under the previous government was effectively allowing the privatisation of our wild places and that has been hurting the average New Zealander.

"Kiwis wanting to get into the mountains to tramp, fish, hunt, raft and climb were losing access to public land because of the exclusive capture of recreational access and resources. This is just plain wrong and it is time it stopped," Mr Taylor says.

Martin Taylor says it is time New Zealanders' interests were put first.

"It is time the Overseas Investment Act was used in kiwis' interests, not those of foreign buyers wanting to get control of the outdoors and wild places that are becoming so rare in the modern world."

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Pihama gets things razzling

What better way to spend the first day of summer than getting to know your neighbour?

The Rural Razzle held at the Pihama Hall on Friday evening December 1 was the first of what it is hoped will be other similar events around Taranaki aimed at getting people in rural communities to reach out and spend more time with each other.

Rural Razzle all began as an initiative from Sport Taranaki, Taranaki Rural Support, Fonterra Farm Source, DairyNZ, MPI, PKW, Young Farmers and the Dairy Women's Network.

"This is to get people off the farm, but also to realise who else is out there," says Janet Fleming, who works for Sport Taranaki and farms locally on the Watino Road.

Ryan Orchard of DairyNZ said if this event was successful, the aim would be to follow up with other events around the province.

"We're trying to get that community spirit. In places like this the schools have closed and we want to get the local halls up and going again," he says.

Marcia Paurini of the Taranaki Rural Support Trust said stresses being faced by rural communities meant that events such as this are important. The work of the Trust had grown since she started working for them at about the time of the 2015 floods. More rural facilitators had come on board but the number of calls had increased from people wanting support.

"There has been a protracted season. Calving has been followed by AB with no real break. Production is down across the region. If you have to get rid of cows because of no feed, that's another stress," she said.

The evening began with a barbecue tea before Hannah Kelly of Sport Taranaki welcomed everybody.

"We have a lot of people passionate about bringing rural communities together, and you guys got to be the starting point. We do want to get feedback about what you want moving on, it could be something else here or anywhere."

It was then outside to have tug of war by twilight, with Mt Taranaki as a backdrop and some possibly bemused bovine spectators looking on. One thing appeared certain. The side with their backs to the and pulling downhill always seemed to have the upper hand.

After the tug of war it was back inside to learn about and practice some line dancing before the evening finished with dessert.

A newcomer to Pihama



The tug of war proved popular

Michael Bryant liked what he saw.

"Nicola and I are contract milking 240 cows and our farm owner said we might like to have a nosey," he said. "I've worked on some big farms in the Central

North Island and we never did anything like this. You'd only socialise with the people you worked with and you'd never meet your neighbours. It's good to get off the farm, and the more people you meet, the easier

life becomes. You get to feel part of the community and get a feeling for how things used to be."

People taking part were given forms to fill in asking what they enjoyed about the event and suggestions

for what could be added in future, as well as what could be done in the rural community to connect its people and what sports or active recreation opportunities they would like to see in their local areas.

Janet Fleming said feedback had been positive and the

group would be meeting to discuss suggestions for future events. She said the evening had gone well.

"It was awesome. We would have liked to have had more people there, but we've had some really good vibes and some really good feedback," she said.

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PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE COAST

Feds welcome robust biosecurity

Federated Farmers is pleased to see that the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is toughening its stance on visitors who ignore New Zealand's strict biosecurity laws.

MPI revealed it has increased fines by 50% since 2014 to air passengers who flout entry requirements, with 9100 infringement notices issued to date this year.

Federated Farmers' Biosecurity Spokesperson Guy Wigley says farmers will feel reassured that focus is high with the busy summer period starting, and after recent biosecurity incursions.

"It's good to know that MPI is implementing more robust, preventative measures. Increasing numbers of visitors is putting greater stress on our

borders and this can have unintended implications for our agriculture sector - the backbone of the New Zealand economy.

"There seems to be a move away from issuing just warnings, which happened in the past. Now there are fines of apparently \$400 for even those visitors who have forgotten to declare any potential risk they are carrying."

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OPPORTUNITY ON WIREMU



2105 Wiremu Road, Newall, South Taranaki

Located on the corner of Wiremu and Newall Roads this very attractive 77.1407 hectare (190.6146 acre) dairy farm is capable of being taken up a level in production.

Currently in its third season milking 180 cows once a day on an all grass system, this farm features a 26 ASHB cowshed (room for 10-12 sets of cups) built 2009, a very reliable gravity fed water supply and to top it off, this rectangular, centrally raced farm is almost all flat and mowable. With ample shedding and storage, a 4 BR home with detached double sleep out and four car garaging, its all there.

This property presents extremely well and offers opportunities rarely available in todays market place.

 **Blair Burnett**
M 021 190 7728

 **Peter McDonald**
M 027 443 4506

Tender Closes
4pm, Friday 15 December
at McDonald Real Estate
50 Tasman Street, Opunake
(unless sold prior)

Open Day
Thursday 7 December
1:00pm-1:30pm

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Dairy strategy faces up to challenges



Primary Industries minister Damian O'Connor speaking at the launch of Dairy Tomorrow

The new dairy sector strategy, Dairy Tomorrow aims to tackle head-on the big issues the sector is facing, says Dairy Environment Leader Group Chair Alister Body.

“The process of developing this strategy meant we had to take a hard look at the challenges the sector is facing,” says Mr Body. “This meant strong engagement with all stakeholders- not just those in the primary sector.”

“We didn’t develop this strategy in a silo. We interviewed environmental lobby groups, like Forest and Bird, we spoke with experts like the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, we heard from animal welfare groups like the SPCA, and we spoke to academic researchers and scientific bodies.

“Our farmers too played a key part. They were incredibly vocal about their

desire for more research and development into options and solutions to help them farm sustainably.

“Reducing cow numbers is too simplistic. We already know we need to produce more from less, and we need to do this sustainably.

“What Dairy Tomorrow focuses on is the need to look more closely at our land use challenges in New Zealand. This involves firm time bound targets for putting in place certified farm sustainability plans and a 50-year vision of sustainable land use in New Zealand.

“We encourage everyone, including our communities, to work with us on these goals, so we can develop a sustainable land use blueprint for farming in New Zealand.”

DairyNZ Chief Executive Tim Mackle, who launched Dairy Tomorrow on behalf of the wider dairy sector,

says working together with stakeholders will mean the dairy sector can plan the future shape of dairy farming systems.

“The dairy sector is always going to be a critical part of the New Zealand economy. Even in the face of the growing popularity for synthetic products the demand for high quality dairy will always exist - so long as we can prove our production chain is sustainable.

“We have set ourselves these targets, and we have committed to regular transparent reporting on our progress. The real work begins now to determine how we will achieve these goals.

“This will be a complex job and isn’t limited to the dairy sector. We want to engage broadly with organisations that can play a role and help us work toward common outcomes.”

RIGHT LOCATION, RIGHT SIZE



418 Namu Road, Opunake, South Taranaki

Located only minutes from Opunake on the Namu Road is this lovely 83.3652 hectares (205.9954 acre) dairy farm currently milking 200 cows through a tidy 18 a/s h/b cowshed.

This square shaped property is well laid out with a very good race system, reliable water supply and ample farm buildings. There is an older 3-bedroom weatherboard home that could do with a make-over to reflect the quality of the rest of the property.

With production consistently between 70000 - 75000kg milk solids this is an ideal first farm purchase or add in to your existing dairy farm portfolio or alternatively it would make a superb runoff/grazing block.

Rarely do farms this handy to Opunake come onto the market but the big bonus for the avid golfer, could be the Opunake Golf course which is just down the road! Call today to view.

 **Blair Burnett**
M 021 190 7728

 **Rodney Perrett**
M 027 241 3979

Tender Closes
4pm, Wednesday 13 December
at McDonald Real Estate
50 Tasman Street, Opunake
(unless sold prior)

Open Days
Fri 24 Nov 11am-11:30am
Fri 1 Dec 11am-11:30am
Fri 8 Dec 11am-11:30am

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OPUNAKE RUNOFF/OPUNAKE



1061 Kaweora Road, Opunake, South Taranaki

Located on the Kaweora Road, Opunake is this attractive 79.5584 hectares (196.5888 acres) runoff/grazing block.

Currently grazing 113 Hereford stud cattle this property is ideal for grazing young stock, wintering cows or continue with your own stud or beef enterprise. Being rectangular in shape with central race makes the property easy to manage. Recent upgrades to the water supply, fencing and paddock subdivision add to the appeal.

The neighbouring 80 hectares (200 acres) is also available for purchase and together would create an excellent 160 hectares (400 acres).

For your viewing appointment contact Blair or Rodney.

 **Blair Burnett**
M 021 190 7728

 **Rodney Perrett**
M 027 241 3979

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at McDonald Real Estate
50 Tasman Street, Opunake
(unless sold prior)

Open Days
Fri 24 November 1pm-1:30pm
Fri 1 December 1pm-1:30pm
Fri 8 December 1pm-1:30pm

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AFFORDABLE GRAZING BLOCK



Kaweora Road, Opunake, South Taranaki

If you are looking for an affordable grazing block with scale and with the potential to expand even further, this could be for you! This attractive and peaceful block is located at the end of the Kaweora Road, Opunake and consists of approx. 80 hectares (200 acres) of pasture plus 30 Hectares (70 acres) of QEII Bush Reserve. Currently being used to graze young stock and wintering cows this property is ideal as a bull/beef block or beef stud. With a large hay-barn, reliable water supply and a mainly central race system servicing 20 recently fenced paddocks this property is well worth viewing. The neighbouring 80ha (200 acres) is also available for purchase and together would create an excellent 160 hectares (400 acres).

For your viewing appointment contact Blair or Rodney.

 **Blair Burnett**
M 021 190 7728

 **Rodney Perrett**
M 027 241 3979

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Van der Poel new DairyNZ chair

Waikato dairy farmer Jim van der Poel has been elected the new chairman of industry good body,

plans for the future of our industry.” Jim is keen the industry moves ahead under the new

Jim is a dairy farmer from Ngahinapouri and has farming interests in the Waikato, Southland,

responsible as we address the current challenges around sustainability, securing a skilled workforce



Michael Spaans

Jim van der Poel

DairyNZ. He replaces Michael Spaans, who recently passed away.

Jim says Michael was a skilled, dedicated and passionate chair for DairyNZ and he plans to continue the vision established for DairyNZ and dairy farmers.

“While I step into this position under sad circumstances, as a board we will continue Michael’s good work – his influence will continue as we develop

industry strategy, Dairy Tomorrow.

“We are looking toward a more collaborative future and we are starting afresh with an updated industry strategy to guide us forward,” says Jim. “As a board, we will be closely following progress toward our commitments to ensure New Zealand dairy farming has a sustainable future, while retaining competitive and resilient businesses.”

Canterbury and the United States. He is a former director for Fonterra and New Zealand Co-operative Dairies Ltd.

Acting chair Barry Harris says Jim is a strong advocate for dairy farmers and the sector’s future.

“Jim is experienced as a dairy farmer and in governance for our sector. He is particularly keen to ensure dairy farmers continue to be competitive and

and continuing to produce quality products for the world.”

Water storage and irrigation vital to economic development

Federated Farmers says it is pleased to see that the coalition government recognises water storage and irrigation as a vital aspect of provincial economic development.

Shane Jones, Regional Economic Development Minister said over the weekend that water initiatives were to be included in the annual \$1-billion-dollar spend towards revitalising provincial New Zealand.

Federated Farmers Water Spokesperson Chris Allen said this was a reassuring message for our provincial communities, many of which struggle to attract investment.

“Water is the lifeblood for many, especially our farmers who simply wouldn’t be in business without it.

“Irrigation in particular brings great benefits economic and social, you

just have to look at Mid Canterbury and how that region has prospered since it was introduced back in the 90s.

“For every dollar an irrigator makes, at least another three dollars is created in the local community.

“As a food producer reliant on exports, our country needs consistent, reliable growing conditions. Irrigation provides that continuity of supply that is high quality and can be delivered to market, benefiting both the consumer and grower.”

Chris says localised water initiatives can also grow provincial capability to manage future adverse events and adaption to climate change, while ensuring long-term benefits flow downstream to communities.

“In those regions that have water storage and irrigation, we know it generates

greater investment and incentives for the processor, manufacturer and farmer, creating opportunities to add value to their produce.

“Drought mitigation and increased production, which the Minister referred to, fundamentally relies on irrigation and water storage.”

The advent of precision agriculture increasingly adopted by irrigators, demonstrated the value reliable water systems could provide with environmental benefits too.

“Well managed and designed irrigation is effectively precision rainfall, creating the right time, right amount and right place, which is best for the farmer and environment.

“We look forward to working with the Government to help rural New Zealand achieve its potential,” says Chris.

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Rave reviews for Fringe Garden Festival

“Awesome, awesome fringe gardens.” “They sure are beautiful gardens and reasonably priced.” “Great gardens for great people.” “Thanks to all the fabulous people who offered their private gardens to view, every garden was unique and serene”

These are just some of the hundreds of comments made by visitors to the gardens of the 13th Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival held recently over 10 days at the end of October, beginning of November.

More than 60 privately owned gardens, places of interest and vintage displays opened their gates to the public, we received 36,000 garden visits. The gardens included city plots, cottage gardens, native gardens,

structured or rambling gardens so something for all tastes.

Gardens spread around the Taranaki region showed the diversity of coastal gardens which have to contend with salt spray, country gardens on the slopes of the mountain which have a cooler climate, and city gardens which are smaller in size but pack in a vast selection of plants.

Visitors came from Kaitiaki to Bluff and many other parts of the world. They expressed what a

high standard the gardens are and appreciated being welcomed into the gardens and made to feel part of the family.

Garden owners are always happy to give advice about gardening if asked but also benefit from talking to the

visiting gardeners and often learn something new.

Affordability was another thing remarked on by many. At just \$2 per person per garden a couple can have a good day out, visit five gardens, and all for just \$20.

We also run a Photo Competition during our festival whereby budding photographers send through photos taken in our festival gardens during the festival period. Bill Davies was the Judge, he is a member of the Stratford Photography Club and also a member of the Stratford Art Society. All photos were of a very high standard and the winning photos were:

Overall winner: Liz Bennett - Rust never sleeps. “Old Cans.” Children’s section. 1. Kaden Williams



Overall championship winner. Liz Bennett. “Old Cans.”

“Day Dreaming.” 2. Alex Van Burgsteden “Mrs Gardener.” 3. Pippa Williams “Tools Having A Rest”

Rust never sleeps. 1. Liz Bennett “Old Cans.” 2. Arthur Davis “Rusty Kettle.” 3. Stephan Vogel “Finally At Rust.”

Textures. 1. Viv Reed.

“Bumblebee In Heaven.” 2. Heather Kyle “Natural Mixture.” 3. Heather Kyle “Natures Beauty.”

Passionate pink. 1. Bryce Hollands “Dinky Pinky.” 2. Colin McGaughran “Pink Tinged Orchid.” 3. Liz Bennett “Loved With Age.”

Garden scene. 1. Bryce Hollands “Be Seated.”

2. Erica Vogel “The Bachelor.” 3. Liz Bennett “Relaxation.”

All winning entries may be viewed on our website <http://www.taranakigardens.co.nz/> and are on display at the Inglewood Library until December 11.

Anne Clough, Taranaki Garden Trust Administrator

Manaia Golf results

Saturday, November 25. Nett Round. Men. Joe Gibson 61. Nod Symes 62. Caleb Symes 64. Trevor Larsen 67. Women. Bev Hawkes 62. Dinny Gibbs 63. Carolyn Koch 65. Agi Poole 65. Jackie Higgins 67.

Pacific Strings Competition. Best Nett. Women. Dinny Gibbs. Men. Nod Symes. Monday night ambrose. November 21. 1. Nigel and Friends. 2. Otaeho Hackers. 3. Winks Rd. 4. Salt & Pepper. 5. The Mexicans. 6. The Workers.

Junior. Gross. 1. Lucas Symes. 2nd equal . Carter Symes and Kieran Taylor. 3. Olivia Symes. 4. Hannah Symes. Putting. 1.Kieran Taylor. 2. Lucas Symes. 3. Hannah Symes. 4. Olivia Symes. 5. Carter Symes.

Next issue due out December 22

This will be our Christmas issue and Holiday Guide

ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Deadline for contributions is 13th December

TENDER | SUPERB RUNOFF/SUPPLEMENT BLOCK



168 Newall Road, Newall, New Plymouth District

Situated on the Upper Newall Road, this mainly flat 78.3260 hectare (193.5435 acre) runoff offers plenty of options for either an established farmer, grazier or first farm buyer. This farm currently grazes 290 heifers, (130 yearlings and 160 weaners) and during winter grazes 500 dairy cows for five weeks at which time the young stock are moved back to the dairy platform.

With a reliable water supply, central race system and good subdivision, this farm seriously grows grass with 1200 (10's) bales of baleage harvested annually.

With a 3 bedroom home, Redpath shelter (17m x 6m) used for calf rearing, 2 x 2 bay implement sheds and 18 from 35 paddocks mowable, it's all here. Don't miss your chance to view.

Blair Burnett
M 021 190 7728

Peter McDonald
M 027 443 4506

Tender Closes

4pm, Thursday
25 January 2018
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Open Days

Wednesday 13 December
11:00-12:00pm
Wednesday 20 December
11:00-12:00pm

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TENDER | FIRST DAIRY FARM/RUNOFF



202 Newall Road, Newall, New Plymouth District

Located a short drive from Okato on the Upper Newall Road, this 84.3173 (208.3480 acres) dairy farm, provides scope for a first farm buyer or as a grazing/supplement block.

Currently milking 157 cows through a 13 ASHB cowshed, this farm boasts two new calf/storage sheds, a large barn and 6 bay implement shed.

With all young stock on (65 weaners, 56 R2 heifers and 19 holdovers), the farm has averaged 42,900 kg/MS over the last two years and is tracking to equal or better that this season.

With an older 3 BR home, centrally raced and subdivided into 54 paddocks, this flat to easy contoured farm is an affordable opportunity rarely available today.

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M 021 190 7728

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TENDER | NEWALL RD DAIRY FARM, IT'S ALL HERE



344 Newall Road, Newall, New Plymouth District

Located on the Newall Road is this extremely well set up 98.49 hectare (243.3687 acre) dairy farm.

With an effective 84 hectares and neighbouring 94 hectare lease block as milking platforms and a 78 hectare support block, this farm has pumped out an average of 192,200 kg/MS over the last three seasons.

Currently milking 480 cows through a 40 bale rotary cowshed, this farm also features a 4,750 sqm Redpath dairy shelter, a reliable water supply and is centrally raced and well subdivided. With two homes and plentiful sheds/outbuildings, this farm presents extremely well and provides a number of options to buyers.

The lease block is also available to purchase.

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Opunake High School Girls Basketball team presented with Championship banner



Outstanding player Isabelle Cook is all smiles as she receives her award from Coach Steve McKean, which David Hughes (a PE teacher) has just announced.

A special presentation was made on Friday December 1 at the Opunake High School Junior Prizegiving event. Well-known coach Steve McKean presented the National Secondary School Basketball Championship Banner to the schools senior

basketball girls team (He also presented the other sports awards). Also present was their inspirational coach Angelo Hill, who spoke of his enjoyment of coaching the team. Also contributing to the teams' success was Sharron Quinnell (sports co-

ordinator and manager) and Catherine Cook (manager). The victorious team was captained by Simone Cook. Isabelle Cook was named as Most Valuable Player (MVP) at the Nationals and was selected in the NZ Under 17 Women's team.

Simone Cook, Isabelle Cook and Iritana Hohaia were named in the National Tournament Team. The remaining members of the champion team included Jessica Roach, Alyscia Lang, Hayley Quinnell, Olivia Bright, Tenaeya Sutcliffe

and Krysten Johnson. Steve McKean gave a brief speech. "It's a real privilege to be here," he began. "The last couple of years have been very very special," he continued. "I'm so happy for you," he said addressing the team. His final message to the players was, "Keep shooting hoops - it's the best sport in the world." Steve acknowledged coach Angelo Hill's importance, firstly, as a player. "He was a very successful player - one of the best basketball imports into New Zealand." He then turned to Angelo's coaching prowess. "There is no doubt he is one of the outstanding coaches in New

Zealand." In a wide ranging speech, Angelo Hill said the award was, "The accumulation of years of practice and dedication." He pointed out that previous teams had always done well with excellent results. He admitted that the going wasn't always smooth, even to the extent of "some cussing", at times. Near the end of his speech he commented, "In sport I'm trying to teach lessons in life." He also said, "Winning begets winning." Angelo became a bit emotional as he ended saying, "I do love these young ladies." He relinquished the stage to tumultuous applause.

Trading old4new to save lives this summer

Coastguard's highly successful Old4New Lifejacket Upgrade campaign is back in time for summer and visiting communities throughout the country from December 2.

This will be the second year the popular boating safety initiative has been run nationwide with the Old4New van visiting popular boat ramps and key locations from the far north to the deep south.

Forming a key part of Coastguard's advocacy for safe and enjoyable boating, the concept behind the Old4New Lifejacket Upgrade is straightforward: bring your

old, damaged or out-of-date lifejacket to the Old4New van and receive a great discount on a brand-new, quality Hutchwilco Lifejacket. "Lifejackets save lives, it's as simple as that," says Coastguard New Zealand CEO Patrick Holmes. "Two-thirds of recreational boating fatalities would likely be prevented if lifejackets were worn, a lifejacket has never ruined a day on the water.

"The Old4New Lifejacket Upgrade campaign provides an easy and accessible way for people to ensure they have the correct number of fit for purpose lifejackets to wear on their boat."

Over 7000 lifejackets have been traded in over the last three years of the campaign meaning thousands of kiwis are now safer out on the water. For those who aren't able to come to the Old4New van, retailer Boating and Outdoors are also supporting the initiative by offering the Old4New trade in deal at their stores nationwide during specific weeks of the campaign.

The reach of the Old4New lifejacket Upgrade even goes beyond New Zealand shores, with good quality, traded-in lifejackets that meet New Zealand standards shipped to communi-

ties in need. "Since the start of the Old4" Coastguard New Zealand is the charity that provides New Zealand's primary maritime search and rescue service. The organisation operates from a network of four regions and 63 affiliated units, located around the coastline and major lakes of New Zealand. Coastguard New Zealand is a volunteer organisation with a charitable status. It has more than 2,000 active search and rescue volunteers who provide over 300,000 hours of their time each year to educate, protect and help save lives at sea.

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Merry Christmas from
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Tai chi Basics Class restart
Thursday 11th January
Opunake @CoastalCare
9am

Wishing everyone a happy
and healthy 2018
Nigel Cliffe 027 681 9524

DEATH NOTICE

LIDDALL Donald Peter (Peter):

Our distribution man who delivered the Opunake and Coastal News around the mountain fortnightly for the last seven years until just six weeks ago. Reliable, trustworthy and kind. We will miss you sadly. Our condolences to your wider family from us all at the Opunake and Coastal News

THANKS NOTICE

SMITH, Ian James (Smithy):



Connie and the family thank all those who supported us by visiting, sending flowers, baking, letters and cards during the loss of a very special person. Thank you to all those who came and paid their respects to Ian at Mike and Wendy's home. It meant a lot to us. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgment.

GRAZING WANTED

GRAZING WANTED for 50 Weiner Heifers. Ph 027 6513 750

WANTED TO BUY

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

FOR SALE

GARCINIA, a staff member is taking this and lost 5 kg so far and is still losing, it is 95% HCA. 60 caps \$28.90 At the Health Shop in Centre City. 067587553

TURMERIC, excellent in helping reduce inflammation. 30s \$24.90 saving \$10. At The Health Shop in Centre City. 067587553

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Call us today to advertise 06 761 7016
Next issue out
December 22

CHURCH NOTICES

Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

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

ALL WELCOME

THE WAVE

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

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Also anyone interested and with experience in marketing.

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Christmas Issue of the Opunake & Coastal News.

Our Christmas issue and Holiday Guide will be coming out on the 22nd of December 2017.

We would appreciate all submissions, including editorial and advertisements for this issue to be in by Wednesday the 13th of December.

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Certificate Prize-giving

Thursday 14th December 2017 at 2.00pm

Trophy Prize-giving

Friday 15th December 2017

Years 1-4 at 9.30am

Years 5-13 at 11.00am

Please ensure ALL students are in correct, clean uniform, including footwear.

Buses will be departing from the school on Friday at 12.30pm



OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meeting 1st MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5.30PM

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



WE LOVE TO RECEIVE YOUR PHOTOS

But please check their quality before sending them to us

Please do not reduce the size of the photos. They should be at least 1 MB in size and preferably 2 to 5 MB



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

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Merry Christmas from
ACUPUNCTURE SOUTH TARANAKI

Closed Friday 22 December

Open Monday 8th January
Hawera @Kiwilife Gym

Thursday 11th January
Opunake @CoastalCare

Tai chi Basics Class restart
Thursday 11th January
Opunake @CoastalCare
9am

Wishing everyone a happy
and healthy 2018
Nigel Cliffe 027 681 9524

DEATH NOTICE

LIDDALL Donald Peter (Peter):

Our distribution man who delivered the Opunake and Coastal News around the mountain fortnightly for the last seven years until just six weeks ago. Reliable, trustworthy and kind. We will miss you sadly. Our condolences to your wider family from us all at the Opunake and Coastal News

THANKS NOTICE

SMITH, Ian James (Smithy):



Connie and the family thank all those who supported us by visiting, sending flowers, baking, letters and cards during the loss of a very special person. Thank you to all those who came and paid their respects to Ian at Mike and Wendy's home. It meant a lot to us. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgment.

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See nothing, truth/lie dichotomy exhibition

From Friday December 15 there will be an intriguing and thought-provoking exhibition at Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford, which will be

curated by well-known artist Roger Morris (REMO). The exhibition runs until Sunday January 28, 2018. The official opening will be at 7pm,

December 15, entitled 'See Nothing, truth/lie dichotomy'. Roger will be creatively joined by Dan Levin (USA), Raewyn Turner, Ngahina Hohaia, Johnny d Painter, Arlo Edwards, Dale Copeland, Wayne McVicar, Alby Carter and a work by Jans Huijbers. The central theme of the exhibition is 'What is lies and what is Truth' with respect to events, notably international, which shape how we view the world. The exhibition will reflect the widely differing political views of the contributing artists, addressing Environmental, Historical and personal world views..

For his part, Roger is profoundly interested in exposing the truth of international matters he has researched, as opposed to the dishonesty that often is the case. His artwork is designed to make people think deeply about momentous events – usually tragic or negative - and hopefully (in consequence) to glimpse some aspect of the truth. He gives many examples of his viewpoint, including the 9/11 event, which he considers an example of 'false flag' attack and which he believes, was masterminded by the CIA and NEOCON extremists. "Islam didn't bring down the Towers", he comments.

Roger's art is a reflection of the truth as he sees it and his creative contribution is aimed at revealing more of it subsequently while helping to make the world a better and more peaceful place. He was very shocked by the invasion of Iraq where misrepresentation at many levels was endemic. "Remember WMD's? A million Iraqi people were murdered on the basis of that lie," he comments.

Roger was born in 1954 in Central Otago (Teviot) spending his formative years on a sheep station. Later, his family shifted to Clutha flat, Christchurch and Akaroa. He became a police cadet in Wellington in 1973 and was briefly a policeman in Christchurch. In 1975 he headed overseas for his OE and visited many countries, such as the USA, Panama, Australia, Israel, England, Austria and Italy. "I loved the Sistine Chapel," he said, and had a special moment while in the Tate Gallery viewing a work by Michelangelo of the Madonna holding a child. "I felt I was in the presence of something – it was a physical thing."

Roger returned to NZ in 1980 and briefly attended Elam Art School in Auckland, which didn't impress him much, "although I learned how to build and stretch a canvas."

Roger met "the great NZ realist painter and screen printer" Marianne Muggeridge and the couple built their splendid home at Oeo Road, as well as raising two "beautiful and dynamic daughters Lucy and Myfanwy."

One of Rogers iconic stone carvings, standing in splendour outside is 'Ode to 9/11' fashioned from Taranaki Andesite stone.

Roger works in a very wide range of media. "I love monoprints, wood blocks,



Roger Morris holds one of the exhibits which has a definite message.

drawing, painting in oils, stone carving and mixed media," he says with a wide smile. He could have added, printing ink on building paper, posters, manipulated photographs, booklets – basically you name it.

Perhaps his first artistic moment was as a thirteen-year-old when he tried to sculpt a V8 car block with the flat end of an axe. "I wanted to change it," he comments. He felt it alluded to his much later work carving stone.

In early adulthood he was, firstly, influenced by the Dadists, "Their language changed art so much" but later, and more especially the Impressionists and Expressionists. "Wonderful expressions of light and colour," he enthuses.

Is Roger nervous about

the upcoming exhibition? "It's going to be fun," he replies. He adds, "I feel my work is getting closer to what I'm trying to say." Mark December 15 in your diaries – this is an important art exhibition that should not be missed.



Roger with 'Ode to 7/11' in his backyard at Oeo Road.

What's On **butlers reef**

BLUE CHILD COLLECTIVE

from Margaret River, Western Australia

Energetic Surfing Tunes

Saturday December 17 from 3pm

FREE ENTRY

1133 Main South Rd, Oakura
Phone 06 752 7765 - www.butlersreef.co.nz

Christmas Kids Party and Lunch

Saturday 23rd December

Adults \$25 Under 12 \$15 including food

CJ the Clown and Bouncy Castle

European and Indian Cuisine

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Now taking bookings for Christmas and New Year

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4.30 pm til late, dinner and takeaways

HRS: 11am - 2.00pm lunch Sunday Lunch 10am - 3pm



see nothing

truth/lie dichotomy

roger morris dan levin ngahina hohaia tao wells
dale copeland alby carter johnny d painter
wayne mcvicar raewyn turner arlo edwards

curated by Roger Morris

15 December 2017 - 28 January 2018

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Mountain Bike, Kayak and Paddle Board Hire

Fun to share with friends and family 8.30am to 4pm

Open Daily
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Extra buses to run in December

Extra Saturday bus services will run on New Plymouth's Citylink and Taranaki's Connector buses throughout December.

The Saturday bus services will run on 2, 9, 16 and 23 December, in New Plymouth, Bell Block and Waitara.

Taranaki's Connector bus will also run on these Saturdays - providing one return trip starting in Opunake at 9am with the return trip departing New Plymouth at 3pm.

An on-bus survey will also look at demand for a permanent Saturday service to run throughout the year.

"We're excited to provide additional services so people can bus into town on Saturday and do their Christmas shopping or get into the festive spirit without worrying about a car,"

Taranaki Regional Council transport services manager



Citylink Bus at Ariki Street New Plymouth

Chris Clarke says.

"We're also trialling the Connector service to look at demand for a regular Saturday service to help people connect outside of the usual Monday to Friday service," Mr Clarke says.

Citylink buses will extend existing Saturday services from two to nine routes in the lead-up to Christmas. The services will run from morning to mid-afternoon with at least four return bus trips on each route. The usual

Saturday services Routes 10 and 11 won't run.

The Saturday services will follow the regular Monday to Friday routes, with buses operating as they do during the off-peak period. Fitzroy, The Valley, Bell Block and

Waitara routes have been combined into one route with four return services catering to these areas. It means five

buses will operate over nine routes instead of one bus over two routes.

Martins Fashions Change of Ownership

SALE

IT'S ALL GOT TO GO!

- 30% OFF ALL WOMENSWEAR
 - 30% OFF ALL MENSWEAR
 - 30% OFF ALL FOOTWEAR
 - 50% TO 70% OFF ALL GIFTWARE
- SAVE ON CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Change of Ownership

SALE

MARTINS FASHIONS

New Plymouth & Inglewood
www.martinsfashions.co.nz

Celebrating Christmas Mania style



Santa will visit Manaia on Saturday December 16 get along to see the jolly man in the red suit.

Manaia's Santa Parade Extravaganza! Saturday, 16th December



10 am till 2pm Parade at 12 noon

Proudly presented by Manaia & District Lions with generous support from The Egmont Plains Community Board

Manaia's Santa Parade Extravaganza is scheduled to go on Saturday December 16. Proudly presented by Manaia and Districts Lions Club, generously supported by the Egmont Plains Community Board and local businesses, the parade has been running for about 50 years.

The parade starts at high noon, leaving from and returning to Gibson Hall.

There will be marching bands, floats from various community groups, and a children's Wheels Parade.

A variety of activities and events will go on between 10 am and 2 pm at Robert Gibson Memorial Hall. Before the parade there will be bike and scooter decorating and face painting for the children. The hall will have craft activities, a bake sale, and the kitchen will be open to serve tea and snacks.

Manaia Primary School's Kapa Haka group will perform on stage. Outside the hall there will be a few stalls as well as vintage cars and bouncy castles and a few games, just for fun.

Wrapping it all up will be a visit from the man in red himself.

The whole community in Manaia is warmly invited to come and celebrate together the coming of Christmas and the holiday season.

Enquiries Mary Moore 027 506 9693.

Southlink Travel Free

on these SouthLink return services

Free days

Manaia to Hawera service
Tuesday 12 & 19 December

Waverley to Hawera
Thursday 14 & 21 December

Opunake to Hawera / Opunake to NP
Friday 15 & 22 December

Bookings essential

Opunake-Hawera service
0800 26 63 28

Hawera services
0800 278 5858

South Taranaki i-Site
0800 111 323

Get your timetable from your bus driver, local library or i-Site, or
Visit taranakibus.info



Dine in, Takeaway, Functions & Special Events



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Tuesday: 5pm - 8pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday:

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Friday & Saturday: 11.30am - 2pm,

5pm - 8.30pm

Thursday Special
2 large pizzas for \$25

Sunday Special
Lamb Roast Large \$15

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Now opening Monday Nights for Dinner

Monday Night Special
All Burgers \$12



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We are right on the Beach

book now

Book your Summer Holiday

- Self-contained units
- Powered sites
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- Kitchen
- Kids programme
- Cabins
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Shop open weekends from midday to 6pm

Popular parade for Christmas Eve

This year's Opunake and District Business Association Christmas Parade will be held on Christmas Eve. Floats will marshal from 6.30pm and set off at 7.00pm. It is always a well attended parade with a wide range of floats and is considered to be the best parade in Taranaki. This year we are making a few changes to accommodate some of the participants. The Pipe Band will be entertaining on the night.

New health and safety regulations came into play last year and will continue to impact on participants this year. Last year the turnout and participation was a record and we look forward to the same this year. The entry form for the floats is in this paper. Prizes for floats will be awarded based on best effort and creativity. The Business Association raffle will be drawn on the same evening. This year's raffle is largely sponsored by tourist-based businesses in the town with some amazing major prizes.

The Opunake and District Business Association thanks the community for its support during the year. It looks forward to exciting times in 2018. There are a number of projects in the pipeline. A number of new businesses have started in 2017 as people move into town to enjoy life in Taranaki.

Opunake and District Business Association



Senior Opunake Surf Lifesaving guards Mitchell Langton and Michael Corkill drive a boatload of Junior lifesavers through Opunake at the 2016 Opunake Christmas Parade.

Register at Coastal Care. See the notice for further information.

Next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News

December 22 - Deadline December 13.

Please send your Christmas Ads ASAP

Ph 06 761 7016

or email ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz



Opunake And District Business Association
Presents

Opunake Christmas Parade 2017

Sunday December 24th, gather from 6.30pm onwards for 7pm Start Tasman Street Opunake

Welcome to our celebration. Please complete and return the bottom portion of this official entry form by 18th December to guarantee your position in the parade lineup

All entries will be judged this year and prizes will be awarded based on the following criteria

Best Effort and Most Creative

Please review the parade safety rules and guidelines on the back of this page

Keep this portion for your records

Return the bottom portion to Fish Chips and More or email to pihamalavender@outlook.co.nz

Please type or print legibly

Name of Entry.....

Type of vehicle.....Length of entry (mtr).....

No of adults.....No of children.....

Responsible person.....Daytime Phone.....

Email address.....

2017 PARADE ENTRY FORM

My printed name or signature below is my bond that I understand the rules and guidelines for the 2017 Santa Parade and warrant that my/our entry will fully comply.

Signature

Safety Rules and Guidelines

Special Note the Parade begins at 7 pm on 24th December

The **GOOD HOME** NEW PLYMOUTH
PUBLIC BAR & RESTAURANT 21 ARIKI ST
IT'S NOT A HOUSE IT'S A HOME

Christmas functions at
The Good Home
Book now!



Hassle free functions
Let us look after you this year.
Avoid disappointment,
book your crew in now!

Live entertainment
Friday & Saturdays

Ph: 06 758 4740

Recognition for Coastal Taranaki Health Trust

CoastalCare were entered into the TSB Taranaki Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.

There were 86 entrants overall this year and 38 of those became finalists, Coastal Taranaki Health Trust was one of them.

For a facility only a little over two years old CoastalCare were finalists in three categories; Not for Profit, New and Emerging Business and Service Excellence Award.

Each category saw CoastalCare interviewed by a panel of judges who were presented with documentation that laid bare the processes, policies and procedures followed by the Trust.

Although not winners the process of entering is well worth the effort. A comprehensive report is given to the members of the Trust which gives feedback on areas where improvement could be made as well as highlighting areas the panel believed to be "areas of excellence".

The Business Excellence Awards, held by the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce, are in their 23rd year and held in high esteem on the Taranaki business calendar each year.

The awards were attended by Aretha Lemon, Facility



The Coastal Taranaki Health Trust team at the 2016 Opunake Christmas Parade.

Manager and Adrienne Hickey, Coastal Taranaki Health Trust Secretary, along with their respective partners.

Aretha and Adrienne were also pleased to note that Lisa Keen Audiology, who operates part time from the CoastalCare facility, was

a finalist in the Service Excellence Award category. "Raising the profile of the CoastalCare facility and what the Coastal Taranaki

Health Trust is all about is of great importance to us", said Aretha, "we feel very proud to have made it into the final list, and the feedback from

the judges will be invaluable in moving us forward to continually improve the services we provide to our community."



CoastalCare
Haumaru ki Tai
Health and Community Centre
Haumaia ki runga, Hauora ki raro

DID YOU KNOW?
CoastalCare offers for hire, quiet, private, well-appointed room's for meetings, training opportunities and social gatherings. This will seat up to 60 people or it has the flexibility to be divided into two smaller rooms. The facilities include a lounge area & kitchenette for self-service of coffees and tea

Permanently residing in the building are:
OPUNAKE PHARMACY,
OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE,
ST. JOHNS AMBULANCE,
PLUNKET,
HEALTH BOARD SERVICES.

CONTACT:
ARETHA LEMON,
Manager
on 06 761 8488

CoastalCare

Health and Community Centre

Some of the regular services we currently have running are:

COASTAL PRINTERS
Wednesday and Friday 9am - 5pm

TAYLOR DENTAL PRACTICE
Offering full dental services every Thursday from hygiene treatments to dentures

FOODBANK
Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm

LISA KEEN - AUDIOLOGY
Every 2nd Wednesday

ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC
Every Thursday afternoon.

TAI CHI - NIGEL CLIFFE
Every Thursday, 9am-10am

BUDGET ADVICE
By appointment

TARANAKI PODIATRY
Every 3rd Tuesday

HAUMIRI MASSAGE
Every 1st Thursday

COUNSELLING
Various providers and specialties including, relationships, drugs, alcohol, quit smoking, change support, family violence and anger management

DAIRY NZ
once a month course

PARENT COFFEE & PLAY GROUP
Every 2nd Thursday 10am-12.30pm.
All parents welcome (supported by Plunket)



EVERYBODY'S THEATRE

Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE - HIRE
For information email: everybodystheatre@gmail.com or check facebook- Everybody's Theatre
Check out our website at www.everybodystheatre.co.nz - Phone 027 3837926

DECEMBER 2017

Lollies, Popcorn, Ice-creams, Chocolate bars, Coffee & Tea For Sale	Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs \$8, Under 4 free Senior Citizens \$8. No Eft-Pos																
ID required for all R rated movies																	
 BAD MOMS 2 Comedy 1hr 44mins R16: Drug Use, Sexual References and Offensive Language Christmas, if creating a more perfect holiday for their families wasn't hard enough, they have to do all of that while hosting and entertaining their own moms. Fri 8 th Dec 7pm Sat 9 th Dec 7pm	 SHORTS Local, Short Film, Documentary Family 2 hr 15mins PG A collection of short NZ films and local documentaries. The short films are two cars one night and Tamma Tu. The local documentaries are Peter Snell unveiling, Heartland, Opunake Beach 1990 and The Reel People of NZ. Sun 17 th Dec 1pm																
 JUSTICE LEAGUE Action, Adventure, Drama, Sci Fi 1hr 50mins R13: Violence, Action Despite the formation of this unprecedented league of heroes--Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Cyborg and The Flash--it may already be too late to save the planet from an assault of catastrophic proportions. Sun 10 th Dec 7pm Wed 13 th Dec 7pm Sat 23 rd Dec 7pm	 MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS Drama, Mystery, Suspense 1hr 54mins M Tells the tale of thirteen strangers stranded on a train, where everyone's a suspect. One man must race against time to solve the puzzle before the murderer strikes again. Wed 13 th Dec 1pm Sat 16 th Dec 7pm Fri 22 nd Dec 7pm																
 GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN - Drama 1hr 47mins PG After leaving London for the English countryside, writer A.A. Milne starts to spin fanciful yarns about his son's growing collection of stuffed animals. These stories form the basis for "Winnie-the-Pooh" Fri 15 th Dec 1pm Sun 17 th Dec 7pm	 KIWI CHRISTMAS Kids, Family 1 hr 29mins PG Fed up with the materialism of Christmas, Santa runs away to New Zealand for a summer holiday. When two Kiwi kids figure out who he is, they have to find a way to get him back to the North Pole in time for Christmas Sat 16 th Dec 1pm Fri 22 nd Dec 1pm																
 WONDER Drama 1hr 53mins PG As Auggie's family, new classmates, and the larger community all struggle to find their compassion and acceptance, Auggie's extraordinary journey will unite them all and prove you can't blend in when you were born to stand out Fri 15 th Dec 7pm Wed 20 th Dec 7pm Sun 24 th Nov 7pm	 The Star Animation, Adventure, Comedy 1hr 26mins PG Wed 20 th Dec 1pm Sat 23 rd Dec 1pm  MY LITTLE PONY Adventure, Animation, Comedy 1 hr 52 mins PG Sat 9 th Dec 1pm																
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Christmas at the Bowl



Huge crowds are expected at Christmas at the Bowl for a fantastic show.

A spectacular community event, there is something for everyone at Taranaki's largest variety show complete with candles, carols, and a visit from Santa! All of this to be experienced on Sunday December 12.

Relying on fantastic sponsors and gold coin donations on the night this annual event is Taranaki's own celebration of Christmas and the renowned Powerco Fireworks display – a fun-filled family occasion for all to enjoy.

Gates open at 4.30pm with some additional entertainment this year in the form of bouncy castles, face painting and Christmas stalls all on offer. Bring along the family and your picnic dinner to really enjoy the atmosphere. A wide range of food stalls will also be at the venue for your convenience. The Christmas At The Bowl app will have words to all the carols and venue information to download before the night.

Pre-show entertainment is provided by 'Rusty Az' at 6.30pm with the Christmas At The Bowl Variety Show from 8pm. NP Brass will be on stage to lead all your favourite Christmas carols during the evening and the big screen will ensure that every seat in the bowl can enjoy the stage performances.

Special guests include the New Zealand Army Band, The Slacks, Morgan Bamford and Santa!

Your gold coin donation at entry is truly appreciated to help keep this community run event an annual feature with Urenui Lions Club and Little

Fighters Trust assisting with the collection of the donations as well as distributing candles & holders within the venue. The Ironside vehicle is available to those with mobility issues and there is limited carparking within the Gables grounds for those with

official Disability Vehicle passes on a first come first served basis.

Around 9.30pm sit back, gaze skywards and enjoy our Powerco Fireworks Spectacular. This is definitely a night to mark in your diary now – an event 'for the community by the community' and something that everyone can afford to do with their family to celebrate the festive season. Although the TSB Festival

of Lights is not open on the night NPDC will provide a safe lighting route from the TSB Bowl of Brooklands through Pukekura Park after the event. Safety lighting will be on until 11pm to ensure your safe exit.

Postponement night is Monday December 11 in the event of bad weather – see www.christmasatthebowl.co.nz, become a friend on Facebook at Christmas At The Bowl – Taranaki or

listen to More FM 93.2 for weather updates on the day. Proudly sponsored by TSB Community Trust, NZ Community Trust, Powerco, More FM & TAG Oil. Don't forget to listen to More FM the morning after the show with Staples Rodway offering one lucky young audience member the chance to win \$1000.00. Happy Christmas and see you at Christmas at The Bowl 2017 on Sunday 10th December!

Next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News

December 22 - Deadline December 13

Please send your Christmas Ads ASAP

Ph 06 761 7016

or email ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

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