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Iconic building no more. Page 7.



Wooden computers? See page 24 for Percy Thomson Gallery's latest exhibition.

Country school brings back memories of youth

Opunake High School's new principal is Simon Fuller. He hails from the Wellington region, professionally speaking, where he was Assistant Principal at Naenae College for two years. Earlier he held the same position at Taita College for three years. He was born and bred even further south in a small West Coast (South Island) town called Hari Hari.

"It's even smaller than Opunake," he quips. Opunake reminds him of his boyhood town with its special values and caring community. Simon trained as a secondary teacher in Christchurch attending the Christchurch College of Education and the University of Canterbury. In his science degree Simon majored in chemistry and geology. When he read about the job vacancy he thought he'd like to look into it further. On his arrival in the town he was immediately smitten. "I just felt like I had come home."

He was also drawn to the appearance of the school and grounds. "Such a beautiful site," he said.

An uplifting moment was meeting the Board of Trustees, whom Simon describes as, "salt of the earth" people.

Of the school generally he says, "The values, pride and people of the place sold it for me." He has received a great



Simon Fuller, the newly appointed Principal of Opunake High School.

welcome from the school and wider community.

"It's certainly a beautiful environment, but it's the people which make it a special place," he says.

It is early days in his new position, so Simon is still considering his special goals for the school, but his guiding

principle will be ensuring the school motto is maintained "Growing good people for a rapidly changing world."

However his very first priority, he feels, is getting to know everyone on the staff. To this end he is having half hour (minimum) meetings with every single member

of staff.

For relaxation Simon likes to fish, tramp and sit down with a good book. He especially enjoys the books of Clive Cussler, as well as science fiction.

Finally, Simon wants to convey

what a fantastic school he's arrived at and fully appreciates the fulsome welcome he's had from everyone. Of his staff, students and parents he concludes. "I'm looking forward to working with such great people."

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Future of Post in Opunake still up in the air

The owners of Opunake Post & Lotto, Graeme and Judy Dodd, are continuing to liaise with New Zealand Post regarding the future of the postal and bill-pay services in Opunake.

They met with two senior members of New Zealand Post a week ago and were due to meet again around the time of going to print.

Chorus who own the purpose built post office from which the postal service has

been run by the Dodds as Opunake Post and Lotto for over 20 years will not be renewing the lease on the building. The decision to not renew the lease has meant that a post service can no longer operate from the original post office built over 50 years ago. Chorus has also declined to tell the Dodds why they do not want to renew the lease and what they intend to do

Continued page 3.

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B.B.C. The Self Assembling Computer

The teacher placed the latest laptop computer in front of the class and listed the features that made it so great; the new faster and extra large graphic chips, the twelve core Xeon CPU and the stunning screen display.

"This computer," he said, "Happened by chance. It built itself!"

That teacher is now living under care!

Common sense tells the students, and us, that a working computer occurring by pure chance is impossible. Yet many of us blithely accept that an infinitely more complex machine, a living cell, happened by chance, and built itself.

An amoeba feeds itself, repairs itself, does its own thing for itself, and reproduces itself; all things a computer cannot do. It also has a computer system that we call DNA, that is far larger and infinitely more complex than anything a twelve core Xeon, or any other computer can handle.

Us humans are, of course, infinitely more complex than a computer or an amoeba.

But here's the point. If a computer and its programs cannot occur by random chance then nor can life!

Each one needs a designer and a programmer. By default any such creator

must be greater and more intelligent than the item created. While the computer neither knows nor recognises its creator, human life can do both.

Some portray the Creator God promoted by Christians as one who, having set the universe and life in motion, has been standing back with folded arms to watch wars, disease, famines and natural disasters wipe out parts of His creation.

That is not what Christians teach or believe at all. God sent many teachers, prophets and leaders to help and guide His people. He even got some to write His thoughts

and plans down in a book!

But God also did something else very special. He became a man, Jesus Christ.

The book that God had written tells us that Jesus Christ was the one who created the universe, the world, life and us. He even created us with the ability to create things; things like computers and computer programs.

Not all will recognise that Jesus is the Creator of all things. But to those who do He offers eternal life.

John 1 v1-14
Richard Oliver

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Patricia Green stands in front of proposed skatepark site.

Dispute holds up skatepark

The Manaia skate park project is again on hold. Work was due to begin on the former Commercial Hotel site in January, but neighbour Patricia Green objected, saying the council bowled up and wrecked her septic tank, without checking with her first about what was under the land they were working on. She said she is for Manaia having a skatepark, but there are now health issues making the project untenable on that site.

"This isn't about the skatepark. It's a health issue," she said. "To bring in a skatepark over a septic tank. Are you serious?" South Taranaki District Council chief executive Craig Stevenson said Ms Green has been a vocal opponent of the location of the skatepark. "This is just the most recent in a long list of unfounded allegations," he says. "Council's engineers and our Environmental Health

Officer have not found any evidence of a septic tank at the property. Verifying her claims has not been easy, as Ms Green has refused to tell us where she thinks the septic tank is, and has refused Council entry to her property. Letting us put a CCTV camera down a gully trap on her property could easily prove her allegation.

"I think it's a real shame and very frustrating that Ms Green's actions have held up the development of the skate park in Manaia. I think it's particularly unfortunate for the town's young people who have been waiting such a long time for this project."

Manaia Community Centre committee secretary/treasurer Jan Arthur said other sites had been looked at, but this one had "fitted the bill," and been popular with local young people surveyed. "It was ideal for the kids who did the survey, as they liked somewhere where they could be seen, and not hidden away," she said.

Ms Green said council contractors had turned up and wrecked two sheds built over what she says is an abnormally large septic tank, ripping off the lid in the process. The effects of the damage could already be seen on what had happened to the contours of her back lawn, she said. "This used to be as flat as a bowling green. Now look at it. It's moving."

She said the downhill gradient from Tauhuri Street to her home would encourage water to flow towards the proposed skatepark site, made worse by the flow of water coming off the roofs of adjoining buildings. "Mosquitoes like water, so do sandflies. That's delicious to them." Meanwhile the delay continues to frustrate supporters of the skatepark. Mrs Arthur said people had been talking about the need for a skatepark in Manaia when she first arrived in the town 20 years ago.

"I did a lot of volunteer work and work at the school, and there was really nothing here for the children. We put a survey out and asked them what they wanted, and a skate and leisure park was top of the list."

Cake auctions and sausage sizzles were among the projects which got underway to raise money for the skatepark, with the Manaia Lions Club and local school being among the groups who pitched in to help. Seven sections were looked at for possible sites, before the 56 South Road property was decided on, which the South Taranaki District Council purchased for the purpose of building the skatepark.

Mrs Arthur said the site was intended as a skate and leisure park, able to cater for younger children as well as older. Meanwhile the council has the project on hold, pending a report by February 23 outlining options and issues.

How to lose weight and influence people

Eaten too much over the holidays? Eltham weight loss practitioner Bryan Kyle has just launched his new method in assisting people with weight loss or weight management. He specialises in sorting out the psychological or behavioural aspects of weight loss and management, and does this by finding the psychological causes of the problems in the first place, and then resolving the issues which are causing the problem, from there. "Every problem has got a cause and until resolved will continue to be a problem," Bryan says. He emphasises that he is not a nutritionist and not a personal trainer and therefore does not give advice on those aspects of weight management. That is up to clients to sort out with the help of other specialists, he says. Mr Kyle is a psychology graduate who went into clinical hypnosis originally and then into Parts Therapy, and Ego

State Therapy and Resource Therapy. He trained in the USA and Australia and has found some really powerful techniques for helping people sort out their weight loss and weight management issues. His approach revolves around firstly sorting out any problems which are causing the weight issues. "Most issues come from childhood," he says adding it has its origins in some kind of trauma or rejection in the person's past. You have to identify the underlying issues." After the major problems have been solved, it then comes down to sorting out the tasks and functions of different parts of the personality and encourages supportive and positive habits and behaviours. "Our personalities are comprised of different parts", says Mr Kyle. "Each part has a special role to play. People with weight loss issues usually have the wrong parts doing the wrong behaviour," he says. Mr Kyle has developed the skills and techniques required to sort out, firstly,



Bryan Kyle

any causes of the problems, and then, secondly, to sort out the right part to do the right behaviour. Other approaches don't work because they don't solve the problem of the wrong parts doing the wrong behaviours, according to Mr Kyle. "It requires each part to be worked with correctly," he says. It can take a while to get

everything sorted out according to Mr Kyle. "A lifetime of unhelpful eating behaviours is not sorted out in 5 minutes," he says. But there are great results at the end, he says. He continues, "There are six key behaviours that successful weight maintainers do. I can help set them up." The key thing, however, to any treatment is motivation. "People have to be highly motivated to want to change."

Bryan Kyle can be contacted on (06) 764 8121 or 027 263 5845

Future of Post in Opunake still up in the air

Continued from page 1

with the building. Their decision has thrown aspects of the current service in the rural town into jeopardy. As well as being a Lotto outlet, the building also houses an ATM machine. The loss of the building has meant the business cannot continue as a going concern. "Chorus might be a private land owner but they are part of the local community and have responsibilities to the community," said the Leader of the Labour Party Andrew Little who grew up in Taranaki and also writes a column in the Opunake and Coastal News. "It's not unreasonable to expect that they would treat the Dodds

fairly and that they would make sure that the community continues to have access to the service that the Dodds offer." Chorus has the contract for Ultra-fast Broadband and was once part of Telecom, and originally a publically funded asset. They are now a fully private company in terms of building management. "If they are a small building owner in a small community like Opunake they still have a responsibility to the community to be a good corporate citizen," Mr Little said. In a communication from New Zealand Post, the General Manager of Franchise and Agency Jon Andrews said New Zealand Post would like to express its thanks to Mr Graeme and Judy Dodd.

"New Zealand Post understands Graeme and Judy are looking to semi-retire following Chorus's decision not to renew the lease on the building hosting Opunake Post and Lotto." He acknowledged Graeme and Judy Dodd's long service with New Zealand Post. "New Zealand Post has worked with Graeme and Judy for more than 30 years. The couple are valued members of the Opunake community and model franchisees, who go the extra mile for their customers." "Graeme and Judy leave big shoes to fill, but we are confident that we will be able to transition between franchisees with minimal disruption to our customers," Jon Andrews said.



The front of the new Opunake health centre site is being tidied up, as the big opening day gets closer

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Ian Armstrong kept very busy in new role

Cr Ian Armstrong of Te Kiri is leading a busy life these days. As well as his duties as South Taranaki District Councillor for the Egmont Plains South ward, he is now Deputy Mayor as well. He says he was reluctant to take on the new role. "I wasn't full of enthusiasm," he admits.

Describing former Deputy Mayor Alex Ballantyne as a man he got on well with he said he was saddened by the turn of events. However, he is forthright about the Eltham dumping incident and states candidly, "We stuffed up" which underpinned some disension within the Council, leading to what he describes as a relationship breakdown between Alex and the Mayor.

Just at present with Mayor Ross Dunlop away Ian has been Acting Mayor. He described some of his duties over the last few days, which were tiring to even listen to - basically an endless round of duties and meetings. For example, he has attended



Cr Ian Armstrong, Deputy Mayor of South Taranaki

all four Community Board meetings, an Environmental and Hearings meeting, two Council workshops last week.

However, Ian explains that it is not just himself who has been busy, it is a very busy time for the entire Council. "It's been the busiest I've ever known," he comments. For example, the Council has to wrestle with the District Plan, the Long Term

Plan and the Revenue and Finance Review, to mention just three tasks. As an aside he muses, "The new Councillors must wonder what has struck them."

Ian concedes that this term in Council will be his last, which will conclude a distinguished public service record over many years. Before he became a STDC Council in 2007, he was earlier elected to the Taranaki Regional

Council, serving from 2001 to 2004. Apart from running his dairy farm he has served as a dairy company director for 13 years, ending up as Deputy Chairperson of Kiwi Co-op Dairies Ltd.

He has also been a director of Mainland Products, Agriculture Industry Training Organisation and Australasia Dairy Products.

Earlier he attended university to graduate Bachelor in Agricultural Science with Honours.

Despite the hectic pace, Ian is pleased with what the Council has achieved to date. He pays tribute to the Council staff, stating "We are very lucky" as to their calibre. As regards the team of Councillors he says, "We've made huge strides."

Ian will be able to put aside his demanding workload briefly in the near future; his elder daughter is very soon to be wed and will require Ian to make his way up the aisle to give her away.

Community comment

Vacancy needs to be filled

Welcome all to 2015. We wish Sharon Arlidge all the best in her new location in Wanaka. Moving into Sharon's position as Chairman of the Egmont Plains Community Board has opened up a vacancy for a new Board member. The Board is looking for a community minded person; approachable, contactable, available to attend

Board meetings and needs to be professional and presentable. If you think you have what it takes you can get in touch with me at Dreamtime Surf Shop Opunake or write to Shannon Cox at the STDC by the 20th of February.

The Community Board is currently working toward upgrading the lights in Opunake and Manaia, making them smaller, but more modern and



Craig Dingle, Chairman of the Egmont Plains Community Board.

reliable, similar to the lights on the way down to Opunake beach. Speaking of Opunake Beach, make sure you head down to the beach this Sunday February 15. Council and the 150 years of Opunake District Committee are working together to bring music and family fun at the beach with 'Sounds on the Sand' The band, 'Blistered Fingers' play rock n roll covers from the 60's and 70's. There will be bouncy castle and activities for the kids. Should be a great day.

Till next time stay safe.

Craig Dingle
Chairman, Egmont Plains Community Board.

Used imported car sales on the increase

Golden weather and summer holidays have not interrupted activity in New Zealand's vehicle sales industry, with large numbers of used imported cars in particular driving off dealerships in January.

In the first month of the year, 24,102 new and used imported vehicles (passenger and commercial) were registered, 17 percent more than the 20,625 vehicles sold for the first time in January 2014.

MTA Chief Executive Warwick Quinn noted the vehicle sales sector was off to a roaring start in 2015, picking up from last year and led by strong activity in the passenger segment.

"January 2015 has started as 2014 finished: big volumes, broken records and double-

digit growth in almost all sectors. Fuel is the cheapest it has been in years, consumer confidence is high, and the Kiwi dollar is buying a lot of Yen," Quinn said.

"The passenger segment, in particular, has seen a huge start - the biggest January for new cars on record, and the fourth-largest January for used imports."

The new passenger segment sold 9,010 units, up 9 percent on January 2013's 8,293 - and making for the biggest January for new car registrations on record. The Toyota Corolla started 2015 the way it finished 2014: as the best seller. New Zealand's favourite car sold 792 units for the month. Holden's Commodore followed with 445 units, and Toyota's Rav4

in third, with 436 units.

The used imported passenger segment sold 11,791 units sold in January, up 25 percent on 2013's 9,470 - and closing the gap with highest-ever sales volumes of the early 2000s. Suzuki Swift led the way with 672 units, with Mazda taking both second and third place: the Axela sold 559 units, followed by the Demio with 505 units.

The new commercial sector sold 2,657 trucks, vans and buses this January, 19 percent more than the 2,235 sold in the same month in 2014. Last year's top-selling ute, the Ford Ranger, started 2015 in top spot again, selling 417 units. Toyota's Hilux

Continued page 5

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Legends of Country Music revived

A country music show entitled Legends of Country Music Show featured Radio host Bryan Vickery among other performers.

Held at the Waitara Citizens Hall, the show celebrated the songs of Johnny Cash, Charley Pride and other artists.

Clearly a Johnny Cash fan, Bryan sang a number of the country music legend's well known songs including the stirring Ring of Fire, When I Was Just a Boy and, among his most memorable, the sombre Man in Black. It was great to hear these numbers brought to life in fine style. He has a pleasant voice. Johnny Cash had a colourful life which included time in jail and Bryan, who doubled as MC, filled in details which were interesting and added poignancy to some of the songs like the sobering 'I Walk the Line'

I also enjoyed Woman Sensuous Woman written by Don Gibson, and in particular the catchy aha echoes by Helen Braithwaite from the Manaia Country Hall of Fame band



Bryan Vickery in fine voice.

who backed many of the solo performers.

I loved hearing Jackson, another Johnny Cash number, and perhaps his most famous duet with wife June Carter Cash. This was performed by Helen and her husband Ian, who she announced will have been married for 50 years on April 3. It was hard to not contribute with some vigorous foot tapping.

It was interesting to see a

lagerphone on stage. Dating from the skiffle group days of the 1950s, it is a percussive instrument that can be tapped on the floor, or alternately struck.

Helen and Ian delivered the final number before intermission, Teen Angel which I really enjoyed - a great song and beautifully delivered with some lovely harmonising.

Bryan Vickery gave an

ebullient version of the humorous protest song Okie from Muskogee. Written as a dig at the hippy movement, it begins with the lyrics 'We don't smoke marijuana.' He invited Maree Christiansen from the audience, who has recently released a CD, to accompany him.

Nial Corbett who had been accompanying some of the performers on keyboards, and was in the Phantom of the Opera staged in New Plymouth last year, gave an entertaining version of Blanket on the Ground. A natural showman the somewhat risqué lyrics were humorously handled. Next, James Cope gave a beautiful rendition of the moving Song for the Good Times, a real tear jerker with great feeling - I felt the tears welling. Originally from America where he had his own band he was invited to Nashville but couldn't raise the necessary finance of \$2000 to go.

Bryan Vickery's Wine and Roses which followed was another delight.

In all a great way to spend a hot summer's afternoon.

Bernice McKellar



Nial Corbett (left) - note the blanket in the foreground - with Sue

Used imported car sales on the increase

Continued from page 4

sold 324 units, followed by the Nissan Navara, with 254 units.

Used imported commercial sold 644 units this January, a 3 percent increase on the 627 units sold for the same month last year. White box vans were the order of the day: Toyota Hiace led, with 242 units sold, followed by the Nissan Caravan with 59 units and Mazda Bongo with 37 units.

The total for new and used imported road-registered motorcycles for January 2015 reached 1,095 units, up 15 percent on last January's figure of 955. The new motorcycle segment sold 852

units, up 10 percent on last January's figure of 773, while the used imported two-wheel segment sold 243, gaining a solid 34 percent on 2014's 182 units.

Quinn said the outlook for 2015 looks strong, with many pundits picking to be at least as good as 2014.

"However, while we're off to a promising start, it is too early to predict how 2015 will unfold.

The current key drivers of a strong kiwi dollar, good economic conditions and high consumer confidence need to remain in place if the new vehicle registrations are going to continue to grow or maintain current levels," he said.

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Kaponga Lions event keeps on giving



Participants begin the annual Kaponga Lions Fun Run/Walk at the top of Manaia Road.

The annual Kaponga Lions Club 10km Fun Run/Walk has been a fixture on the Kaponga calendar for a long time. "It had been around for a while when I first became interested in the Lions back in the mid 1990s," Kaponga Lions Club president Trevor Hurley said. Held on Waitangi Day, it starts at the Dawson Falls Gate at the top of Manaia Road and ends up at Victoria Park in Kaponga with a barbecue and spot prizes. There is a three kilometre children's option, beginning

at Hollard Gardens. This year 88 people took part. In recent years, traffic control costs have made events like these more expensive to run, so there's been a greater reliance on sponsorship.

Since it started, Starship Children's Hospital and the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter are among the causes to have benefitted from the annual event. This year money raised will go back into the Kaponga community. "We have had good weather

for it, we have had rubbish weather for it, but it's always gone ahead," Trevor said. "The weather looked a bit dicey earlier on, but Kapongaites being a hardy bunch will run in all sorts of weather." In the years the event has been held, it has developed a loyal following with many coming year after year. "The majority come from around Kaponga-Auroa, with a few rocking in from Opunake," Trevor said. "It's a good day out for the family at high altitude. It's a chance

to look over the fence and chew the fat, then finish with a barbecue and spot prizes."

Among those taking part were Rod and Cheran Le Fleming of Otakeho, with sons Jordan (11), and Jake (7). As a family, they have been coming for the last 4-5 years. "All ages and all sorts of fitness levels can do it," Cheran said. "It's a good run, but being downhill you have to pace yourself, as it's easy to run the first kilometres really fast."

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On this month in history:

David Lange assumes Labour leadership

On February 3, 1982 David Lange an Auckland lawyer challenged Bill Rowling for the leadership of the parliamentary Labour party. To be strictly correct, the

result was a tie with Rowling using his casting vote to survive..

However, with 'the writing on the wall', he wisely resigned.

Lange's more vigorous style was seen by many as more of what was needed to counteract the more pugnacious Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister. At

the next General Election David Lange became Prime Minister and the controversial Rogernomic reforms (named for Finance Minister Roger Douglas) began in earnest.

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Terra Nova arrives in Oamaru

On February 10, 1913 Captain Scott's ship the Terra Nova arrived unexpectedly in Oamaru after months of silence. They had bad news; Captain Scott and his polar party had reached the South

Pole (January 17, 1912) but had died on the return journey just a days march from their next food and fuel station.

They almost made it back to their hut at Cape Evans,

but frostbite, malnutrition and inclement weather had taken a heavy toll.

Roald Amundsen (Norway) had arrived at the South Pole 34 days before the British party on December 14, 1911.

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Soap factory pulled down

Long standing chemist and Opunake identity Grant Cavaney remembers when the soap factory he owned exported as far afield as Australia and the United States. He even had people from overseas come to pick his soapmaking expertise.

Then tough economic conditions meant many of his customers went out of business. He sold the Tasman Street factory building and put his stock into storage, though he still hopes to one day be able to sell from another building.

Last week the factory from which he made and sold soap for over 30 years was pulled down.

Grant had shifted in here from his previous Napier Street premises in the mid 1970s.

"Working in a chemist shop I found there were these specific soaps on the market for skin, and 30 per cent of them upset people," he said. "I did a lot of research,



Egmont Soaps factory being pulled down recently.

and came up with sensitive soaps which were made of vegetable oil. The place across the road came up for sale, so I moved over there, and it got bigger and bigger.

"Our sensitive soap was our biggest seller, but we also made liquid soaps and crèmes, mostly to do with the skin and the hair. Our shampoos were quite popular with hairdressers. It all came from natural products, even the perfumes."

The soap factory building had begun life as a plumbers workshop at 17 King Street owned by a Mr Fawcett, who had a motorbike, and carried his tools and equipment around in a sidecar.

Tom Knapman bought the business in 1946. Before this, he had served with the RNZAF in the Pacific during World War 2. He went on to be an active member in the Opunake Fire Brigade, a vice president of the Opunake

Tennis Club, and a member of the Opunake Scout Group committee, as well as being active in the Anglican Church and the Opunake Beach Improvement Society, before dying suddenly in 1962, aged 55.

These were good years for plumbing, with contracts for state houses, and the town's water supply being put in. Tom employed three staff, Ted Robson, John Trotter and Ray Young. They made corrugated iron tanks, night soil cans for the many long drop dunnies still around, and made their own spouting and brackets. The paddock next door to King Street had the bus sheds, and the land was used to store old tank stands and coal range stoves.

Tom's son David remembers using copper wire on a small folding machine to make spouting clips.

In 1959, Ron Wallis moved the workshop from King Street to Tasman Street. The building had to be put away from the street, as it wasn't a retail business. It was sold after Tom died.



All gone.



On the eve of the destruction of the soap factory that had once been the family plumbing business. Jared and David Knapman.



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Housing policy must ensure different needs are met

Housing policy has emerged as a major issue early in the Parliamentary year.

We all know housing has been a major issue for many people. House prices in Auckland have sky-rocketed, with the average house price now over \$700 thousand. I was recently told of a young professional couple who, using their savings earned on their OE to pay the deposit, managed to buy a modest three-bedroom Auckland house and now have a \$750 thousand mortgage. They are



Andrew Little MP

terrified of what might happen if one of them loses their job. As well as those struggling

to own their own home, there are those who need to rent and are being priced out of many rental properties, or who are dependent on the government's accommodation allowance to meet their rental cost. The accommodation allowance is the fastest growing welfare payment today.

The major problem is not enough houses are being built. Not just any houses. Affordable houses. There are too many people competing for the houses available. This

isn't helped by foreign buyers who don't even live here buying investment properties or buying a place they may only spend a few weeks a year in. We think foreign buyers in this situation should be required to build a new house if they want one here rather than buying existing housing stock.

On the issue of housing supply, we think the government can and should start an ambitious building programme focussed on affordable houses. Each

tranch of houses could be sold and the proceeds raised used to fund the next tranch of houses. The government would use its procurement powers and the scale of the project to ensure economies of scale and cheaper materials.

The government has said they will review the Resource Management Act, but they haven't said what will change. They say changing that Act will mean it will be easier to build houses. It looks more like the government wants to interfere in people's

property rights by preventing homeowners from objecting to neighbours' plans to build out airspace, sunlight and all those things that make a house an attractive place to buy.

We need to do more for housing to take the pressure off the house prices and enable more people to own their own home. This requires real action, not fiddling around the edges of the problem

Andrew Little

Labour Party Leader

Delivering more social housing to kiwis in need



Jonathan Young MP

Over the next three years, the Government will provide housing support to more vulnerable New Zealanders when they need it most.

That's why we've announced today recently a social housing reform programme that will see low-income and vulnerable New Zealanders getting housing

support that better meets their needs.

We are also encouraging and developing a more diverse ownership of social housing that will be innovative and responsive to tenants and communities.

Our social housing reforms are part of the National-led Government's wider approach of delivering better services to New Zealanders who rely on them – and to do this more effectively for the taxpayers who pay for them.

Our reforms have five objectives.

We'll ensure that people who need housing support from the Government can get it.

We'll do this by increasing funding for social house

subsidies by 3000 to around 65,000 places by 2017/18. As part of that overall increase, an initial 300 income-related rent subsidies will shortly be offered to community housing providers in Auckland.

The Government will help social housing tenants to independence, where appropriate.

An additional 3000 tenancy reviews in the next couple of years will focus on market or near-market renters. This will take the number of planned reviews to almost 5000 over the next two years. Tenants in properties that are sold will continue to be housed for the duration of their need. Financial help – for example, letting fees or bond payments – may be offered to some

people on the social housing register who may not need to be in the social housing system.

We'll ensure that properties used for social housing are the right size and configuration, and are in the right places.

There will be a strategic review of Housing New Zealand, including its asset management plans. We'll also accelerate Housing New Zealand's programme of building the type of new homes that are wanted and in the places they are needed, while disposing of houses that are no longer needed.

We'll increase affordable housing supply, particularly in Auckland.

Housing New Zealand will

accelerate redevelopment of its land to free up more land for private, affordable housing, and to rejuvenate state housing neighbourhoods and suburbs with a wider mix of housing.

We'll encourage more diverse ownership of social housing.

Community housing providers and Maori will be consulted with a view to the Government selling between 1000 and 2000 Housing New Zealand properties over the coming year for use as social housing run by approved community housing providers.

Properties sold as social houses will have to stay in social housing unless the Government agrees otherwise. In

addition, existing tenants will continue to be housed for the duration of their need. The Government must be satisfied that transactions are fair for taxpayers and result in better outcomes for tenants and local communities.

Our motivation is to improve the circumstances of New Zealanders who most need the Government's help – in this case by subsidising more social houses – while also driving better value for taxpayers.

Jonathan Young MP

Conference takes stand against fracking

"Taranaki's dirty secret is out!" says Catherine Cheung, Climate Justice Taranaki.

More than 80 people from across New Zealand gathered in Taranaki for the Taranaki's Beauty and the Beast conference co-organised by the Environment and

Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa, Sustainable Whanganui Trust and Climate Justice Taranaki.

"The government wants to roll out oil and gas exploitation across New Zealand, with Taranaki as the model. This gathering

showed people from the rest of New Zealand the true story – the serious impacts on local communities and the environment from the industry. The fact that we had so many people from such diverse backgrounds tells us that people are really

concerned", Cheung said.. There were medical and legal professionals, environmental and social scientists, farmers, tangata whenua, students, parents and grandparents.

Ora Taiao: The New Zealand Climate and Health Council, National Council of Women, Caritas Aotearoa, Greenpeace, Clean Earth League, Coal Action Network Aotearoa and 350, were just a few of the many organisations represented there.

The conference included a field trip to several oil and gas operations. At Tikorangi Pa, Otaraua Hapu's chair Rawiri Doorbar advised landowners to, "Stop them at the gate." The pa is adjacent to Greymouth Petroleum's gas facility

and an early blockade by the hapu succeeded in preventing damage to the pa.

Back at Muru Raupatu Marae, the conference covered legal, social, environmental, health and Treaty implications. A participant from Wellington, Tara Forde, noted, "The RMA is already seriously weakened and abused. The further erosion being pushed by the current government is an attack on New Zealanders' core values." Green MP Eugenie Sage said, "Fast tracking consent applications risks even less scrutiny of the impacts of oil/gas activities."

"Health professionals around the world are concerned by the mounting evidence that fracking has adverse

health impacts on local communities, workers, and the planet," Ora Taiao's Dr Alex Macmillan said.

The conference concluded with a joint statement signed by 18 organisations calling for a total ban of fracking in New Zealand. This follows New York State's ban on fracking from 2015 and Scotland's moratorium on fracking. The joint statement is open to other hapu, iwi, councils, groups and businesses who also want to stop fracking. "This is about climate justice, phasing out fossil fuels while we phase in renewable energy, and taking care of the livelihoods of local communities," explained Jeanette Fitzsimons of Coal Action Network Aotearoa.

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Missing gate causes frustration

South Taranaki District Council parks curator David Bruce is prepared to do things which otherwise wouldn't get done. These include restoring the wooden gates at the Opunake Cemetery. Imagine his disappointment therefore when the smaller of the two gates, which he had lovingly restored, went missing, believed stolen, only a few days after he had returned it to the cemetery.

"I had finished it back last year, prettied it up, painted it, it was all set to go, then it disappeared. At that point, I lost a lot of enthusiasm," he said.

"It sort of hurts your feelings that there are people out there who don't care about somebody's community to that extent."

The gates are a similar design to the wooden ones stolen from Kapuni School in June last year.

David said wooden gates, like these, made to a common



David Bruce stands in the gap where missing cemetery gate should be.

pattern, would be reasonably valuable, and could be sold to order.

He had taken this gate, and its larger neighbour, with the aim of restoring them in

time for this year's centennial ANZAC commemoration. He had noticed that rot had set in and they were in need of repair.

"You see things that are

never going to get done and it pulls at your heartstrings. The central stiles were completely shot, though most of the dowels were intact. I just saw that they were decrepit,

and that nothing was going to happen to get them fixed, so I thought I would make it happen.

"The gates are predominantly totara, with a bit of rimu. You can replace them with pine, which would last five minutes around here, or you can try and restore them properly."

He estimates the gates could be around 100 years old, given the dates of the nearby

headstones. It appears somebody had at some stage attempted some repair work.

Other recent projects of his have included fixing up a picket gate at the Patea Cemetery. He is still hoping to get the larger of the two Opunake gates back to its former glory in time for the ANZAC Day centenary.

"I don't know what to do about the other one though," he said.

New Zealand Post Book Awards 2014 Judge talks about Catton decision

Esteemed academic Peter Munz once said to me, "The wonderful thing about the humanities is the lack of one answer to any issue, there is always debate, there must always be discussion and there may not ever be consensus." I'm reminded of this as I watch, with a mix of admiration and dismay, the debate fuelled by Eleanor Catton's comments about the political state of our nation and her feeling that she is a victim of a 'tall poppy' syndrome. I am interested in listening to all of it, but wish only to comment, as the convenor of the judging panel of the New Zealand Post Book Awards 2014, on the continuing conversation surrounding our decision-making.

The New Zealand Post Book Awards is a multi-category, multi-genre competition. It is quite unlike the Man Booker competition, which considers only fiction. *The Luminaries* won the Man Booker competition, a thrilling achievement. Last year it went on to win the New Zealand Post Book Awards prize for fiction. In doing so, it won New Zealand's equivalent of the Man Booker. It then went into contention for the supreme prize against three other exemplary finalists of different genres. It did not win that supreme prize; Jill Trevelyan's book *Peter McLeavey; The Life and Times of a New Zealand Art Dealer* did.

I'm as impressed as I am bemused by Eleanor Catton's belief that *The Luminaries* should have won the supreme

prize. I'm impressed because we don't have a proud history of owning our achievements, of proudly proclaiming our talents. Perhaps this is a by-product of a nation that did suffer a 'tall poppy' syndrome. Comments like Eleanor's make me believe that this is changing. But I'm bemused because, putting aside that it diminishes the achievement of the supreme prize winner, Jill Trevelyan, it betrays a belief that our judging panel should have fallen into line with an international panel of judges. This is at odds with Eleanor saying that she grew up with the erroneous view that Kiwi writers, and by extension Kiwis generally, were somehow less than British and American ones; that we did not, and perhaps do not, back our own opinions or our own talent.

There was no felling on our judging panel that it was 'someone else's' turn to win. We made a literary judgement, not a political state-

ment. Given that our opinion did happen to align with the Man Booker judges and we did award *The Luminaries* our top fiction prize, it is at least churlish and, at most, mischievous to suggest that *The Luminaries* did not win its due in New Zealand.

But then, that's the beauty of the humanities. Such decisions rightly inspire debate. Like the Man Booker judges, we were a group of individuals making a collective decision. We worked hard at the task in front of us and, in my view, we made wise and well-placed decisions. I was proud to honour Eleanor's incredible work, *The Luminaries*. I was proud to award prizes to all the finalists that night of the New Zealand Post Book Awards, and to crown, as supreme winner, Jill Trevelyan's book *Peter McLeavey; The Life and Times of a New Zealand Art Dealer*. It deserved to win. But in the grand tradition of debating and discussing the

humanities, I urge you to read all our finalists before making up your own mind.

Miriama Kamo,
Convenor of Judges, NZ Post Book Awards

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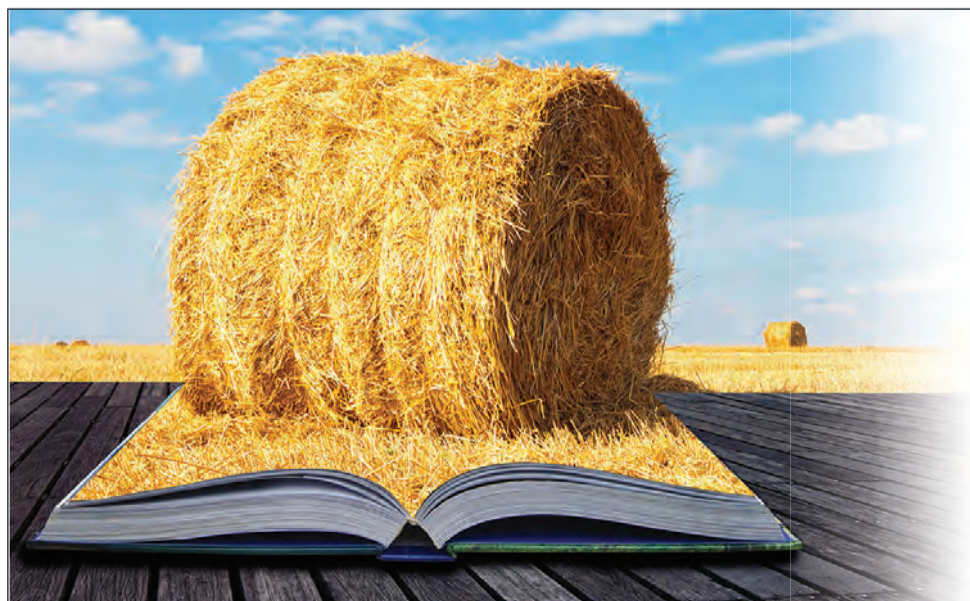
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The relationship we have that can affect everything else

One of the relationships we do have that sometimes causes us problems, is our relationship with things that we depend on to get ourselves through life.

Yes the drugs, alcohol, gambling and chocolate. 'It seemed like a good idea at the time', or 'everyone else does it' is often how we get started on this journey. Did anyone like beer when they first tried it?

Chocolate seems an odd one to see added to the list above, but like many things that seem ok, alarm bells ring when things get out of hand. And I get dizzy when I drink more than one glass of alcohol, so chocolate has become my demon.

How does chocolate get out of hand? When it becomes an addiction. An addiction is something that you can't really do without. When you lie about it and eat it secretly. You have to have it, and if you don't you get cravings.



Sylvia Huitson

So it went like this with chocolate. 'You can have it'. 'You deserve it'. 'Go to the shop and get some' (I live 90 seconds away from Four Square). 'Go-on. You know you want it'. 'You can have it and be back in a few minutes'. Voices in my head. Chocolate - down side, skin breaks out, calories, get fat. The scary thing about this, and we're talking chocolate, was what was going on in my head. Something was trying to take over my brain and command me, or persuade me, to go and get

chocolate. Most of the time we can control alcohol, drugs, gambling and yes, chocolate, but when the alcohol, drugs, gambling and chocolate are taking control over us then we could end up in serious trouble. The urge to have these things can become irrational and hard to resist. Why can't you have these things? No-one is saying that you can't, just beware of the dangers that go with each. And, you're right; chocolate doesn't cause as many health problems as other things.

Alcohol - liver problems, drink driving problems, anger problems. Ok in moderation, but when we cross the line (and if we aren't sober then we often don't know where the line is), rational thinking can go out the window. Yes, I can drive; yes, I can manage my drink. What do you risk losing? Your own ability to say no to drink, sometimes the respect of others, and possibly your relationship

and your job. Your life?

Gambling? Lots and lots of money. And we are talking tens of thousands of dollars. People will gamble their rent money, the food money for their kids, pinch money off family, work places; they can lose houses and relationships. Always trying to win back enough to make everything alright. Pokie machines were designed by the Mafia and psychologists to take your money. They do it by intermittently rewarding you with a jackpot. If that didn't happen you would probably give up. But no, a jackpot keeps you hooked back in. Often people think their partner is having an affair - they know something is going on, but they aren't sure what. To find out it is gambling and not another person is very little comfort. It is the lying that hurts. How can you ever trust that person again?

Drugs? Might help you

forget stuff, cheer you up for a while, make you feel like you are one of the boys/girls. But what else do they do? Take away motivation to do better. Soak up money that you might have used to buy something that you can actually be proud of. Or money that you could have used to take the partner and kids away on holiday. Do you want your kids to be just like you? Most kids want to be exactly like their parents (prior to about age 12) because they worship you.

Like I said, it seems ok at the time. Once it has hold of you though, it is very hard to break that hold. You think you are in control but you are not. The gambling, drugs or alcohol have got you to the point where they are the masters and you are the servant.

So if you are under a negative influence of drugs, alcohol, gambling or the dreaded chocolate (there

are others but we'll leave it at that), if the problem is causing a rift with your family, or causing you to risk losing your job, or preventing you through drug testing to get a job, then is that what you really, really want? Giving up can be hard - replacing the problem behaviour with something like sport or fun with the family is a good start. If you started using drugs, alcohol, or gambling to take you away from a real problem you were having, then these things can become a problem in themselves. So what was the original problem and how are you going to fix it?

There are heaps of agencies out there, and counsellors and help lines but you need to make the first move. Tell that voice in your head to shut up. If you can't stop then at least cut down - take control back. Find something better to spend the money on. Enjoy life. We only get one.

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Left: Congratulations to Bryan James, son of Brian and Karen James, and Nikita Mullin, daughter of Mae and the late David Mullin, who got married on the 31st of January at Opunake beach.

Below: Joanne Dorn and Stephen Clark were married on 19th April 2014 at Tairoa Lodge, Hawera. Joanne went to Pihama Primary School and Opunake High School, and is a lawyer. Stephen is a Health professional living in Geelong, Australia. Photo by Tony Carter Photography.



MAYOR'S COLUMN



Ross Dunlop

Hello everyone,
I hope you all had a safe and restful festive season and managed to spend some time with family and friends.
2015 is going to be a big year for the Council as we adopt our next Long Term Plan. Every three years the Council is required to develop a Long Term Plan (LTP) with a ten year horizon. Our LTP outlines all the projects, activities and services the

A big year looms

Council intends to carry out in our community over the next ten years. One of the key challenges we want to address in our LTP is how to retain and grow our population. If South Taranaki is to achieve its economic potential, we must not only retain existing residents, but attract new skilled workers and their families to the district.
Council will be going out to publically consult on our

LTP in early April, so keep an eye out closer to the time (to have your say). We want to make the best decisions for the future of South Taranaki and your feedback will help us do that.
Speaking of things to help retain residents, work is progressing well on the new Coastal Care health facility which is due for completion in the autumn. I was also thrilled to hear that

the last chunk of funding is in place to continue with the improvements to Everybody's Theatre. Well done to everyone involved. We have some fantastic events coming up in February and March, including Iron Maori, XRace, Sounds on the Sand (15 February at Opunake Beach), AmeriCARna and Movies in Eltham's Soldiers Park. So make the most of these events and the warm

summer weather.

Finally, a very warm community welcome to the new Opunake High School Principal, Simon Fuller and his family. I wish Simon and all of the teachers and students throughout our district an enjoyable and productive year

Ross Dunlop,

Mayor South Taranaki District Council.

Green Party Aotearoa NZ endorses Teresa Goodin

"The New Plymouth branch of the Green Party Aotearoa New Zealand have voted to endorse candidate Teresa Goodin in the upcoming local by-election," said spokesperson Sarah Roberts.
"Teresa is an authentic voice for woman and children and the future of the community with strong views on climate change and social justice.
"Teresa's previous work for the environment and in

favour of a Maori ward are consistent with Green Party policy and values.
"Teresa is a committed and talented young woman who should not be overlooked in the decision making processes locally.
"We are very happy to encourage all those inclined toward Green to support Teresa Goodin's candidacy with their vote," Sarah Roberts said.



Teresa Goodin

Teresa Goodin says:
My principal place of residence is in the New Plymouth City Ward area.
I am committed to creating a future our children can be proud of. Business as usual isn't an option. - unlimited growth is no longer serving us and it's certainly not serving our children. We must initiate fundamental changes at all levels of our communities

if future generations are going to thrive. With sufficient political will our council can be a leader and facilitator of positive change.
I have served on the Kaitake Community Board (2010-2013) and I have worked as a project manager at the Wanganui District Council (2007-2008) giving me a keen understanding of council business and process.

We can achieve sustainable growth by drawing on our local talent and combining that with international best practice to create innovative solutions to the complex issues our community faces.
To create a vibrant, safe and prosperous future we must foster relationships based on trust, co-operation and mutual benefit.

Bike Wise Month - February

It's time to ditch your normal mode of transport, dust off your bike and start exploring the glorious outdoors again! This February is Bike Wise Month and Kiwis are encouraged to jump on their bikes and take part in the numerous events around the country to celebrate.
Bike Wise is a national cycling programme run by the NZ Transport Agency that promotes cycling as a fun, healthy and safe way to travel, while encouraging all road users to share the road safely. Last year approximately 80,000 Kiwis took part in Bike Wise Month in around 850 events in New Zealand.
Hundreds of cycling related events will be taking place around the country this month, including Big Bike Tune Ups where mechanics conduct free bicycle maintenance and safety checks and the national Go By Bike Day on the 11th February, where those taking part can grab a free breakfast on the go!
NZ Transport Agency's National Cycling Manager Dougal List, is excited to see more people give cycling a go throughout the month of February.
"The Bike Wise programme for 2015 features plenty of great events up and down the country, providing some wonderful opportunities for people to get involved. Cycling is a great way to bring families together, socialise with friends, and meet like-minded enthusiasts," he says.
"This year is the 13th year of the Bike Wise programme and we are looking forward to seeing more New Zealanders taking to their bikes as their

chosen method of transport. Bike Wise is all about encouraging participation and making it fun."
NZTA are urging cyclists and motorists to share the road safely and have put together some tips:
Safety Tips for Cyclists
• Be prepared: Plan a safe route and check your bike before you start - brakes, tyres, chain, lights and reflectors
• Be aware: Watch for car doors opening, potholes, rubbish, grates, pedestrians and other hazards
• Be confident: Ride in a straight line, at least one metre from parked cars and take the lane when you have to. Use cycle lanes when you can
• Be considerate: Try not to hold up the flow of traffic - if necessary, pull over to allow vehicles to pass
• Be predictable: Make eye contact with other road users and signal your intentions clearly
• Be seen: Wear high visibility or brightly coloured clothing. Use front and rear lights at night, in low light and rain
• Be patient: Slow down near parked or lined up vehicles. Pass slowly and only when safe.
To see the above safety tips for cyclists in a fun and engaging way, download our fact sheet here
Bike Wise Events
• Big Bike Tune Ups, throughout February 2015
To ensure bikes are safe, road-worthy and are a good fit for the cyclist, a series of Big Bike Tune Ups will be held throughout the country over Bike Wise Month. People are encouraged to bring

their bikes along to a local Big Bike Tune Up where mechanics will conduct a free maintenance check.
• Go By Bike Day, 11 February 2015
Bike Wise Month's key event, Go By Bike Day, encourages Kiwis to leave the car at home and cycle to work or school. In a number of regions, they can even enjoy a free breakfast on the way. See www.bikewise.co.nz/ events for a full list of events.

For more information on the Bike Wise programme, activities happening in your area, cycle routes, bike info and more, visit the Bike Wise website www.bikewise.co.nz. You can also share your cycling stories and get frequent updates on the Bike Wise Facebook page (www.facebook.com/bikewise) and on Twitter www.twitter.com/bikewisenz.



Close examination of a bicycle.

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Okato and Districts 150 year celebrations



Planning for Celebrating 150 years of Okato is well under way with Rebecca Ripia, Andrew Fage (middle) and Anthony Williams.

Okato and Districts 150 year celebrations will be held in Okato Township on March 6, 7 & 8, 2015. A committee, made up of locals, has been working hard over the last year to create a weekend of celebrations that won't be forgotten. There will be both free and paid events, however it is safe to say that there will be an event that will appeal to everyone. **Here is an insight into the events that are set for the weekend of celebrations:** The weekend will begin with a market in the marquee (located on the old Okato

Primary School field off Carthew St) starting at 4pm on Friday March 6. This will be a relaxing way to ease into the festivities. At the market there will be local sellers showing off their wares, Okato 150 souvenirs, food stalls and a bar. A selection of local artists will provide the entertainment for the evening. The kids can wear themselves out at the new skate park and playground or get dizzy on the Zorb Balls. The market will wrap up around 8pm, with an Official Welcome

and the cutting of the cake to mark the beginning of the weekend. Following the welcome, local band Nga Tama will continue the evening entertainment and all visitors are invited to stay on, have some food, a drink and a dance. Saturday March 7 will start at 10am in true Okato style with a Parade which will run down SH45 and through the streets of Okato. There are over 80 floats registered, so it is sure to be a sight to behold. There will be vintage cars and machinery, clydesdale horses, local

community group and family floats, as well as decorated bikes. At the conclusion of the parade all visitors, guests and locals are invited to come to the Community Picnic at the marquee - bring your own lunch or purchase from local community groups. The kids will be entertained by The Bubble Man and CJ the Clown as well as a number of fair activities including bouncy castles, water walkers and a ferris wheel. In the Marquee at 2pm there will be an auction, with donated products and services - the highest bid wins with low reserves. Saturday events will continue from 5.30pm with the doors to the marquee reopening to welcome in dinner guests for a buffet dinner. Guests will be treated to a decorated and elegant marquee including a photo booth where families and friends can gather to capture the moment. The entertainment for the dinner will be provided by local jazz musicians with vocalist Suzanne Frazer. From 8.30pm those who have purchased Party tickets are welcome into the marquee to mingle with those who have enjoyed the dinner. Band Quadrophonic will start the party segment of the evening followed by local DJs mixing your favourite tunes, so bring your dancing shoes! Sunday March 8 will

commence at 10am in the marquee with a multi-denominational church service, where leaders from local congregations will join to give thanks. Following the service all are welcome to head over to Hempton Hall for tea, coffee and a chat or stay in the marquee which will be transformed into an informal dining setting for a spit roast lunch.

With bellies full the adventurous will head up to the Okato Domain for the Amazing Race which will start at 2pm and finish at the marquee around 4pm. The challenges will be discovered on the day, but it will take team work and smarts to get through, so choose your team wisely!

The weekend of events will conclude with a performance in the marquee titled 'Roundabout Okato' with doors opening at 6pm. Written and Directed By Raeleen Luckin the show will be a theatrical, musical and humorous performance - "Sitting on the Roundabout waiting for their mum to pick them up, siblings Martin and Ann discover and learn, from an unexpected source, more about Okato than they could have ever imagined.....". Bring the family, this is one show you won't want to miss!

Throughout the weekend the Historical Society will have a display in Hempton Hall for all to learn about the rich history of the area. The Coastal Taranaki School history projects will be presented in the Hempton Hall on Saturday, 1:15pm

There will be narrated bus tours going north and south of Okato on Saturday and Sunday, for those wanting a better understanding of the history of the land and the stories that go with it. Additionally on Sunday a bus tour will drop visitors off to Puniho Pa and guests will have a unique and special opportunity to be welcomed onto and shown around Puniho Pa.

A range of souvenirs will be on sale throughout the weekend but if you want to get in early they are on sale now! The weekend of events has been put together to celebrate the past, present and future of our thriving community on the coast. This will be a time to catch up with new and old friends, family, neighbours and to welcome visitors.

For more information and to purchase tickets and souvenirs: website - www.okato150.co.nz, email - okato150@gmail.com or phone - 06 752 4497

Last month in history

Katherine Mansfield dies

On January 9, 1923 Katherine Mansfield (born Kathleen Beauchamp in 1888) died in Fontainebleau, France.

She published about 100 short stories in several collections and on this basis is probably NZ's best known writer internationally. Her last years were blighted by her tuberculosis illness and she moved to various

locations in France, Italy and Switzerland seeking either a remedial climate and/or a cure. She was just 34 when she died.

Her husband John Middleton Murry kept all her work (disobeying her instructions) and did much to establish her international literary reputation. The collections of her letters and journals are especially interesting.

Our Next Issue is due out on February 26th
Editorial deadline is Friday 20th

Tall Order?



Opunake High School Head Boy Brody Chapman thought his height may be of use to the senior Opunake High School Netball girls, So he gave it a try, starting with the Netball uniform dress at the Opunake Christmas parade with Olivia Bright, Taylah Smith, Paula Aitken and Brylee Kendall

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2015 PREFECTS



Congratulations to the above students that have been selected as leaders of our school for 2015. After a very rigorous process these 15 students were selected as prefects, including 5 in the roles of head and deputy. We know that you will do a fantastic job and be supported by both staff and students.

- Back Row: Taylah Smith, Paula Aitken, Brylee Kendall, Sadonie James
- Middle Row: Jake Corrigan, Jonathan Abplanalp, Toni Hess, William Andersen-Gardiner, Silika Fakavamoeanga, Abbey Silson (Deputy Head Girl) Xavier Langton Deputy Head Boy), Brody Chapman (Head Boy), Mr Simon Fuller (Principal) Ashleigh Tito-Collins (Head Girl), Clare Young (Deputy Head Girl)
- Front Row: Johnathan Tahau



WELCOME

Welcome to the 2015 school year, especially those who have recently joined the Opunake High School whanau.

It is with great pleasure that I write my first report as Tumuaki of Opunake High School.

What an amazing community Opunake is with its wonderful physical environment and fantastic people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire community for making Laura and myself feel so welcome, it already feels like home.

The year has started extremely well with a very warm welcoming powhiri for our new Year 9 students and staff. Welcome to Justine Hart, Janine Horo, Margaret Langton and Kirsty Mainwaring.

NCEA Results

We have once again achieved very pleasing results, that reflect the hard work and dedication of staff and students in 2014. Our NCEA Level 1 & 2 results are excellent with our 2014 Year 11 Maori students achieving 20% higher than that of their national counterparts.

In order to succeed and reach ones goal, one has to ask themselves two simple questions?

1. Is it worth it?
2. Can I do it?



Justine Hart



Janine Horo



Margaret Langton

I encourage all students as they begin their learning journey this year and set their goals and targets to answer both these questions with a resounding YES! Once we commit to a goal being worth it and tell ourselves we can do it, we can achieve anything.

Opunake High School is a high achieving vibrant high school based upon the shared vision of *'Growing Good People for a Rapidly Changing World'* I am looking forward to what 2015 holds for our school and I can't wait to work alongside this community to ensure our young people live their **DREAM**. I look forward to meeting you out and about in Opunake.

Simon Fuller
Principal



EVENTS

Athletics Day

Wed 18th February at the rec from 9:30am

Class & Individual Photos

Mon 23 February

OHS Gala

Thur 12 March from 5:30pm

Swimming Sports

Wed 25th March from 10am.

Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend and support the students

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Breana-Paige Budd and Jay Chapman concentrate on completing the task.



ORIENTATION WEEK

During the first week at Opunake High School students have been involved in many activities as part of the orientation and DREAM programmes. YEAR 9 Students spent time at Opunake Beach gaining valuable knowledge from the life guards. Above: Campbell Decent tackles Jack Fisher-Castle in the flags.

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Planting a winner – how to protect farm waterways



At the field day, farmers will have the opportunity to see what has worked well on the Tatua farm, as well as problems they may encounter and how to fix them.

How to get the best results from planting waterways and avoid the common pitfalls will be the focus of a DairyNZ and Tatua field day on February 13 at the Tatua farm in Tatanui.

Representatives from DairyNZ, Tatua and Waikato Regional Council will be answering farmers' questions and providing advice on how to successfully plant farm waterways.

As part of the Sustainable Dairying Water Accord, all dairy farms must have stock excluded from waterways by 31 May 2017, and a planting plan for stream banks by 2020. The accord covers all dairy farms and is supported by all dairy companies across the country.

DairyNZ water quality scientist, Tom Stephens, who will be talking at the field day, says the focus

will be on helping to ensure farmers get value for money from their planting while making the most of the environmental benefits.

"It's important to choose plants that are best suited to the farm's climate and soil, and plant them at the right time of the year," says Tom. "We'll be looking at plant options and what ones are most suitable for Waikato soils and climates, as well as the best time of the year to plant and different techniques."

At the field day, farmers can see what has worked well on the Tatua farm, as well as problems they may encounter and how to fix them.

Waikato Regional Council will also be at the field day to present funding options and provide advice for keeping costs down.

DairyNZ and Waikato Regional Council recently released a quick-guide to successfully planting waterways in the Waikato region – 'Getting riparian planting right in Waikato'. It will be available at the field day and can be downloaded or ordered from dairynz.co.nz/waterways.

The guide helps farmers get started with the top five species to plant beside Waikato waterways, as well as a planting calendar and a table of plants to suit Waikato conditions, outlining the benefits and tolerances of each plant.

The planting field day will be held on Friday 13 February at the Tatua farm at 3321 State Highway 26, Tatanui, from 10am-1pm. Registration is not required for the event and lunch will be provided.

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Date change for Pihama Tractor Pull



The date for the second Pihama Tractor Pull has been changed. Instead of taking place on February 14, as originally planned, it will now take place on the next day, Sunday February 15, starting at 11am at the Pihama Cricket Club.

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on Facebook
Contact Karel 021 202 0611

Initiative offers free cow condition assessments

Northland herds have the opportunity this season to be part of the DairyNZ body condition score (BCS) initiative which will see certified BCS assessors provide free body condition score assessments. "Farmers, researchers and advisers all agree that getting cows in the right condition at calving is critical for milk production and reproductive performance – two key

drivers of farm profitability," says DairyNZ developer – productivity, Sally Peel. "Yet every year we see large numbers of cows calving at below target condition and consequently achieving below potential production and profitability."

In recognition of these difficulties, DairyNZ has developed the BCS initiative to help farmers achieve their cow condition

targets by calving. "We have trained advisers in body condition scoring and feed planning to support farmers one-on-one and to develop plans to address below target cows," says Sally. Funded by DairyNZ, the BCS initiative offers three fully funded BCS consultations. Advisers will work with farmers to identify cows that are

unlikely to reach BCS 5.0 by calving without some intervention and find workable solutions to get these cows back on track.

"The BCS initiative means farmers can experience the process of BCS assessment and understand the benefits of getting cows to BCS targets," says Sally. "By using a certified assessor, they can be

confident that the assessment is accurate and consistent with New Zealand standards. "The programme has been moving around the country and is currently in its third year. We have already seen a lot of opportunities captured through the programme."

DairyNZ are seeking expressions of interest from Northland farmers interested in taking part in the BCS Initiative.

If you would like to find out more about this opportunity, contact your local DairyNZ consulting officer or phone the DairyNZ Farmer Information Service on 0800 4 DAIRYNZ (0800 4 324 7969). If you would like to register online, visit dairynz.co.nz/bcsinitiative or phone the DairyNZ Farmer Information Service.

NIWA's Hotspot Watch

Regions experiencing severely to extremely drier than normal soil conditions are deemed "hotspots". **Facts: Soil Moisture** For the North Island, severely to extremely drier than normal soils for this time of year continue for the vast majority of the island. Exceptions include south-coastal Gisborne, parts of Hawke's Bay, isolated pockets of the Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions as well as along the western slopes of the central and northern Tararua's.

Week-to-Week Comparison When compared to this time last week widespread dryness continues to cover the majority of New Zealand. For the North Island, the only pronounced change, as alluded to last week, was an increase in soil moisture levels for parts of the southeast coast of the island from Gisborne to Hawke's Bay. In fact, a significant increase in soil moisture levels has occurred, albeit localised, over south-coastal Gisborne. However, on the other end of the spectrum, soils have continued to dry for the coastal Bay of Plenty and eastern Waikato regions.

Commentary

For the North Island, when considering the current soil moisture anomalies for this time of year, the overwhelming majority of the island is more-or-less one large hotspot. Exceptions to this are the most of the Gisborne, parts of the Hawke's Bay, as well as pockets of the Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui and Wellington regions.

Computer models are indicating the distinct possibility for a significant rainfall event later this weekend into early next week for central and western parts of the North Island along with the possibility of more meaningful rainfall later in the week. Naturally, it's too early to provide exact details, but suffice it to say that moderate to significant relief is possible for some hotspot areas of the island over the coming days. Other areas of the island are likely to receive at least some rainfall, however, it's less likely (though not impossible) that a significant increase in moisture soils will result.

For the South Island, hotspots exist throughout much of Otago, parts of Southland and most of the

island located along and east of the Divide. The far north of the island from the eastern Tasman region to the western Marlborough region is also a hotspot. Computer models indicate the distinct possibility for meaningful rainfall to occur over the coming week for parts of Southland, Otago and southern Canterbury.

Consequently, soil moisture levels may increase enough to allow for improvement, or reduction in the hotspot size in some areas. Even if this were to occur, the amount of rain that is likely to fall will be well short of what is needed to bring soil moisture levels to near normal for this time of year. Additionally, it's possible that meaningful rainfall may occur for hotspot regions in the far northern part of the island.

Otherwise, while rainfall is forecast for the majority of the remainder of the island, it's likely that it will not be enough to provide for a significant increase in soil moisture levels.

For hotspot regions, sustained rainfall over an extended period of time is needed to return conditions back to normal.

On this month in history: Peter Snell sets world records

On February 3, 1962 Peter Snell set two world records. He ran 1 minute 44.3 seconds for the 800 metres, and 1 minute 45.1 seconds for the 880 yards on the grass track at Lancaster Park, Christchurch. It was the same race, but the two distances were monitored with respect to his time.



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Apology: Opunake and Coastal News would like to apologise to Cody Hall for incorrectly advertising that he works for Elders where as he is in fact part of the Inghams Feed team. Sorry for any inconvenience or confusion.

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Stratford	Weekdays	8.30am - 5.00pm
Broadway South	Saturday	10am - 2pm

A new season ahead at Eltham Junior Rugby Club



Eltham Junior Rugby players follow Ferdie and the ITM cup in the Eltham Christmas Parade.

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NEW PLYMOUTH

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As summer officially draws to an end the Eltham Junior Rugby Club begins planning for the new season, starting with a registration day on Saturday February 21 at the Eltham Pools.

The Club had three teams in the South Taranaki round in 2014 and there are high hopes for registrations to grow this year, says Club Chair Simon O'Sullivan. "We had 45 registrations in our first year and we want those kids to come back. We also want to see more girls and welcome those who have never played the game. Basically we want our three teams to become four or five this year and that means we'll be needing coaches too," he said. Simon coached the under 6 team with Tony Salisbury last year.

The Club will work with Sport Taranaki promoting their Skills4Life programme. The programme involves working with the players, coaches and parents in promoting skills, not just useful in rugby, but across all recreational activities. The Clubs mixed under 6 and under 7s teams play the rippa game. It sees the young ones working on speed, balance and evasive skills as well as improving their confidence and communication. Probably the most important facet of the rippa game though is fun and there's plenty of that going on. Harry Anneff and Pat Heta coached the U7s team last

year. As a teacher Harry sees the benefits of team work each day in the classroom. The U7s speak entirely in te reo Maori as many of the players attend Te Kura o Ngaruahinerangi (at the old Mangatoki School). Not all the kids hail from the kura though, so it's a great learning opportunity for those from the mainstream. And it's not difficult to understand what's going on in the game if you don't speak the language, Harry says. "That's the amazing thing about working with these kids – they just get it."

The clubs Under 9 boys were coached by Matthew Francis and Niko Rogers. Matt's been around the local rugby scene for a long time and he's been involved in resurrecting the Club after a lull of six years. "Rugby unites a community. You see pride in the older boys every time they put on the black and white jersey and that's crucial for these young guys. As a coach, it's not just about helping them work on their ball skills and fitness, but giving them that sense of pride," Matt says.

If you are interested in becoming an Eltham Junior Rugby Club player, coach or supporter come down to the Eltham Pools, Soldiers Park, Conway Road on Saturday February 21 from 11am-1pm to register. There will be a sausage sizzle on the go too. If you can't make it, phone club chair Simon O'Sullivan on 027 4105 557.

Opunake Surfcasting and Angling Club

2x20lb!

Kerry Reid had a great weeks fishing recently. He landed these two beauties within six days of each other. Two 20 pounders, 10.2kg and 9.16kg. Congratulations Kerry.



Taranaki boys in New Zealand Squad



The New Zealand Under-16 basketball team has been boosted by the selection of Taranaki up and comers Cameron Trethewey and Matthew O'Connell.

Cameron's basketball career didn't start until year 7 at primary school, but he still made the TCB U13 team that year (2012). In 2013 and 2014, he played for Taranaki U15. In all three years Matthew O'Connell was a team mate. In 2014 as a year 9 pupil at Stratford High School, he played for the school's junior team that won the South Taranaki junior competition.. He was also a member of the school's senior squad getting court time when possible, including at secondary school nationals.

Cameron would like to thank everyone who has helped him with his basketball, but especially the following:

Solly Hughes for his developmental individual coaching sessions and all his words of encouragement and wisdom

Angelo Hill, his coach for TCB and Taranaki in 2014

Quinton Bailey, -senior team mate from Stratford High School for his one-on-one training sessions

Chook Hohaia for his fantastic trainings and scrimmages at Opunake

Dave Bublitz from New Plymouth for his work over the last couple of months

Phillipa Merson from Stratford High School for making the key to the gym available for trainings through the holiday period.

Cameron would also like to thank his mother and father for their support and encouragement. and for pushing him to train harder when things got tough.

Matthew started playing basketball at the age of five and has since played for

numerous teams including St Joseph's Opunake school teams, the TCB (Taranaki Country Basketball) under 13 team for two years and then the Basketball Taranaki under 15 team for two years. Matthew has also played for the Francis Douglas Junior 'A' and Senior 'A' basketball teams coached by Andy Cowie. Along with Andy Cowie,

Matthew would like to thank Brendon Hughes, who has coached Matthew privately for the last three years, Chook Hohaia for the tough weekend scrimmages and fitness sessions that gave Matthew the opportunity to play against older more experienced players. Finally Matthew would like to thank Dave Bublitz for the fine-tuning of his game. All these coaches have spent countless voluntary hours training Matthew which is very much appreciated.

Please send your sports stories to editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Congratulations Matthew O'Connell from Opunake and Cameron Trethewey from Stratford. Both boys have been selected in the New Zealand under 16 Basketball Squad.

Opunake Surfcasting and Angling Club

The settled weather has produced some awesome well-conditioned snapper. New club member Mike Wallis caught a Kahawai up to 4.28, taking the record off Mikey Corkill's 4.09kg. Several Gurnard have come to the scales, with George Johnston landing a 1.35kg beauty. Joe Sav has been hounding out the spotty sharks, weighing in a few over 8kgs. At the start of the season Mark

Walsh hit the jackpot with a 6.8kg massive trevally which won the TOSC COMP, and breaking Graeme Dodd's long standing record of 5.25kgs. So the season is looking good. The Collins take a kid fishing day was another success with 80 kids participating, and 129 fish coming to the scales. Many thanks to Brian and Lyn for sponsoring the day, and all the club members that helped out.

We have a new committee this season, President, Paddy Walsh, Sec/ Tres, Dianne Coltart, Weighmasters, Phil Walsh for north and George Johnston for south end. Committee, Kerry Reid, Kurt Franks, Steve Corkill and Daniel Furgus. Anybody wishing to join the club just pop in to Collins sport centre and sign up or get hold of one of the club members.

Please send us your sports stories.

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New Plymouth	Weekdays	8.30am - 5.00pm
Fitzroy	Saturday	9.30am - 4.00pm
	Sunday	10am - 4.00pm
Stratford	Weekdays	8.30am - 5.00pm
Broadway South	Saturday	10am - 2pm

Giant marlin is fishing first for Opunake



Willis Luttrell (left) and Warrick Scott with their marlin.

This summer's barmy weather has attracted marine as well as human visitors to Opunake. Among these was a 141.7kg striped marlin fished up by Willis Luttrell and Warrick Scott off Cape Egmont on January 27.

While striped marlins are occasionally caught around New Plymouth, this is believed to be the first time one has been caught as far south as Opunake, Warrick said.

He credits this year's barmy

summer as a big drawcard for marlin in these waters, and said it was only a matter of time before one would be caught near Opunake.

"They migrate from the tropics to New Zealand to feed this time of year," he

said. "There was a good window operating with a good current off the continental shelf. Last year was a cold summer, so there were only two or three caught off New Plymouth. This year with all the good weather, there have been dozens."

Willis said he had caught marlins off the coast of New Plymouth before, but had always wanted to catch one near Opunake.

"I had heard rumours in the past about sightings in the Opunake and Patea areas," he said. The previous year he had seen, but not been able to catch one near Rahotu.

"I have been targeting marlin a couple of times off Opunake. It's a bit of a dream of mine., and we had heard that Marlins were heading south from New Plymouth a couple of days prior, so I took the day off work to target marlin."

Willis and Warrick headed out in Ranger, a boat owned

by Willis' father Sean, at around 8am in search of water warm enough to find marlin. They made their big catch in rough sea around 1pm while 13 km off Cape Egmont at a depth of 180 metres.

With Willis being an Opunake fishing club member they had decided that Warrick would drive while Willis would haul in the catch in, so as to make the catch official.

It took 40 minutes to haul the marlin in. Originally the two had intended to tag and release it, but on rolling it over and seeing the hook in the eye, they realised it was unlikely to survive if it was returned to the water. It was another two and a half hours before they got back to land. So big was the fish that it had to be weighed on the Cape Egmont rather than the smaller Opunake Fishing Club scales.

Willis said to date, he believes it's the heaviest

marlin caught in Taranaki this season.

Warrick said catching the marlin had been a big achievement.

"It's very rare to find a fishing record that hasn't been achieved. This was one of the rare ones. We just went out there and got it," he said.



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Oil prices and environment

The lower fuel prices may be great for Kiwis filling up at the pump, but what are the wider implications of cheaper oil?

The global price of crude oil has more than halved in the last year to US\$49 per barrel, offering fuel savings for consumers and businesses alike. But could cheaper fossil fuels undermine efforts to rein in our emissions or develop cleaner technologies? The SMC asked experts to comment on the possibility. "Very little oil is consumed in New Zealand for electricity generation or for the heating of buildings or industry. So only the transport sector will be affected by lower oil prices," explains Massey

University's Professor Ralph Sims. "Everyone likes the thought of saving money from cheaper petrol and diesel, but very few people will consider the increased carbon footprint that driving further and buying bigger cars will have as a result." However, Professor John Raine at AUT University holds a different view. "Public awareness of environmental degradation and climate change likely coming from activities of human beings would encourage technological developments towards greater energy efficiency and alternative forms

of energy regardless of the current lower price of oil," he explains. "Focusing purely on motor vehicles, it could be expected that if fuel prices stayed lower for say 12 months, the uptake of hybrid and electric vehicles may slow temporarily, but I still see the present lower prices as a temporary event that will not endure long enough to induce any sense of complacency in the public or divert the automotive industry or alternative energy companies from current plans."

Read the full expert comments on the Science Media Centre website.

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Kelvin Weir in action. Photo CPL.

Opunake Kneeboard surfer takes national title

After eight attempts to win The New Zealand Kneeboard Title, Opunake's Kelvin Weir has finally cracked it. Held at Piha Beach, Auckland on January 23, Kelvin and his fellow

"kneelos" contested The 2015 National Surfing Titles held in clean three-foot conditions. Kelvin won his semi final heat, scoring 15.87 to advance through to the four-man final. The final was run in

challenging waves, and Kelvin used all his skills and patience to pick off two scoring waves, giving him his first open men's title. Former multiple national titleholder Craig McDonald, from Auckland took out

second, and Phil Pickering, a returned Kiwi kneelo from Australia was third, with Kelvin's father Murray, also from Opunake getting fourth. Kelvin will now turn his attention to the World

Kneeboard Surfing Titles to be held in Kiama, Australia in September, as well as playing rugby union for Coastal. Final Results of the 2015 Open Men's Kneeboard Surfing Title. First

Kelvin Weir (Taranaki). Second Craig McDonald (Auckland). Third Phil Pickering (Auckland). Fourth Murray Weir (Taranaki).

Six of the best for Batman



James Langton (right) fighting against Junior Pati.

It's six from six for Langton. Opunake boxer James "Batman" Langton has won his sixth straight fight, beating Junior Pati in the third round. Of his six wins, three have been by knockout, three on points.

The fight was one of three pro bouts fought at Waitara on Saturday night in an evening which also saw Sam Rapira beat Edwin Sami, and Waitara's Daniel Maxwell take the New Zealand middleweight title by defeating Ben Sisam.

"I thought I had won the first round," Langton said. "In the second round, Junior really hit me pretty hard with a few shots and I felt them. I took a few steps back and made the decision. You can go into a shell and protect yourself, or think, bugger it, I've done the training, I've done the hard yards, I'm going to fight fire with fire and throw some heavy shots.

I landed him with a left hook, saw that he dropped his guard, then landed him with a straight right, right on the chin. It wasn't a hard punch, just the right timing in the right spot."

Langton said he had spoken to Pati before the fight.

"He's a lovely guy, a family man with kids. He had his kids there, and I had my kids there. None of us wanted to lose in front of our families."

Thirty two year old Pati had come to the fight with a lot to fight for. Having won 10 fights, eight by knockout, he had been offered a shot at the New Zealand title if he won this bout.

Coached by Steve Hartley, Langton had prepared by sparring with Simon Julian, Jason Allan and the great Sonny Bill Williams. He also watched video footage of his opponent's fights, particularly his knockout

wins.

"It's all about his left hook, and I just knew that if he couldn't hit with his left hook, then he couldn't win."

Langton's win is likely to move him up the New Zealand rankings into the top 10. There is even talk of him having a crack at the title himself, but he doesn't believe he is ready yet.

"I'm still struggling to pace myself through the fights. You go into the ring in one of the most brutal sports in the world. The body has to be relaxed, but the mind has to be completely focused. Not until I feel completely relaxed in the ring will I consider a title fight."

In the meantime there is a fight to prepare for in April at the TSB Stadium against an as yet unnamed opponent, as well as the next Coastal Rumble on June 26.

"It's a week off, then back into training," Langton said.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TE KIRI Sports & Recreation Society

Calling for applications for Scholarship Awards by 20th February 2015. Application forms available
Judith Armstrong 06 761 8052
Margaret Mullin 06 761 7294

A.G.M. TE KIRI and RECREATION SOCIETY (HALL) invite you to attend their AGM
Monday 23rd February 2015 at 7pm
 Everyone welcome
 Inquiries Tracey Crawford 761 7109

PUBLIC NOTICES

KAUMATUA HUI
 21 Feb 2015
 10.30am
ORIMUPIKO MARAE

DMK Ratahi

Call us today to advertise 06 761 7016

Oaonui Rifle Club

AGM
 Wednesday 25th February 2015 at 7.30pm
 Oaonui Hall
 All welcome

Eltham Junior Rugby Club

Registration days for Saturday rugby - all ages
 Saturday 21 Feb, 11-1pm, Eltham Pools, Soldiers Park, Conway St, Eltham
 Thursday 26 Feb, 4-6pm, Eltham Rugby Clubrooms, Railway St, Eltham
Simon O'Sullivan Chair/Coach 0274105557

TARANAKI VINTAGE MACHINERY CLUB

Hay Day

February 21st and 22nd
 Waitara Road, Brixton
 10am til 4pm

The good old ways.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Playcentre

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Enquiries Contact Sarah: 06 763 8724

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Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

Other areas

Manaiia - Sacred Heart - 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 5pm (2nd, 4th and 5th Sat at Hawera's St Josephs).
 Kaponga - St Patricks, Sunday 8.45am
 Okato - St. Patricks - Saturday 6pm

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OPUNAKE INDOOR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

SENIOR TEAM REGISTRATIONS

Forms are available from Sandfords Event Centre or copy and paste form from our facebook page (Opunake Basketball Association) or email opunakebasketball@hotmail.co.nz
FORMS to be returned by Sunday 1st March 2015 by email to OBA
opunakebasketball@hotmail.co.nz
or drop into Sandford's Event Centre office
 Send us your email address to receive draws and notices
DUTY TEAMS to supply referees and bench for the whole night, Cost \$300.00 per team plus \$200.00 bond for new teams
 Mens/Womens A & B Grades
 Tuesday & Friday nights - starting 17th March
For any more information check us out on facebook or contact us by email
Or phone Bryan Roach 027 445 7888 or Kim Ahern 027 632 4377



PUBLIC NOTICES

OPUNAKE RAHOTU VETERINARY TRUST

Financial assistance is available to students to undergo tertiary education relating preferably to agricultural or horticultural studies although consideration will be given to other applicants.

Application forms available from:-

The Secretary

P O Box 117

OPUNAKE 4616

PHONE 761-7150

EMAIL: nevisbrewer@xtra.co.nz



THIRD RATES INSTALMENT

Ratepayers are reminded that the last day for payment of the third instalment of rates for 2014/2015 without incurring a penalty will be **Wednesday 25 February 2015**.

CR Stevenson
Chief Executive



SPORT NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND

Applications for financial assistance under the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund open on Monday 16 February 2015.

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

Application forms are available from all LibraryPlus centres, the Council Contact Centre in Albion Street, Hawera, or the Council website www.southtaranaki.com

For further information please contact:
Executive Assistant Community Services
Phone: 0800 111 323 or 2780555
Email: maryse.ropiha@stdc.govt.nz

Applications close **Thursday 2 April 2015** at 4.30pm.



EGMONT PLAINS COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

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A good understanding and knowledge of the
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issues within the Egmont Plains ward area

Good communication skills

If so, then the Egmont Plains Community Board want to hear from you. Please forward a letter by 5pm Friday 20 February 2015 outlining your reasons for wanting to be on the community board to:

Egmont Plains Community Board
C/- Shannon Cox

South Taranaki District Council

Private Bag 905

Hawera 4640

or email shannon.cox@stdc.govt.nz

WHAT'S ON



OPUNAKE COMMUNITY POOLS

Aquafit & lane swimming. A/F – Mon 6:30pm, Tues/Thurs 5:30pm & 6:30pm, Tues/Fri 9am. Lanes – Mon-Fri 6:30-8:30am. Mon 6:30-7:30pm, Tues – Thurs 5-7:30pm. Public swimming Weekends & Public Holidays 1-4pm.

OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meet on the 1st Monday of the month at 5.15pm. Now at 61 Tasman Street, behind Opunake Fish, Chips and More.

OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

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

ELTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Corner York and Bridge Streets. Open 1.00 p.m. – 3.30 Thursdays and Fridays

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

TARANAKI COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MANAIA

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

EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB

Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

CAPE EGMONT HISTORIC LIGHT & MUSEUM

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

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7pm every Thursday night. Contact 761 8654.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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The level of individual grants paid is dependent on the amount of funds available, the numbers of students who received grants during 2014 and will be returning for 2015 and the number of new applicants.

Varying amounts are paid to successful applicants depending on their financial circumstances and the course to be taken, after giving priority to:

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ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS

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

SCHNITZEL NIGHT

Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato.

TE KIRI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Applications are now open for this financial help. Applications must be in by February 2015. (Paid out by 20 April, 2015). Certain criteria exist. Phone Margaret Mullin for application forms on 06 761 7294

BUTLERS REEF

Disco Fever – Friday Feb 13 at 7.30pm. Prize for best dressed.

Band-Bad Nut Sat Feb 14 refer advert

TARANAKI THOROUGHBREED RACING

Saturday 14 Feb

OPUNAKE PLAYERS AGM

Saturday 14 Feb 6.30 at the Playhouse

TARANAKI TRACTORPULL – DATE CHANGED!

Sunday 15 Feb from 11am

SOUNDS IN THE SAND AND OPUNAKE

COMMUNITY PICNIC

Saturday 15 Feb 12.30-3pm

THE VILLAGE GALLERY – ‘BY INVITATION’

16 February – 13 March. Meet the Artists and preview this exciting exhibition. Opening Function: Sunday Feb 15 2.30-4.00pm. Refer advert.

ELTHAM JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

Registration days for Saturday rugby - all ages

Saturday 21 Feb, 11-1pm, Thursday 26 Feb, 4-6pm

TARANAKI VINTAGE MACHINERY CLUB HAY DAY

February 21 and 22. Waitara Road, Brixton 10am – 4pm.

TE KIRI and RECREATION SOCIETY (HALL) A.G.M.

Monday 23rd February 2015 at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

Inquiries Tracey Crawford 761 7109

OANUI RIFLE CLUB AGM

Wednesday 25th February 2015 at 7.30pm. Oanui Hall - All welcome

PERCY THOMPSON GALLERY GLEN HAYWARD

Feb 6 March 1st refer ad

TSB COMMUNITY TRUST – ROADSHOW TO DISCUSS BIG CHANGES TO THE TYPES OF GRANTS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

New Plymouth – March 10, 12.30-1.30pm, Central Baptist Church

Stratford – March 12, 12.30-1.30 pm, War Memorial Hall

Hawera – March 13, 12.30 – 1.30pm, Hawera War Memorial Hall

Opunake, 16 March, 12.30-1.30, Sandfords Event Centre. Please refer to advert in the What's On section for more information.

TARANAKI MASTERS GAMES

March 12-15 refer advert

CONNECT15

Connecting people to jobs and careers. TSB Hub, Hawera on May 22-23. Refer advert for full details

HAWERA REPERTORY.

ANZAC by John Broughton directed by Clive Cullen. 18

- 25 April 2015. Cinderella by Ben Crocker directed by Donald Campbell. 4 - 11 July 2015

SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

‘Show and Shine’ display at the Library this month.

February 26 **Opunake Garden Circle** Garden tours

February 27 **Americana Classic Car show** at Sandfords Event Centre from 11am. Come and view over 400 cars

March 8 **Highway 45 Cruisers Show and Shine** family Fun day at Sandfords Event Centre 10am to 2pm

March 9 **Old timers Surf Event** Opunake Beach



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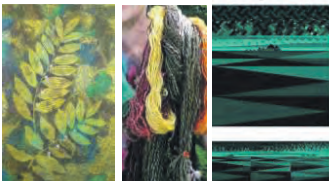
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The Village Gallery is proud to present
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16 February - 13 March 2015

Three Artists, experts in their chosen fields - a triple treat
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Meet the Artists and preview this exciting exhibition.
Opening Function:
Sunday Feb 15 2.30-4.00pm

The Village Gallery
166 High Street, Eltham
OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 3PM

Hawera Rep marks Great War centenary with play

The First World War which lasted from 1914-1918 is still referred to as The Great War. It affected the lives of all New Zealanders at the time, from the families and friends who lost loved ones in battle or from sickness, to those who nursed and tended the wounded. Returning soldiers



ANZAC cast. Front from left: Mike Brotherson, Samantha Turner, Jo Lahman, Rangi Abraham.

Back from left: Ron Scott, Brigid Fraser, Richard Baylis.

seldom talked about the war, and today their families are picking up the pieces and trying to find out what effect the war had on their lives 100 years ago.

ANZAC by John Broughton is based on the facts, but the characters are fictitious. This powerful and moving play tells the story of New Zealand's part in World War I through the lives of soldiers, work colleagues and their families.

Directed by Clive Cullen, the play starts and ends in

1917 at the Dunedin railway station as Gladys and Violet wait for their brother's return from the front.

Once John leaves for the war in 1914, Gladys and Violet provide a glimpse into their perception of the war as they wait for John's return. Whilst the parallel story of John's wartime experiences takes us from the time of joining up and training in New Zealand to the travel by troopship in 1914, through Egypt, Gallipoli and then France, between 1914

and 1917, then the return to Dunedin railway station in late 1917.

With support from South Taranaki District Council, Hawera Repertory Society has managed to keep the ticket price to a low \$10 for adults and \$5 for students 18 and under (booking fees apply). Performances will be in the Hawera Memorial Theatre from April 18-25. Tickets go on sale on February 12 through TicketDirect or South Taranaki i-SITE, Hawera.

OPUNAKE SESQUICENTENNIAL

www.facebook.com/opunake150



OPUNAKE BEACH PICNIC 150 YRS CENTENNIAL THIS SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY! *This is the big event.*

A Community Picnic this Sunday 15th February. Open to all Taranaki residents. Weather forecast looks good so bring sunscreen or use ours. Entry is **FREE** to this event!

EVENTS BEGIN AT 11.00

FUN RACES with prizes.

11.00 Sack Races on the sand .

11.20 3 legged races on the sand

11.30 Group photo making' 150' on the sand. Photographed by OHS drone. Can everyone be on the beach at 11.30am if you want to be in the photo.

12.00 Beach Picnic Bring your own or pre order - SOUL KITCHEN Phone 06 7617115. HEADLANDS Phone 06 7618358.

COFFEE CART in attendance and Beach Shop open.

OTHER FREE EVENTS

BOUNCY CASTLE from 11am

There are 2 for different age groups.

FACE PAINTING FOR THE LITTLES.

FOOTBALL On the beach. Run by Kelvin Weir.

GUESS THE NUMBER OF LOLLIES \$1 a go. Winner gets the lot!

HISTORY BOOK . Only \$20 With contributions from lots of locals and clubs.

Peter Trolove will have them available at his TABLE. Also pre paid books available to collect.

MUSIC. ' Sounds In The Sand'

No charge thanks to STDC.

BEGINS 12.30 with the group' BLISTERED FINGERS' They will be on the Lions Stage and play A VARIETY OF Blues and classic Rock and Roll.

All finish in time for milking at 3.00pm. Stay or go home and write a short story for the SHORT STORY COMPETITION. Now closes 28 February.

Blistered Fingers to play at Opunake Beach



Blistered Fingers will be playing to the punters at Sounds on the Sand at Opunake Beach on Sunday. They play rock'n roll blues and a collection of collection of rock'n roll covers from the 60s and 70s. Their style incorporates a more modern take on the classics, changing songs up a bit to give a bit of their own taste.

OPUNAKE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Upcoming Events



The Sesquicentennial Committee have received over 30 Events from local clubs and organisations to celebrate this Sesquicentennial year. So watch our fortnightly promotions of events and dates in the Opunake News. Updated brochures will be available shortly with the year's programme. If your club is still finalising details please send to us asap. Brochures will be available at the Opunake Library Plus.

'Show and Shine' display at the Library this month.

February 26 Opunake Garden Circle Garden tours

February 27 Americana Classic Car show at Sandfords Event Centre from 11am. Come and view over 400 cars .Free entry from 11am . Food etc available.

February 28 Last day for entries in the Short Story /Poetry competition

March 8 Highway 45 Cruisers Show and Shine family Fun day at Sandfords Event Centre 10am to 2pm

March 9 Old timers Surf Event Opunake Beach



sounds on the sand

Celebrating 150 years of Opunake

**Sunday 15 February, Opunake Beach
12.30pm - 3.00pm**

Sit back and relax while listening to the sounds of The Blistered Fingers.

Fun games & bouncy castle from 11am, Opunake Community Picnic from 12noon.

Bring your own picnic or pre-order your picnic basket from Headlands (06) 761 8358,

Sandfords Event Centre 027 935 6191

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



Reliving 30s and 50s farming

Some idea of what farming in Taranaki used to be like will be on display at the Taranaki Vintage Machinery Club Vintage Hay Day on February 21-22.

This show is all about trying to turn the clock back to the 30s and 50s, and where possible machines off that day will be used. Some will

work and some won't.

Building a real haystack, a skill known only by the older generation, will be among the demonstrations on offer. Chaff cutters and a threshing mill will be up and running. Grain grinders will be turning grain into flour, and coal ranges will be busy baking scones. A draught horse or

two will be pulling pieces of equipment. Early model tractors and implements will be on display and working.

The day will bring back memories for the older generation, and will be a learning curve for the young. If you would like to exhibit something from this era, it will be most welcomed.

This day is possible with the support of sponsors, and the members of the Taranaki Vintage Machinery Club, and TATAM for providing the necessary machinery and expertise. Thanks also to the Huirangi School for providing food stalls and the maypole dancers.



Central Districts Field Days 2015 - the tastiest yet!

With less than two months to go, Central Districts Field Days is shaping up to be the tastiest yet with a range of new exhibitors and initiatives at the popular, annual event.

For the discerning foodie, the Taste of Central Districts returns, serving a delicious range of wines and foods from around the region. Favourites such as Pheasant Creek wine, Ruahine Wines, and Basecamp Venison Salamis will be available, along with newcomers KOAST Limoncello, Gladstone Vineyard and Southern Grain Spirits. Southern Grain will have a variety of spirits on offer, including Duckshooter Port and a special, aged whiskey. With a relaxing atmosphere and great outdoor set up, the Taste of Central Districts is the ideal location for visitors to sit back and enjoy the delicacies and beverages on offer.

Visitors will also be spoilt for choice with different food zones serving up crowd favourites like whitebait fritters, gourmet burgers, hot dogs, fresh hot donuts and other tasty treats. Supporting local business and talent, these food zones will be a central hub of activity over the three days.

This year's Central Districts Field Days sees food innovation and research experts, FoodHQ, on site offering visitors the opportunity to talk to their experts about the remarkable science being carried out in New Zealand. FoodHQ is a globally significant centre for agri-food science and innovation with expertise across the food value chain - from idea generation to products sitting on the shelf.

The FoodHQ super campus being developed in Palmerston North will give current and future global customers one-door access to the very best in New

Zealand food innovation. The collaborative approach creates a faster, easier way for food companies to work with the FoodHQ family. Mark Ward, Programme

Director at FoodHQ, says: "We'll be talking to people about our vision and what we're doing to help grow New Zealand's agrifood sector. They'll get to hear

from food science experts and get to taste some enjoyable, innovative treats."

The Central Districts Field Days will be held at Manfeild Park in Feilding from March 12-14, 2015 and is proudly supported by Bayleys, Donut Express, Massey University, Norwood Farm Machinery Centre and Husqvarna.

A Cue for a Whodunnit

The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays, written by Ken Ludwig and directed by Joan Ertel is showing at Cue Theatre in April.

It is December 1936 and Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for his leading role in the play Sherlock Holmes, has invited his fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests is stabbed to death, the festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn

dangerous. Then it's up to Gillette himself, as he assumes the persona of his beloved Holmes, to track down the killer before the next victim appears. The danger and hilarity are non-stop in this glittering whodunit.

Playing dates: Tues 7 April to Sunday 19 April. Evenings 7:30 pm (Tues - Sat) Matinee 2 pm (Sundays)

Tickets available at Inglewood Book Centre from 27 February. \$22 per person; \$20 per person prepaid groups of 10+

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE BOUTIQUE NIGHT

You're invited...

50 SHADES OF GREY

R18

SUNDAY 1 MARCH AT 7 PM

TICKETS \$25 includes comfy sofa viewing, one complimentary beer/wine and some tasty treats. Please book your tickets before the screening day to ensure you are catered for.

Tickets available from Opunake Post & Lotto, Debbie Campbell 027 290 2892 or Maree Drought 027 3137494. Come at 6.30 pm for 7 pm movie start.

Non-boutique viewing upstairs at \$10 Adult & \$8 senior citizens.

For information email: everybodystheatre@gmail.com

Hawera Repertory Society presents

ANZAC

A play by John Broughton, directed by Clive Cullen

18 - 25 April 2015

Hawera Memorial Theatre

Adults - \$10
Students under 18 - \$5
(Booking fees apply)

Tickets on sale now from **TicketDirect**

Sponsored by South Taranaki District Council

What's On

Coastal Karate Disco Fever!!

Friday February 13 at 7.30pm. Prize for best costume! Tickets \$15

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Our next issue is due out on February 26
Phone us today to advertise your event.

EVERYBODY'S THEATRE

Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE - HIRE

For information email: everybodystheatre@gmail.com or check facebook- Everybody's Theatre

February 2015

Lollies, popcorn, drinks, ice-creams, chocolate bars, tea/coffee for sale

Upstairs Adults \$10, Students 4-16 \$8 Under 4 Free
Downstairs All \$12, Senior Citizens \$8. **No Eft-pos**

Taken 3
Action & Adventure | R13 | 1hr 33min
Liam Neeson returns as ex-covert operative Bryan Mills, whose reconciliation with his ex-wife is tragically cut short when she is brutally murdered. Consumed with rage, and framed for the crime, he goes on the run to evade the relentless pursuit of the CIA, FBI and the police. *Fox*
Sunday 15th & Friday 20th @ 7pm

Penguins of Madagascar
Animation | 1hr 32 min | PG Super spy teams aren't born...they're hatched. Discover the secrets of the greatest and most hilarious covert birds in the global espionage biz: Skipper, Kowalski, Rico and Private. *Fox*. **14th @ 1pm, 18th @ 3:30pm, 28th @ 1pm**

Into the Woods
Family, Fantasy, Kids, Musical | 2hr 05mins | PG | Violence & coarse language—starring Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, James Corden, Anna Kendrick and Chris Pine. Follows the tales of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and Rapunzel, all tied together by a baker and his wife and their wish to begin a family. *Disney*. **Sat 21st @ 1 pm & Wed 25th @ 3.30 pm.**

Unbroken
Action, Biography, Drama, True Story, War | 2hr 17mins | M | Violence
The true story of American Olympic runner Louis Zamperini (Jack O'Connell, **Starred Up**) who, having been sent to World War II, survived in a raft for 47 days after a near-fatal plane crash only to be caught by the Japanese Navy and consigned to a prisoner-of-war camp. Directed by Angelina Jolie. *United International Pictures*. **Sun 22nd & Fri 27th @ 7 pm.**

50 Shades of Grey
Drama, Romance | 2hr 05mins | R18 | Sex scenes, offensive language Adaptation of E.L. James' best-selling erotic novel, the fastest selling paperback of all time (its sex scenes of bondage and masochism has been devoured by over 70 million blushing readers). The novel, the first of a trilogy, traces the relationship between college graduate Anastasia Steele and wealthy entrepreneur Christian Grey. *United International Pictures*.
1st @ 6.30 pm, 4th & 6th March @ 7 pm.

Wednesday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	13 American Sniper @ 7pm	14 Penguins of Madagascar @ 1pm	15 Taken 3 @ 7pm
18 Penguins of Madagascar @ 3.30 pm	20 Taken 3 @ 7pm	21 Into the Woods @ 1pm	22 Unbroken @ 7pm
25 Into the Woods @ 3.30 pm	27 Unbroken @ 7pm	28 Penguins of Madagascar @ 1pm	1 March - **Boutique** 50 Shades of Grey 6.30pm

Glen Hayward and others shine at Percy Thomson Gallery

The latest exhibition at the Percy Thomson Gallery, Miranda Street, Stratford was officially opened on Friday February 6 to a large crowd. The exhibition runs until March 1.

The work of Glen Hayward is remarkable. The main exhibit was of an enclosed

office lookalike, complete with everything you'd expect – computers, ringbinders, telephone, sellotape holder and office chairs (you name it). However, the artist had sculpted everything out of native woods, such as kauri and totara. Yet, the end result was so close visually to the usual

items, that very close examination was needed. The artist was on hand to explain how he had created these amazing exhibits. Glen has recently completed the Rita Angus, Tylee Cottage and McCahon residences in New Zealand and has exhibited widely. He is about to take up his second international residency in Switzerland later this year.

Another contributor, Stuart Shepherd is an artist and major collector of art, operating from his converted church studio in Te Aroha. He has also done much to promote self-taught artists, such as a homeless man, Martin Thompson, whom once frequented Cuba Street, Wellington. He has even taken four such artists (including Martin) to New York, (where Stuart used to live), to successfully promote their creative work. "Creative eccentrics should be celebrated for being different, not shamed – as Martin was for 30 years."

Stuart showed me one exhibit of self-taught artists that he has in his collection. It was by Andrew Blythe and Janine Clarkson entitled 'Cloak' – an acrylic painting on cloth. It is a very appealing exhibit.

There were a number of Taranaki artists also taking part in the exhibition includ-



Artist Glen Hayward (left) at Percy Thomson Gallery.

ing Dale Copeland, Paul Hutchinson, Roger Morris (Remo), Tia Parker, Sophia Smolenski, Carl Fairweather, Jenny Bielawski and Paul Maseyk, in addition to others from elsewhere such as Rev Mark Curtis, Andrea Du Chatenier, Sue Daly, Andrea Daly, Harriet Stockman and Margaret Feeny. The work was diverse in range and brilliant in execution.

Dale Copeland's extensive exhibition of her assemblage exhibits has an interesting side story. The Curator Maree Wilson visited her studio in Warea and was most impressed with what she saw. She said, "I'd like all of

these" indicating a huge collection on display in the studio - and Dale obliged.

Roger Morris has several intriguing works, such as 'Ode to 911' (sculpture) and a huge work 'Hits' (oil and mixed media) with a strong anti-war message. His thought-provoking art is a reflection of his profoundly held commitment to peace.

Carl Fairweather's boxed philosophy assemblage also has underlying messages, such as 'Black Box Emergency' ('What the frack'). He is concerned about the adverse environmental effect of oil and gas exploration.

There are some colourful

huge vases with imaginative shapes which were appealingly eye-catching by Paul Maseyk, such as 'Big Orange' – red clay and slip glaze.

I can only endorse the comment of Dale Copeland. "This is a superb exhibition. Excellent." She expressed admiration to Maree for the quality of the selection and setting up. Well done to Curator Maree Wilson, Percy Thomson staff, and Stuart Shepherd for the inspired outlay of this first class exhibition. Make sure you find time to see this outstanding exhibition which ends on March 1.



*I don't want you to worry about me,
I have met some Beautiful People*

GLEN HAYWARD

6 February – 1 March 2015

Join us for the Opening: Friday 6 February 6pm

Curious Trophies

A group exhibition that explores our desire to collect and display stuff 6 February – 1 March

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- Pool
- Rugby
- Running & Walking
- Snooker
- Squash
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Texas Hold'em Poker
- Triathlon/Duathlon
- Volleyball
- Wine Appreciation

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2015 MARCH 12-15

98.0FM THE SOUND OF TARANAKI

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TSB Community Trust



BIG CHANGES AHEAD IN 2015!!!

TSB COMMUNITY TRUST IS CHANGING THE TYPES OF GRANTS AVAILABLE TO OUR COMMUNITY

From the 1st of April 2015 we'll be offering three new types of grants to eligible community organisations:

- OPERATIONAL GRANTS
- CAPITAL GRANTS
- PROGRAMME & EVENT GRANTS

These will REPLACE the Trust's ANNUAL and SPECIAL GRANT TYPES from **1st April 2015** onwards.

To find out more, come along to one of our INFO Roadshows (see below) or contact the staff at the Trust Office, PH: 06 769 9471, email: info@tsbtrust.org.nz or visit our website www.tsbtrust.org.nz

NEW PLYMOUTH
10 March 2015
12.30pm – 1.30pm
Central Baptist Church,
89 Liardet St,
New Plymouth

ROADSHOWS

STRATFORD
12 March 2015
12.30pm – 1.30pm
War Memorial Hall,
Miranda Street,
Stratford

HAWERA
13 March 2015
12.30pm – 1.30pm
Hawera and Districts War
Memorial Community Hall,
111-115 Albion Street,
Hawera

OPUNAKE
16 March 2015
12.30pm – 1.30pm
Sandfords Event Centre,
156 Tasman St,
Opunake

HOUSE OF TRAVEL

Register before Feb 13, 2015 and go in the draw to **WIN A \$2000 TRAVEL VOUCHER**

from House of Travel, New Plymouth * Conditions apply