



## Inside

# Beatles Museum opening stymied by flooding

Graeme and Marilyn McPherson were just about to open their outstanding museum, with its rich collection of Beatles memorabilia, records and pictures when down came the relentless rain.

The sign was just about to be installed at their 71 Domett Street, Opunake when Graeme went downstairs to be confronted by ankle-deep water. Worst was to be seen; when he looked towards the basement, which houses the Beatles material, he found the place awash. "About a thousand dollars worth of damage has been done," explained Graeme – apart from the unreplaceable, often rare, items which have sustained water damage.

"It was heart-breaking for Graeme," comments Marilyn.

Just for a start the almost brand new carpet will need to be replaced, as well as two damaged display cabinets.

As most people will recall, non-stop rain was a feature of the February 6 weekend. If that wasn't enough the following weekend led to yet another deluge and more flooding.

"The Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade came and put



Graeme McPherson looks grim as he shows some of the flood damaged memorabilia.

sandbags down to keep out the water," explained Marilyn. Some of the excess water came via the back door and some was regurgitated from the plughole in the nearby bathroom.

An extensive effort went into drying out the museum and adjoining part of the premises. Chem Dry came and had three blowers going (for 48 hours but over two

sessions), as well as a dehumidifier.

However, the couple are not defeated by this misfortune and plan to re-schedule their opening in "Hopefully a month," predicts Marilyn.

The couple have been collecting Beatles memorabilia for many years, in New Zealand and overseas, and are sure this is the only museum of its type

in New Zealand, although "There was one in Hastings" – but it has closed. "This was the only one that we knew of."

The amount of memorabilia is amazing - information, pictures, records, guitars, books, Beatle boots, Beatle slippers – and much more. Even the ceiling is completely covered with pictures. Especially

interesting is the huge montage of the Cavern, Liverpool where the Beatles had their performing genesis. Also intriguing are the photos of the couple beside the childhood homes of individual Beatles, as well as places like Penny Lane, which are enshrined in their music.

Have the couple ever been to a Beatles concert? No, but maybe the next best. They have seen Paul McCartney several times in concert, firstly in 1993 at Western Springs, Auckland and later at Mt Smart, Auckland, in 2017. "It was brilliant," enthused Graeme. Favourite Beatles song? "Probably Get back," replies Graeme. (Marilyn is not sure). They even met a relative of John's and are pictured with him – it was Charlie Lennon, John's uncle.

Make sure you come and experience this outstanding collection of Beatles memorabilia, at the first opportunity, the result of 40 years of collecting. "When you collect it's amazing how it get in the blood. I'm always on the lookout," concludes Graeme.

# Opunake in danger of losing its lake



Flooding in the Waiaua River could pose a threat to Opunake's iconic lake.

Opunake could be in danger of losing its lake says a local resident who has been looking after the lake for over 20 years.

The last weekend of flooding along the coast scoured the edges of the Waiaua River taking out two

large pines and a hunk of the bank separating the river from the lake with them.

"They've fallen smack bang into the river, and if the river floods again it will eat into the bank and the bank will fall away," says Rex Langton.

There have been two weekends of flooding in a row and the bank separating the river from the lake is only eight metres wide. Nearby trees could also be endangered, some of which are barely hanging on, adding further pressure to

the bank, says Rex.

"If the bank goes all the water will flow out and we won't have a lake," he says.

Rex says he has informed the South Taranaki District Council and the Taranaki Regional Council.

"The lake is one of the

jewels in Opunake's crown, so people need to know what's happening.

Rex, who lives near the edge of the lake is known locally as the lake's guardian and has done a lot of work on the upkeep of the lake's surrounds over the years.



A new Director at Percy Thomson Gallery. See page 7.



Cutting the ribbon on the upgraded Rahotu Hall. Turn to page 5.



Dahlias to die for. Flick to page 19.



Top croquet players come to Hawera. See page 23.



Flooding shifts further south this time. See page 3.

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# OPINION

# Mistreatment of people

Under conditions of heavy rain in Wellington, Parliamentary Speaker Trevor Mallard’s ordering the turning on of sprinklers all night on Friday 11 of February was staggeringly unwise, unkind and possibly dangerous. It needs to be kept in mind that the protest group includes children and elderly people, whose health could be compromised by this action.

As regards the spread of Covid or any other illness, bacteria and viruses are rendered more potent by wet conditions, which hastens their multiplication. With a massive surge in daily cases of Omicron being notified, surely the Speaker should have kept this in mind – and

not turned on the sprinklers. There was evidently so much excess water that the protesters needed to dig trenches to channel some of the deluge away.

Some Opposition politicians, such as Chris Bishop, Covid 19 Spokesperson for National, have said that such action as deliberately drenching the protesters was likely to “escalate the situation.” David Seymour, ACT leader commented that, the Speaker “seems to be acting like a kid in a very adult situation.” Whatever, ones political stance, these comments are certainly food for thought.

Another issue. It is a pity that no parliamentarian was willing (or allowed) to step

outside and listen to what the protesters had to say, with the exception of ACT leader David Seymour, who had the gumption to do so. (He was careful to point out that he is vaccinated).

Often aggrieved people just want to be heard. Regardless of ones views, the protesters are obviously passionate in what they believe. There were evidently vaccinated people among the protesters – the issue for this group was the mandate aspect. Just because one listens to a counter viewpoint does not mean that you agree with them.

The majority viewpoint in this nation is reflected by the fact that over 90% of New Zealanders are double

vaccinated (as are all staff members of this newspaper). However, perhaps more respect is needed for the minority viewpoint, and - to use an expression favoured by our Prime Minister - some kindness. Drenching protesters certainly does not qualify.

However, it was shocking to see television footage of the man, I think from the media, who was badly beaten by some protesters. Hopefully, the footage can reveal who the attackers were with prosecution to follow.

Equally appalling was the sight of police being pelted with faeces when they are just carrying out thir duties.

*Rolland McKellar*

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

## The forgotten service

I wish to sincerely thank you for publishing the article “Coming to the end of long battle for forgotten service” featured in your Opunake & Coastal News on the 27 January 2022.

Not only was the story heartwarming for myself,

it also highlighted the injustices which has and continues to haunt merchant seamen of yesteryear and their families

The manner in which you have portrayed the story is journalism at its best, as it openly and honestly displays elements of our history and heritage that have been overlooked and in some cases ignored.

The slow and small progresses I have made over many years to gain recognition for the NZ Merchant Navy were and still are greatly assisted by your genuine and most valued interest. Long may it continue.

Since the appearance of the aforementioned article, I have received many complimentary messages

from close friends and associates. Special thanks also for the wonderful story scribed by your reporter.

In closing, I would like to thank you again for your past and continued support the value of which is immense’

*Merv Martin MNZM; JP (rtd)*  
*New Plymouth*

## Deadlines for copy

We find we are working very late on a Tuesday night to put the paper together for it to be at the printers first thing Wednesday morning.

Our deadline for copy is Monday 10am.

This gives us an opportunity to proofread the copy.

We continue to receive a lot of material on Tuesday and are struggling to process it all as well as put together the paper.

If you have trouble meeting this deadline can you let us know.

This deadline does not apply to the Cops and Fire Service columns where incidents can occur on the Monday and Tuesday.

We do appreciate your contributions, so thank you in advance for your co-operation.

*Editor*

**Opunake & Coastal News Paste Up Night**



The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is March 10.  
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## More Opunake & Coastal News’ out

We have printed more copies of the Opunake & Coastal News.

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# Another deluge causes flooding

For the second time in a fortnight the coast suffered a deluge from above.

This time, however, the downpour seemed focused further south with Opunake and Oaonui the centre of the storm.

The rains over the fortnight, as well as drenching properties, turned parts of the Surf Highway into a river. The water which miraculously seemed to disappear within hours did however leave lasting damage in its wake.

Opunake's beloved walkway, which the Opunake Lions Club have been diligently developing and beautifying over several years and continue to do so, was perhaps the most affected. A slip under the Waiaua Bridge and also parts of the track near the old Opunake dairy factory disappeared into the raging torrent below and will need major work to repair it.



The corner of Allison Street and Whitcombe Road in Opunake during the recent heavy rainfall.

Once bitten...this time sandbags to divert water attracted national news A seat down by the mounting and upended in the Rahotu was prepared with some properties using the previous deluge which affected by the latest rainfall. Walkway was swept off its reservoir in the Opunake earlier rains.



The upended seat on the Opunake walkway by the flooding Otahi Stream.



Otahi Stream near the old dairy factory in Opunake.



The Waiaua River which scoured out part of the Opunake Walkway at left.

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# Group offers alternative for Three Waters delivery

A local government action group says councils are better placed to deliver the Government's Three Waters outcomes than a mega-entity model.

Phil Nixon says analysis commissioned by Communities 4 Local Democracy He hāpori mō te Manapori (C4LD) has concluded that both the council owned with stronger

regulation, and a new Council Owned Enterprise (COE) model would perform better than the government's proposal.

C4LD is a local government action group with 27 member councils throughout Aotearoa representing more than a 1.3 million New Zealanders. South Taranaki District Council joined the group after Government's decision to force councils to be part of the Three Waters Reform.

"The group is committed to working with central government to ensure all New Zealanders have safe and environmentally sound three waters systems. The group is also committed to ensuring that all local communities continue to have a say on the use of assets purchased on their behalf using ratepayer funds," says Mayor Nixon.

C4LD Chair, and Manawatu District Mayor Helen Worboys, said there was still the opportunity for central government to work in partnership with local government to create lasting change that delivers the outcome that everyone can support.

"We are not against change, but we strongly oppose this forcing through of massive reforms that are based on questionable evidence and analysis," she said.

"Our membership – and we could safely say most of local government – agree that change is needed, but it needs to be change that doesn't take away property rights and the community's right to have a say.

"The alternative approaches we've developed are based on models that we believe can achieve broad support, and that deliver

a better outcome for our communities compared to the government's oversimplified 'one size fits none' model.

"Ours is a framework for local government to work with its neighbours – with the support of central government – to transform three waters delivery for the better and in a way that all our communities can agree.

"We're the experts in local service delivery and we want to drive that change, not have unsuitable solutions forced upon communities based on unsound evidence and faulty analysis."

Analysis by global infrastructure advising firm Castalia shows the Council owned with regulation and council-owned enterprise models of delivery achieve better outcomes on accountability, Iwi-Maōri partnership,

incentives of management and governance, access to financing, scale and scope efficiencies and flexibility for the future.

In comparison, the government's mega-entity proposal showed significantly worse outcomes across the board, on most of the criteria across the board on these outcomes.

"Most of the infrastructure we're talking about has a 100-year life and this is a once in a generation decision that will change things forever," Helen Worboys said.

"No-one needs a rushed decision forced through against the clear wishes of our communities. We want to partner with the government to create real change that will last in the long term, and look forward to presenting our alternative approach to the minister."

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## Kaponga WI hold AGM

The Kaponga WI enjoyed a beautiful lunch at Malones in Stratford for their February meeting and AGM.

General business was dealt with first including the Federation's upcoming Founders Day celebrations and five members are to attend that.

A pre-printed photo album of our 90th birthday was passed around and Gillian Frandsen was thanked for organising that. Such a wonderful record to have of our special day. Several special milestone events were recognised amongst our members and President Jo kindly shouted us all a drink to celebrate her special birthday. Thank you Jo.

A donation was agreed on to go towards the Federation's collection for the residents of Tonga in their time of need.

After lunch the AGM was held with all office holders willing to continue in their positions. Those being President -Jo Ellis.Secretary

-Fiona Collins.Treasurer  
-Sharyn Hurley

A thank you must go to these ladies for continuing to organise us again in 2022. We really are grateful for your expertise.

The excellent Presidents Report again details the many activities we take part in and of course the lovely social time we have together.

Competition Results for the year ended February 2022; Jubilee Cup for most points – Jo Ellis. Morrissey Cup runner up for most points – Diane West. Thanksgiving Trophy for gardening – Diane West. Joy Eliason Trophy for Homecraft – Jo Ellis. Miscellaneous Trophy for miscellaneous – Diane West  
Congratulations ladies.

Kaponga WI again looks forward to another great year as members volunteer to host a month and organise a surprise programme for us to enjoy.

Carolyn Nicholas



Vice President Dene Lines presenting President Jo Ellis with her trophy.

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# Revamped Rahotu Hall reopens

The Rahotu Hall is back up and running again, following a successful funding application to the Provincial Growth Fund, and helped by a dedicated group of committee members the Rahotu Hall reopened on Friday February 21.

At one time the future of the hall had been in doubt, and it was due to a renovation programme and a lot of determination from the committee, that the project was completed with the aim of making it available to the community for another hundred years.

COVID restrictions meant that the official opening ceremony was a low key affair, with committee members and a few local supporters on hand to watch Rahotu's oldest resident, 93 year-old Mick Guthrie cut the ribbon. I

Rahotu Hall Committee chairman Murray Horo said he was pleased with the way the project had gone.

"We focussed on areas that needed to be done within the funding contract and made adjustments along the way, utilising our funds to make sure that we did the job right," he said.

The additions included a new ramp and handrail to the main door, which caters for those members of the community with mobility issues, with an awning added for protection from the weather. All of the original iron was replaced with coloursteel, a new roof was added along with new



**The Rahotu Hall Committee in the revamped hall. From left. Murray Horo (Chair), Leanne Horo(Secretary), Karen Wallace(Treasurer), Hinetau McKay, Maraea Waiwiri, Doug Wallace, Monty Kempton, Michael Kempton. Absent Susan Owen.**

spouting, as there was no spouting previously.

The front of the building used to have an alcove which had been used in the days when movies were regularly screened. This has been removed and replaced with new double doors providing light and a stunning view of the mountain. New doors have been added to the main door and back door, and new windows have replaced the original sash windows.

Murray Horo said the funding also covered the painting of the internal roof and walls throughout the hall and the south external wall which retained its original

weatherboard exterior.

The hall committee had undertaken many fundraising activities in the last four years, including garage sales, quiz nights and social functions.

A monthly car boot sale run by local community members and held at the Rahotu Tavern continues to raise funds for the hall.

Murray paid tribute to contractors Heartland Construction, Sinclair Electrical and DR(Jack) Gray and Top of the Line Electrical Services.

"We were lucky that the Rahotu Bowling Club agreed to let the builders have access to electricity during the project, as we had to disconnect the power to the power pole for safety reasons," said Murray. Pickering Motors also provided scaffolding to assist committee members to re-install the many photos and memorabilia around the walls."

Mick Guthrie says the hall holds many memories for him. He likes the new improved model.

"I've been in Rahotu since 1947 and this is the best I've ever seen it," he says.

He points to the Memorial of those who served and those who didn't come back from World War II.

"I remember putting that

up there," he says.

Mick remembers having been to a number of celebrations here, including his own 60th, 70th and 80th birthday parties.

Other memories include having played Indoor Bowls here.

"My name's up there on the board. The floor got that bad that they had to knock off, but they've made a terrific job with the new one."

Mick was in the Rahotu Fire Brigade for 29 years, and drove milk tankers. His wife Elizabeth ran the Rahotu TAB for 20 years, and their children all went to Rahotu Primary School and Opunake High School.

"I've seen a lot come and go in Rahotu," says Mick. "I'm the oldest one left now, and I've enjoyed my life here."

Secretary Leanne Horo says that while COVID

means there are restrictions in hall usage, she looks forward to local community groups like the Rahotu School being able to use the hall for their productions and school activities.

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**Mick Guthrie cuts the ribbon while committee chairman Murray Horo looks on.**

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# Afternoon road accident in Opunake



Traffic was stop-go at the Ihaia Road-Whitcombe Road intersection in Opunake following an accident last week. Emergency services were alerted shortly after 3pm on Wednesday February 16 to the two vehicle accident. One person from each of the two vehicles sustained moderate injuries.

## Open fire season for Taranaki

The Taranaki District moved back to an open fire season at 8am on Wednesday February 9.. An open fire season means permits will no longer be required when lighting open air fires.

Taranaki District Manager, David Utumapu says the recent change in weather has reduced the potential fire risk. "Taranaki has been in a restricted fire season since mid-January but with the

substantial rainfall recently we can make the move back to an open fire season," he says. David Utumapu says he would like to remind people that while the risk has decreased, it certainly hasn't

been eliminated. "Always go to [checkitsalright.nz](http://checkitsalright.nz) before you plan on lighting a fire - check the conditions and if it's hot and windy please do not light a fire," he says.

## Government backflip on live export a growing concern

Animal advocacy group SAFE say they are concerned the Government may do a U-turn on its decision to ban the live export of animals by sea. The ban is due to take effect on 30 April 2023. It was reported that a Chinese state-owned enterprise is pressuring the New Zealand Government to reverse its decision. The People's Republic of China has been the only importer of cattle from Aotearoa since 2017. The live export trade is

currently in a wind-down period. However, cattle are being shipped to China in record numbers. New figures show 134,722 cows were exported from Aotearoa last year, compared with 109,921 in 2020 and 39,269 in 2019. SAFE CEO Debra Ashton said the Government must stand firm by its decision if it wants to be seen as credible. "The Government must not bow to pressure from those who seek to benefit from this

cruel industry," said Ashton. "Live export is a high-risk trade, not only to animals but to Aotearoa's international reputation and the only way to mitigate those risks is to end it." The Animal Welfare Amendment Bill, which will give effect to the ban on live export, is currently moving through the Primary Production select committee. When passed, the live export trade will be outlawed on 30 April 2023. However, some

industry submissions to the select committee have called for the ban to be overturned. "This Government claims to take animal welfare seriously. If that's the case, they need to stick to their word." "We need the Government to know that kiwis are keeping a close eye on the progress of this ban and they need assurances from the Agriculture Minister that the Government stands by its decision to ban live export."

## On this month in history: Foveaux Strait is swum

On February 7, 1963 Foveaux Strait, which separates Stewart Island from the bottom of the South

Island, was first swum. The successful swimmer was John Van Leeuwen who completed the swim in 13

hours and 36 minutes. The distance John completed is greater than the Cook Strait equivalent by 3.2km. A well-

known photograph pictures an exhausted John being helped from a dinghy to a launch, the *Takitumu*.



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# New director for Percy Thomson Gallery

The new Director of Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford is Laura Campbell who took over on January 31 from Rhonda Bunyan, who was in the role for the previous six years. Laura's previous employment was at Puke Ariki where she was employed for five years as Information Services Officer, Researcher, Art Curator and Art Historian. One of her many successes was the creation of Homework: Taranaki Exhibition, which attracted a commendable 30,000 visitors.

Of her new role Laura enthuses, "I'm really loving it. It's a world-class public gallery, with a fantastic reputation. I'm enjoying interacting with the community."

She adds, "The gallery is a great asset for Stratford."

Laura, who is enjoying her new challenge, is well-qualified having completed a Master of Arts (MA) at Victoria University in Art History. Her partner Alister,



Laura Campbell, the Director of the Percy Thomson Gallery, Stratford. She is pictured with Che Roger's exhibit *Total Eclipse*, Acrylic on ACM.

a structural engineer, works in New Plymouth.

One of the reasons Laura applied for the directorship was "I wanted to step up and

challenge myself."

As to the future she says she is keen to promote the art of local artists, including some of the emerging younger

talent.

Another important role Laura has is her position on the Executive Committee of the Young Professionals

where she is Vice President and Secretary. This body supports young people in the community in networking. "It's a great group to join if you want to upskill, socialise and, of course, have a lot of fun in the process," she explains.

Percy Thomson Gallery is one of the best art galleries in New Zealand. Percy Thomson Trust has chosen a talented director in Laura who will continue to bring great exhibitions to Stratford and we wish her well.

The current exhibitions of Che Rogers (*Over Time*) and Anthony Davies (*The Passage of Time*) end on February 27. The next exhibition is *Nga Aho* – contemporary Maori Art, which opens March 4. In 2023 an exciting new exhibition is planned that will attract many patrons – the art of Rita Angus.

Percy Thomson Gallery, Prospero Place, Stratford

is open 10.30am to 4pm weekdays as well as 10.30 to 3pm Saturday and Sunday.

Their website is [www.percythomsongallery.org.nz](http://www.percythomsongallery.org.nz)

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# Consumer NZ warn customers about olive oil not being locally produced

Some New Zealand olive oils may not be as local as you think

A recent Consumer NZ investigation of 20 extra-virgin olive oils revealed that some oils labelled as New Zealand also contain imported oils.

"Most oils state the origin of the olives or oil, but not all are upfront, and you could be forgiven for thinking some New Zealand olive oils are made from 100 percent New Zealand olives," said Consumer NZ research writer Belinda Castles.

Despite Matapiro New Zealand 100% Extra-Virgin Olive Oil and Village Press First Press Extra-Virgin

Olive Oil stating New Zealand on the front label, there's no mention where the olives or oil comes from.

Matapiro said its oil was blended with Australian olive oil to meet demand. The company is hoping to return to wholly New Zealand grown olives and oil soon.

Village Press said its First Press blend is typically New Zealand extra-virgin oil blended with Australian oil. The company told Consumer NZ the reference to New Zealand represents that it is a local business where all oil is blended, filtered, bottled and labelled within the country. Village

Press told Consumer NZ the label will be amended at its next harvest so it's clear not all the First Press oil is New Zealand sourced.

New country of origin regulations, which came into force for fresh food from 12 February 2022, make it mandatory for companies to disclose the origin of certain foods such as fruit and vegetables, meat and cured pork, and fish and shellfish. Olive oil is not covered by the regulations.

Consumer NZ is asking for regulations to include all single ingredient foods and olive oil falls into this category.

Consumer NZ tested 20 extra-virgin olive oils from

New Zealand, Australia, Africa, and Europe. All oils met the criteria to be labelled extra-virgin and two Kiwi oils achieved gold medal standard (86 to 100 percent) in the blind tasting carried out by accredited tasters.

Three oils didn't achieve a medal in the Consumer NZ tasting. They were Harvest Extra-Virgin Olive Oil, Olivani Extra-Virgin Olive Oil and Countdown Extra-Virgin Olive Oil.

Fresh is best when it comes to olive oils, but none of these oils had a pressed-on or harvest date so you don't know how old the oil is.



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# Game on Prime Minister

Sitting in the House on our first day back for 2022, the Prime Minister's opening speech, made me feel as though I was listening to the Bee Gees classic "It's Only Words" ... on repeat.

All that came to mind were its lyrics ... "It's only words and words are all I have ..." The self-congratulations of the great job she



BARBARA KURIGER MP FOR TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

thinks Labour is doing as the "party for all New Zealanders" was staggering. That theme continued as the next fortnight went by in speeches of her backbench MPs.

All New Zealanders have not felt as if they belong to the "team of five million" since 2020, when we all locked down in the early stages of COVID-19.

Ask small business owners, especially in tourism and hospitality. Life has been very tough for many people in our community.

As National's Agriculture spokesperson and MP for a large rural electorate, I was surprised to hear the Prime Minister thanking the farmers in her speech, something I generally only hear from Finance Minister Grant Robertson who

knows where the money comes from.

The people in our primary industries are making a huge contribution toward keeping New Zealand's economy afloat and feeding us, as well as more than 40 million people globally.

The words "working with farmers" were used a number of times throughout the statement. I've kept a copy and will be repeating those words back, whenever I see the 'Government knows best' attitude appear, which is the usual way they prefer to operate.

Currently there are two big discussions which will affect both our farming and rural communities in general.

He Waka Eke Noa consultations have been extended by a month due to the red traffic light setting. I

encourage farmers to engage with those consultations.

Industry leaders have been working on a plan which is designed to keep farmers out of the Emission Trading Scheme. No other farmers in the world are in the ETS.

It is important that this is given a decent discussion and while face-to-face is always preferable, there are webinar options available if you're unable to go.

KPMG's Net Zero Readiness Index 2021 covering 32 countries was released late last year and puts our agriculture at No 1 for net zero readiness, while New Zealand in general sits at No 9. But it doesn't mean we do nothing.

The other big discussion is around carbon forestry planting, and I know that this is winding many of

you up, seeing good food producing land go under pine trees. A green paper has been prepared to see if solutions can be found without encroaching on private property rights.

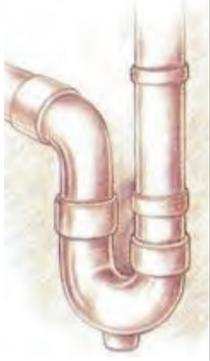
Research, genetics and technology development to find better ways of doing things on farm, and in orchards continues.

A National Government will be on the ground, helping food producers achieve regional solutions at local levels, because that's where the answers lie.

Words don't fix things Prime Minister; the good people of New Zealand do.

Barbara Kuriger MP Taranaki King Country Authorised by G Hamilton, 41 Pipitea St, Wellington.

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## Government acts to support more Maori into mahi

Growing the Māori and wider economy, giving effect to Te Tiriti principles and supporting more Māori into employment, education and training as we secure the recovery from COVID-19 are all at the heart of the Government's new Māori Employment Action Plan, says Minister for Social Development and Employment Carmel Sepuloni.

"Te Mahere Whai Mahi Māori - the Māori Employment Action Plan is another tool in our toolbox and supports our Government's Employment Strategy," Carmel Sepuloni said.

"Te Whai Mahi underlines our commitment to supporting kaupapa Māori

and working kanohi ki te kanohi and in partnership with whānau, hapū, iwi and wider hapori to improve employment outcomes for Māori.

"We know that to tackle the big issues facing Māori, get real results, and put an end to the disparity between Māori and non-Māori, we must do more. This requires working with and supporting Māori as employees, employers, and drivers of the Māori and wider economy, and as Te Tiriti partners.

"Te Whai Mahi is for Māori from all backgrounds and walks of life. Whether you're an aspiring wāhine Māori entrepreneur, a tāngata whaikaha with a desire to get into leadership roles or an older Māori wanting to upskill, this plan

will support you to do just that," Carmel Sepuloni said. Minister for Māori Development Willie Jackson said supporting more Māori into quality employment, education and training is important now more than ever, as we secure our recovery from COVID-19.

"Te Whai Mahi will help build Māori economic resilience to ensure they recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19 and are well placed to weather future economic shocks.

"The Māori labour force is growing five times faster than non-Māori and we must improve employment outcomes for them. This means more Māori skilled employees and employers are equipped and ready for the future of work," Willie

Jackson said. Te Whai Mahi supports our Government's overall Employment Strategy, along with six other population-specific employment action plans, and builds on the suite of government employment programmes and initiatives, which are proving to be successful.

"Te Whai Mahi will help us continue on the journey as we support more Māori to build on their skills and move into rewarding, secure and well-paid mahi," Carmel Sepuloni said.

Te Mahere Whai Mahi Māori - The Māori Employment Action Plan builds on the mahi of Te Ara Mahi Māori, an independent reference group appointed to advise Ministers on key areas for the Action Plan.

### On this month in history; ONZ established

On February 6, 1987 the Order of New Zealand was established. The honour is restricted to just 20 living New Zealanders. This honour is higher than a

knighthood or Damehood.

The honour includes such writers as Dame Joy Cowley and Professor CK Stead, opera singer Dame Kiri

Te Kanawa, Olympian Sir Murray Halberg and former prime ministers Rt Hon Helen Clark and Rt Hon James Bolger.

**Barbara Kuriger**  
MP for Taranaki-King Country  
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Authorised by Barbara Kuriger MP, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

*Happy Summer!*  
My offices are open for 2022.

**Steph Lewis MP for Whanganui**

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Authorised by Steph Lewis MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



# Anti-mandate protests around the vicinity of parliament

One has to go back to the time of the Springbok tour to see such protest scenes that we see in Wellington in the vicinity of parliament. Police Commissioner Coster has been criticized for showing restraint but, no doubt, he'd like to steer away from the violence which accompanied protests at the time of the Springboks visit in 1981. He maybe has a vision of the sixteen-year-old girl with blood streaming down her face having been bashed on the head by a police baton.

Whereas the majority of protesters have been peaceful there have been unsavoury incidents such as excrement being hurled at the police, threats, jeering and even



Lots of smoke and flags.

assaults. The former prime minister the Rt Hon Jim

Bolger has challenged the talk and listen to the protesters. politicians to be prepared to



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# A parting gift from Opunake Country Music Club

The Opunake Country Music Club has been going for about 35 years. At its peak it had members coming from New Plymouth to Patea, but falling numbers has meant it has been in recess for the last two years. The executive committee recently decided to wind up and donate its existing funds to local groups or organisations. Club president Pat Dudley says they wanted to give to groups or clubs that offer a valuable service to Opunake residents but have limited funding and are run by volunteers. At their final meeting the committee voted to donate \$1000 to Coastal Community Transport which take people to out of town medical appointments. "Their drivers do a great service and we can't do without them in Opunake," says Pat. Mike Williams of Coastal Community Transport says they are very appreciative of the gesture.



From left Mary Mundell and Pat Dudley of the Opunake Country Music Club with Mike Williams of Coastal Community Transport.

# Millions of hens will continue to suffer when battery cages are banned

From 1 January 2023, battery cages will be illegal in Aotearoa. However, colony cages, which also breach the Animal Welfare Act 1999, will remain legal, say animal; advocacy group SAFE. Colony cages severely restrict the ability for hens to display normal patterns of behaviour, which is a requirement under the Act. The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee reviewed the code of welfare for hens ten years ago and recommended

a phase-out period and ban on battery cages due to welfare concerns and direct breaches of the Animal Welfare Act. In less than a year, this ban will come into effect for hens in battery cages, leaving 1.2 million hens to continue suffering in cramped colony caged conditions., say SAFE. SAFE Campaigns Manager Jessica Chambers said the code of welfare is now overdue for another review. "In Aotearoa, we're phasing out a small, overcrowded cage to be

replaced by another small, overcrowded cage, while overseas all forms of caging are being banned," said Chambers. "Hens have waited ten long years for battery cages to be banned in Aotearoa. While this is good progress, we're deeply concerned for the millions of hens who will continue to be confined in colony cages." A Colmar Brunton poll found over three-quarters of New Zealanders support a ban on the caging of hens. All major supermarkets in

Aotearoa will phase out the sale of cage eggs from as early as 2024. "Colony and battery cages are being banned by dozens of countries around the world, and Aotearoa's foodservice sector is moving faster than the Government to rid these cruel systems from the food supply chain." "Banning battery cages and allowing colony cages to continue abandons 1.2 million hens to a life of suffering. The Government needs to finally announce a ban on all caging of hens

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# Conservation right from the gec-ko

New Plymouth District Council horticulturalists recently found an endangered species walking in an urban public garden in the district.

The goldstripe gecko (*Hoplodactylus chrysalisus*) are found only on Taranaki's coastal fringe and pest-free islands near Wellington.

"These little guys are declining in numbers and it was really surprising to see one pop up in front of us," says Parks Services lead Conrad Pattison. "We left him to it and thought it best to not interfere in his travels."

Goldstripe geckos are a threatened endemic New Zealand species and listed as 'at risk'. They measure up to 140mm in length and weigh up to 13.5 grams. The tail is equal to the body length.

Mostly nocturnal, they feed on small insects and invertebrates and can live in a range of habitats including forest, wetland, scrub, coastal vegetation and farmland.

NPDC is meeting with interested parties such as the Department of Conservation, Taranaki Regional Council, Taranaki iwi and the New Zealand



Goldstripe gecko getting amongst flora in a CBD garden.

Herpetological Society to discuss identifying habitat, gecko species and how they can rehome native skins and

geckos to safer areas when they remove vegetation from NPDC parks.

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Good drainage and at least

half a day of direct sun is required. Add fine gravel, sand or pumice to the soil to improve drainage. Most require protection from temperatures below 50C – Sempervivums and Sedums are the most cold tolerant. In areas with heavy soils or frost, grow plants in containers.

Water regularly, but not excessively, during summer. Cacti and succulents rest in winter and don't require watering at all. Avoid over-feeding and apply slow-release fertiliser in spring, and a weak solution of a soluble fertiliser such as

Thrive in summer.

For aesthetic purposes, a fine layer of gravel, crushed shell or river-stones can be placed over the soil surface – this will help deter slugs and snails.

When planting in containers, use Cacti and Succulent Mix which has the right amount of fertiliser and drainage. Water container grown plants once a week in spring and summer depending upon the weather, and intermittently in winter. In cold or wet weather move pots to a more sheltered, drier place to prevent root rot.

Slugs and snails can be a problem. Control with Tui Quash. Mealy Bug appears as soft fluffy patches. Control with Grosafe Groventive. Wrinkling and softening flesh indicates a root disorder. Reduce watering, plant into containers, or improve drainage by mixing sand, gravel or pumice into the soil.

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# Give it up for the world's toughest cancers

Be it sugar, alcohol or even couch-potato-ing, Kiwis across the country are once again being asked to give

up their favourite vice for one month to help raise awareness and funding for the country's most deadly group of cancers.

The inaugural 'GIVE IT UP' campaign was held last March to raise funds to find better ways to detect, diagnose and treat the seven deadly gut cancers – a group which includes bowel, pancreatic and stomach cancers and leads to the deaths of eight Kiwis every day.

The campaign also helped raise awareness that cutting alcohol intake, losing excess weight and increasing exercise can all help to reduce the risk of developing a gut cancer.

With more than 630 participants, and over \$100,000 raised, the campaign was such a success that the Gut Cancer Foundation (GCF) decided to renew the call for Kiwis to give up an unhealthy habit for their own health and the greater good.

Taking part for the second year in a row will be Ana Waters, whose 42-year-old sister was diagnosed with bowel cancer last year. She says, "I'd never taken part in any type of fundraising campaign in my life, but GIVE IT UP gave me a way to support my sister while also helping raise money

and awareness for the Gut Cancer Foundation, and by extension anyone who suffers from one of these terrible cancers.

"I gave up all added sugar for the month of March and managed to raise almost \$3,000, but one of the most important outcomes has been the ongoing positive effect on my health.

"By the time the campaign finished at the end of March I had broken my sugar habit and created new, more healthy eating routines which I've managed to sustain. Not only have I helped my sister and the GCF, I've also helped myself in the most important way possible."

For Gut Cancer Foundation (GCF) Executive Officer Liam Willis, the lasting change seen by so many participants was one of the most pleasing aspect of last year's GIVE IT UP campaign.

"Many people started out just making a small adjustment to their eating or

exercise habits. But by the end of the month, they had fully embraced their new healthy lifestyle, with many saying the campaign had resulted in enduring change and real health benefits.

"With eight Kiwis dying from a gut cancer every single day, the funds raised and the healthy living habits created by this campaign are making a real difference to the lives of thousands of New Zealanders across the country.

"Cancers of the digestive system are the most common form of cancer in New Zealand, and they're among the most deadly. People who are diagnosed will only have a 50/50 chance of living for more than five years. That's why we're asking all Kiwis to give up the sugar, booze or sofa this March and help beat these devastating cancers."

Mr Willis says participants of this year's GIVE IT UP campaign will be supported with tips and advice from

the team at 4 Wheels of Health, the science based 4-week health education course created by acclaimed Kiwi chef Simon Gault and metabolic nutritionist Sean Robertson.

Mr Gault explained why he had chosen to back the campaign this year:

"Yet again New Zealanders are faced with a difficult outlook for 2022. It really is time to embrace any new science and the Gut Cancer Foundation are on the leading edge of supporting such work".

On the importance of the campaign's message Mr Gault explained:

"Given we get one body to live in, and we can't trade it in, it really is time we take note of what organisations like the Gut Cancer Foundation have got to say. We just can't go and buy new parts for our body, so let 2022 be the year we really focus on looking after the one body we've got to live in"

## Karen's story

Hi, my name is Karen Pratt and I am a 49 year old solo mum of a wonderful 11 year old – Brooke. I have been a teacher for 17 years. Although I was born in Whanganui I have lived most of my life in the Waikato. In April 2019, my life took a sudden life-changing detour when I was informed that I had a nasty malignant carcinoma at the oesophageal junction which extended into my stomach.

Back in December of 2018, I had started to notice that food did not go down so easily, and I needed water to help. I visited my doctor about this and again in early January 2019 about a dull pain in my breastbone. My doctor organised a series of tests and medications to try to see if they helped with swallowing. Blood tests showed some areas



Karen Pratt undergoing treatment.

Continued page 13.



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# Karen's Story

*Continued from page 12.*

of concern but they were investigated and nothing came of it.

On the 7th of March, I felt extremely ill and took myself off to Tokoroa hospital emergency after I had problems swallowing solids and fluids for a few days. After more tests I was sent home but the next day I got a friend to take me to Waikato hospital ED because I was no better.

This time I spent 6 days in hospital, then after more tests in early April they suspected I had a dysfunctional oesophagus. After 4 months of feeling unwell, hospital visits and tests I had an endoscopy on the 5th of April which showed I had a partially obstructing malignant tumour of the lower oesophagus, the gastro-oesophageal junction, and the proximal stomach. Nothing can prepare you for news like this. It was very surreal.

On the 10th of April, a CT confirmed a large locally infiltrative gastro-oesophageal junction tumour, suspected involvement of the diaphragm, involved upper abdominal nodes and an indeterminate right hilar node. I had an appointment with my surgeon. He believed that it was too late and nothing could be done and that we would be looking at palliative care. However, because the CT scan was inconclusive, and he could not be absolutely certain if I was stage 3 or 4, I was sent for a PET scan on Good Friday the 19th of April, 2019. Thank goodness a PET scan showed that the cancer had not moved to my lymph nodes and the surgeon performed a laparoscopy. I was so happy when he said after the laparoscopy that he was going to operate. He'd spoken to the oncologist and they wanted me to have chemotherapy and then he would operate to remove the tumour. They moved fast and I was so grateful. I had hope and I held onto that. I truly believed I could get through this. I had a daughter who I was determined to see grow up.

I started FLOT chemotherapy in May. The top shelf chemo. I

had 4 courses of FLOT every 2 weeks. I found the chemo tough and the last two sessions I had to have 3 weeks apart because my neutrophils were too low. The nursing staff at Oncology day stay are amazing and I don't believe they are recognised enough.

Nothing can prepare you for all your hair falling out. I remember being in the shower 14 days after my first lot of chemo and running my hands through my hair and big clumps were in my hand. There is lots of wonderful support out there to help you with this. I got a wig but I very rarely wore it. I found beanies great. Kaus Hats have an amazing selection of scarves, hats and beanies.

I had great results from the chemo and it had shrunk significantly. This was followed by a full gastrectomy operation on the 14th of August where my stomach was removed. This operation was huge and I was in hospital for 2 weeks with a feed tube for 10 days until I passed a scan that showed no leaks. I was grateful that the surgeon was able to remove 95% of the tumour. He couldn't get a small amount that surrounded one of my main arteries.

Six weeks after the op I started my first of four sessions of the second round of FLOT chemotherapy. Once again it was tough. The first 2 days following chemo were fine then it hit hard for about 8 days, the last 4 days were good and then it started all over again. I found the fatigue hard, and I was very sensitive to sound and light. Exercise was so important for helping me get through this stage.

A highlight was getting my PICC line removed on the 12th of November after having it in for 7 months.

Once I got through the chemo, I moved to 30 daily sessions of radiotherapy and chemo pills combination. I stayed at the Cancer Society Lions Lodge. An amazing place that I could not have gotten through this last phase of my treatment without. I finished my treatment on the 15th of January 2020. This was the toughest of all. My oesophagus became inflamed and I couldn't eat and I was very weak. Some days I thought my legs



**Karen Pratt.**

couldn't hold me up.

I lost a lot of weight through this and a lot of muscle tone. I've been working with a Pinc & Steel physio to work on strengthening my core to help with balance. This is such a vital part of recovery. I am extremely grateful for the funding. As you can imagine it is hard going through all of this treatment. I was unable to work so I've been reliant on funding. Learning to eat without a stomach has had its own challenges. I can now only eat small amounts every hour throughout the day. The biggest change has been not being able to tolerate water, I found it too heavy and I just can't drink it so I have had to change the pH with lime or lemon or add powderade powder.

I have 3 monthly checks and a yearly scan. Unfortunately, there is no test or scan that can confirm for me that the cancer has gone. I have to believe that it has so that I can get on with my life. Otherwise it plays with your mind. I find goal setting great.

I've been lucky that I have amazing friends and family all sharing in taking me to hospital for appointments and chemo. This journey has been tough for us all but none of us gave up and because of that we got the best possible outcome.

Recovery is just as hard as treatment and the hardest thing is that everyone thinks you're finished and that you can just get on with life. The support falls away and very few understand the fatigue or the emotional roller coaster that follows, not to mention chemo brain. Rebuilding your life and building up your strength takes time. It's very easy to overdo it and

it's very important to keep life simple and as stress free as possible. This is easier said than done.

I have shared my story because I believe it is important to bring awareness about gut cancers. Gut cancers don't present symptoms until they are advanced and in a lot of cases too late to do anything. Pay attention to your bodies and if things change from your normal get them tested and make a nuisance of yourself. If it's not normal for you, keep asking for tests.

It is because I paid attention to changes in my body and noticing pain and brought it to my GP and oncologists attention that I may have a chance of surviving a recent re-occurrence. This second time round has been tough, much tougher mentally to deal with. Somehow you have to pick yourself up and face treatment with a knowing of how difficult it is. That I was going to need to lean on my friends and family again to help care for my daughter. But also I had to face again the thought that I may only have a year with my family and friends. The only way to get through this for me has been to focus on today and accept graciously all offers of help. I am here right now! No one knows when their time is up so I make the most of each day and keep believing that I can beat it again just like I did the first time.

Since August I have been through 30 sessions of radiotherapy and have completed 3 cycles of 5 FOLFIRI chemotherapy.

I truly believe a positive - never give up attitude is

important. I have found focusing on the positive and one step at a time helpful. Lots of self-care has been amazing for me. Making me a priority has become my new mantra. Also learning not to be too proud to ask and accept help. This is something you can't and shouldn't have to deal with

alone.

*Since this was written it has been reported that it appears Karen's cancer has come back. It looks like it came back recently and she's now undergoing chemo again.*

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# Hardings Funerals new website

Hardings Funerals at 17 Regent Street, Hawera have recently developed an inaugural website – [www.hardingsfunerals.co.nz](http://www.hardingsfunerals.co.nz). The website has a wealth of information about such aspects as planning the funeral, pricing, tributes, owner Kelly Judkin's team and credentials, embalming, dressing the loved one, viewing your loved one, cremation versus burial, what to do with ashes, repatriation of bodies – and much more.

The firm has a respected history which extends all the way back to 1913, when it was established by Philip Harding (1887-1971). Philip's son John (1916-1997) continued the family business with the reins finally being handed to John's son Malcolm Harding. It was during Malcolm's stewardship that current owner Kelly Judkins joined the staff back in 1994. Malcolm guided Kelly to her National Certificate in Embalming in 1995 and



Kelly Judkins, Director of Hardings Funerals, in the front reception area.

a NZ Diploma in Funeral Directing (Level 5) in 2014. She retains a high regard

for her former mentor (and employer), who is now a Life Member of the NZ

Embalmers Association. Finally, Kelly and her husband Shaun bought the



ABOVE:

Kelly in the peaceful chapel which can accommodate fifty visitors.



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# enhances their service

business in June, 2019 and, together with staff members Brittany Corlett (Embalmer, Funeral Director) and Jordie Shaw (Embalmer and Funeral Director), the well-qualified team continues the established high standards and values to make it one of the most respected funeral homes in New Zealand.

Kelly brings a huge depth of experience to her position. She is a Justice of the Peace (JP), a marriage celebrant and has served as a volunteer in such organisations as Victim Support. In addition, she has served on the Executive of the New Zealand Embalmers Association, as well as holding office on the Editorial Board of the industry's main publication.

Hardings Funerals will guide the bereaved relatives through each and every step of the way towards a client-chosen style of funeral. This includes such items as celebrant, flowers, newspaper notices, catering, service sheets, audio-visual and web-casting to name just a few.

Some of the vital steps to be followed include contacting relatives and



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friends so they are aware of the funeral's location and timing, the notification of the medical practitioner so a death certificate can be issued (a legal requirement),

the transfer of the deceased into Hardings Funerals care and the answer to a myriad of questions that can arise. In their friendly and professional way Kelly,

Brittany and Jordie provide expert guidance.

*Continues page 16*



The upgraded exterior of Hardings Funerals with Kelly standing in the foreground.

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# Hardings Funerals new website enhances their service

continued from page 15

Optimal flexibility is available as to where the bereaved choose to hold the funeral, which can include a farm, a home, a beach or Hardings Funerals peaceful chapel (seats 50 people). Live streaming can accompany any of these locations. "If someone can look back in 20 years and say that was such a good service for Mum – then I've done my job," comments Kelly.

She continues, "Funerals have changed in style from what we experienced in the past. Technology is becoming more and more

prevalent in funerals with the fact Covid has imposed boundaries on the way people travel around the world and even the country. Hardings can livestream a funeral from anywhere that has a robust cellular coverage, which can then ensure our family and friends overseas and other parts of New Zealand can virtually attend a loved one's funeral. A good alternative if data coverage is not good is a recording of the funeral, which can be uploaded to our website. This can work well and means that within a twelve hour window, a family can watch a delayed coverage if

livestream capabilities are compromised. Livestream is now about bringing families together where we can and if this is via the internet, then our very traditional profession will move with the times to accommodate our people."

Hardings Funerals is a well organised business, aided by Indesign, Canva, Microsoft as well as funeral specific systems.

The comfortable Interview Room has a display of imaginative cremation urns. Coffee and tea are available.

When you contact Hardings Funerals, who are available on a 24 hours basis, you can be sure of caring professional attention, as well as a free quote. You can phone 06 278 8633 or 027 716 1719. The email is [kelly@hardingsfuneral.co.nz](mailto:kelly@hardingsfuneral.co.nz)

"It's really all about people. It's about making a difference about one of the hardest things and making it just a bit better," concludes Kelly.



A friendly welcome and professional expertise is always available from Kelly and her team at Hardings Funerals in Hawera.

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## On this month in history Shackleton is born.

On February 15, 1874 Ernest Shackleton was born in Kilkea, County Kildare, Ireland.

He was in the Royal Navy and later the British Army (Reaching the rank of major).

He took part in several expeditions to Antarctica firstly under Captain Robert Falcon Scott (1901-1904).

The ship the *Discovery* is permanently docked in Dundee a sort of floating museum.

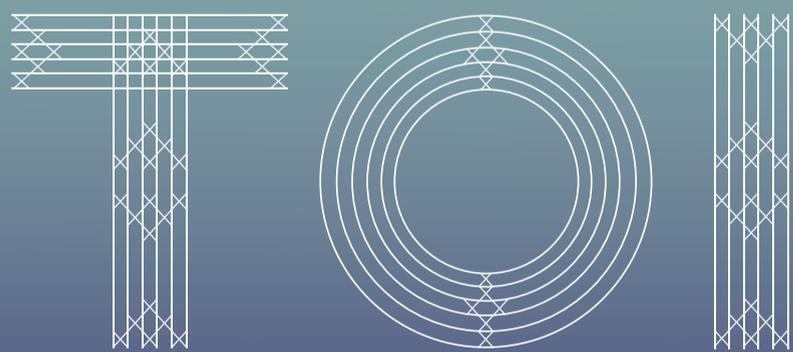
Later Shackleton led his own expeditions, such as the 1907-1909 one using the ship the *Nimrod*. He reached 88 degrees South, just 97 miles from the South Pole. He was knighted by King Edward VII on his return.

He is best remembered

for his 1914-1917 Trans-Antarctic Expedition when his ship the *Endurance* was crushed by ice and sank. He travelled 720 miles to South Georgia to ensure rescue for his men.

Sir Ernest Shackleton died of a heart attack (aged 47) in 1921 at Grytviken, South Georgia and is buried there.

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# Peter Pan great entertainment

*Note: This review was written in December 2021. It got lost in the reviewers system during the festive season. Apologies all round.*

Opunake Players latest production ‘Peter Pan’ was performed to seven full houses at the Lakeside Playhouse from 2nd to 11th December. Well, as full as can be in these COVID times. But that didn’t stop the cast doing their best for what was an entertaining show. First time director Lisa Beynon must be congratulated for her vision and presentation of this Amanda Stone written version of the J.M. Barrie classic. I hope we see more of her talents on stage.

Speaking of talent, it was in abundance for this production. How does a town the size of Opunake have so much? And not just the acting, the artwork on the set was stunning. A shout out to the Davidson family, Frank Eustace, Lynelle Kuriger and Cooper and Bodhi Clarke.

Michelle Julian’s portrayal of Captain Jane Hook showed the right mix of badness and frustration with her incompetent pirates played by John McCarty, Alexandra Lawn, Christine Ryan and Sam Allison.

What great characterization they showed.

Orlando Davidson as Peter leapt in and out of his scenes with aplomb, while Brenna Johnson’s Wendy was sensitively portrayed. Monica Willson worked hard to portray the feisty Tinkerbell, not easy when you’re supposed to be two inches tall. The Lost Kids, Miley Davidson, Melissa Kuriger, Trixie Davidson, Skylar Hunn and Xavier

Le Prou were a delight. The scene where they cried uncontrollably was great comedy. Crocodiles Terry Simpson, Cooper and Bodhi Clarke, plus Danu Fraser as an Oscar presenter added to the mix of what was a thoroughly enjoyable show.

Backstage were listed in the programme as “Stars Behind The Scenes.” A good statement for the often unseen efforts of many. Elizabeth Andersen-

Gardiner’s choreography was effective in its simplicity for the actors, mainly untrained in the art of dance, and the small space available. As for Suzie Stanley’s costumes, one runs out of superlatives. Well done to the backstage crew, too many to mention here.

Overall an enjoyable night’s entertainment. Just the thing to get you in the mood for Christmas.



The three women in Peter Pan’s life. From left. Wendy (Brenna Johnson) who wants to mother him, Captain Hook (Michelle Julian) wants to catch him, and Tinkerbell (Monica Willson) wants him all to herself. Who gets her way? Find out at Opunake Players ‘Peter Pan.’

## Residential market makes steady start

Residential property values continue to defy predictions of a collapse – although there are plenty of signs the market is starting to ease as we get through the first month of 2022, Quotable Value(QV) figures show.

Taranaki’s residential property market continues to tick along at a rapid rate of home value growth. In the three months to the end of January 2022, home values in New Plymouth increased at a rate of 7.6% to a new average of \$761,768.

It’s slightly down on the 8.4% reported last month. Meanwhile, home values increased by a resounding 12% this quarter in South Taranaki, and 4.2% in neighbouring Stratford District.

Local QV registered valuer Danny Grace commented: “The Taranaki market has continued to be very active over summer, with agents, mortgage brokers and bank lenders in the region all reporting to be very busy at present – across all property

categories.” “There are still low levels of stock on the market overall, but they are predicted to improve throughout the year. Although there is speculation that these factors will cause market levels to level off and perhaps drop, we haven’t yet seen any evidence of this. But we have observed that buyers are being more cautious now and have been less driven by a ‘fear of missing out’ and more concerned about paying too much.”

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# National Dahlia Show comes to Hawera

Along with running their annual Summer Flower Show, the Hawera Horticultural Society recently hosted the National Dahlia Show.

Every year two National Dahlia Shows are held, one in the North Island and one in the South Island. On the weekend of February 12-13 the Hawera Horticultural Society hosted the North Island event. At this time of year they are busy with their Summer Flower Show, and this year that was held alongside the dahlias.

Dahlias are a flower that can be successfully grown anywhere in New Zealand, says Hawera Horticultural Society president Paul Lander.

"They love moist hot summers," he says. "To grow to a good quality you need a good supply of food, nitrogen in particular. We're a little bit light on exhibitors because of COVID, and dry weather in the middle of summer which causes problems with some dahlia growers, but what's here is great quality."

He says judging is as much about freshness and quality as it is about size.

"A lot has to do with the condition when it's shown. It's what you have on the day that matters. There's an art to flowering, so that it's



From left. Champion Bloom winner Brian McKenzie and Champion Vase and Champion of Champions winners Kay and David Shirley.

ready just in time for the show."

National Dahlia Society of New Zealand president Dennis Rodgers from Feilding says the attraction of dahlias can be attributed

to the length of the flowering season, the huge range of colours and the diversity of size and shape.

At the Hawera show, exhibitors had come from "Auckland, Waihi,

Rotorua, Napier, Eketahuna, Palmerston North and places in between."

"The weather conditions leading up to this event were very challenging, and the exhibitors should be congratulated in getting so many blooms on the table," he said. "Dahlias are enjoying a resurgence in popularity with three dahlia groups having been formed in the last few months in the Southern North Island in Levin, Wellington and Masterton.. New Zealand-bred dahlias hold their own against their overseas counterparts. There are many enthusiasts experimenting with growing new dahlias from seeds."

He points to a table holding dahlias from the North Island Trial Ground in Feilding, which has attracted new cultivars from breeders from throughout New Zealand. Many of the dahlias on display had never been seen in public before.

Dennis says he has been

coming to shows in Hawera for a long time.

"It's been over 60 years since I first came to the Dahlia Show in Hawera. It was always one of the shows to come to. There was Doug West from Stratford, Percy Ramsey and Frank Lovell. These were names synonymous with dahlias in Taranaki. If you had beat them you had done well."

After South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon opened the show the winners were announced. David and Kay Shirley won Champion Vase in the Open Section and Champion of Champions. Brian Mackenzie won Champion Bloom in the

Open Section. In the Intermediate section Diana Loader won Champion Bloom and Champion Vase, while Jane Upson took out Champion Vase and Champion Bloom in the Novice section.

Marton Primary School won the First time Exhibitors prize. Dennis Rodgers said a couple of years ago he and Diana loader had supplied plants to the school and it had been good to see the way the students had taken ownership of them.

Dennis congratulated the Hawera Horticultural Society on the way they organised the show and said they might look at holding it again in Hawera at some point.

Champion of Champions winners David and Kay Shirley had come to the show from Waiuku near Auckland, after having won at the Napier show the previous weekend. Kay has been growing dahlias for the last 19 years, with David having come on board eight years ago.

Brian Mackenzie of Palmerston North has been entering dahlia shows for the past 37 years, although he says he may have missed one or two because he was working on a dairy farm at the time. He remembers being here the last time Hawera hosted a national show about 20 years ago.

"That was a fairly big show," he says.

After all these years this is the first time he has won the Champion Open Bloom.

"It's taken me a long time to get to this stage. I had thought this might be my last show, but now I think I might have another go next year in Hamilton."



The dahlias brought out a great variety of size, shape and colour.

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# Effluent storage best practices

Maintaining a healthy effluent pond or effluent tank is essential in keeping your effluent system running smoothly, maximising nutrient values, and for council compliance. The good news is, it's simple and easy to do by implementing a few best practices in your routine...



MICHAEL PRESTIDGE

## Emptying the pond

The effluent pond or tank should be emptied at the end of milking season. This maximises the amount of storage available to take you through calving. A storm water diverter is also recommended. You shouldn't need to be irrigating during this time, and it will take some pressure off staff.

Emptying your effluent pond annually is important not only for maximising capacity, but also to ensure the nutrients are being used in a timely manner and not degrading in storage. Some councils require proof of annual emptying for consent to be granted.

**Note:** Don't completely empty the pond – leave 200-300mm to hold down the

lining.

## Maintenance

An empty pond is a good opportunity for a visual check to make sure there's no damage to the lining or obvious leaks. For rubber lining, pay attention to the joins where it has the potential to pull apart.

Keeping on top of weed spraying around the pond, pump and stirrer is also important to prevent seeds from entering and getting spread out to pasture.

## Stirring

Keeping the effluent well stirred is essential. The pond/storage should be stirred prior to pumping. With the right set-up this will ensure solids are kept in suspension, and therefore able to be pumped out.



**Maintaining your effluent pond keeps your effluent system running smoothly and maximises nutrient values.**

We'd usually recommend a horizontal stirrer, and this needs to be the right length and positioned correctly for maximum effect and efficiency. Without adequate stirring, solids will

accumulate at the bottom of the pond and their nutrient value will degrade. This will also impact storage capacity and put additional pressure on your pump.

## Spreading

Once the pressure is off from calving, and the ground is ready to take in some nutrients, it's time to go hard and get spreading. It can be a good idea to spread under maize and other crops as

well as out to pasture.

Maximising spreading over November and December can also be a good idea to allow for some time off over the Christmas/New Year period.

Keep a vigilant routine over summer. Not only is this a great way to keep crops and pasture irrigated but it makes it easy to empty the pond again in Autumn.

## Problem ponds/tanks

While the above best practices should keep most effluent ponds and storage healthy, for various reasons some need a little extra help. If your effluent pond is still particularly smelly or crusty, adding an organic treatment like PondBugs™ can work to promote biological activity. They are like a multi-vitamin for your pond, helping to digest the organic matter making the effluent more consistent, better for pumping, and providing a faster release of nutrients back into the soil when spread.

*Michael Prestidge  
Nevada Effluent  
Management Specialist*

## Unseasonable rain behind arable 'harvest from hell'

Three weeks of on and off rain, followed by storms that have lashed the country, have caused widespread damage to arable crops up and down the country.

"Talking to farmers who have been around for a while, some of them are calling it

the worst harvest season in living memory," Federated Farmers arable chairperson Colin Hurst said.

"Normally we'd be most of the way through harvest by now but three weeks of continual rain held everything up, and now

many parts of the country were hammered by the remnants of the cyclone."

Only Southland seems relatively unaffected.

Wheat crops are turning black in Mid and North Canterbury and there's likely to be a shortage of

good quality grain to turn into flour. The reports to Federated Farmers are that crops grown for seed in Canterbury will be down on yield, and in some places down on quality. Drying space is at a premium. Wet soil also hinders the natural

drying of seed crops and so harvest is not going to be easy even as weather improves..

The remnants of Cyclone Dovi also severely knocked around a lot of maize crops in the Waikato - north Taranaki areas.

"We get patches of rough weather this time of year but it's very unusual to have such a sustained period of rain," Colin said.

"The challenge now is to dry out what we can and salvage what is left of the harvest."

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# Mix it up – what do diverse pastures offer Taranaki?

Happy, healthy animals, tucking into lush green grass, with a beautiful mountain in the background – it's the classic image of rural Taranaki.

Look closer, however, and the 'grass' becomes a mixed leafy salad, full of many different plants. This is a new version of that classic rural image.

And it's starting to pop up more often, not just here in Taranaki but elsewhere, as more people experiment with their pastures.

You might be one of those people. Or you might have heard about diverse pastures and wondered if they would suit your farm.

Maybe you feel like your traditional mix of perennial ryegrass and clover isn't doing as well as it should be in some situations.

Maybe you're looking ahead and thinking about how to make your farm more resilient in a less predictable climate.

No matter which direction you're coming from, wouldn't it be handy to get a bit more information on multi-species pastures from your own backyard, grown



**We're looking to the future, experimenting with multi-species pastures right here in Taranaki**

in local soil under local conditions?

We know there's increasing interest here in pasture diversity.

Perennial ryegrass and white clover have served Taranaki well for many years, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't look to increase

the value those pastures add to your farm.

You're probably aware we have specialised in breeding ryegrass and clover for New Zealand farms for decades. What you may not know is that we are also working on many other forage species.

Like our ryegrasses (and our clovers), these have all been carefully tested for their ability to deliver in New Zealand conditions.

So last spring, we mixed some of them up with different ryegrasses and clovers, and started an experiment here in Taranaki to see how they would go.

What did we use? Maxsyn and Rohan perennial ryegrass. Safin fine leaved cocksfoot. Tabu+ Italian ryegrass. Baren grazing brome. Captain cool season plantain. 501 Chicory. Timothy. Kotuku and Weka white clover. Morrow red clover. Laser Persian clover. Coolamon sub-clover.

All of these have been selected to complement each other, grow at different times of the year, and give tasty, high quality feed for your animals.

They've only been in the ground – at Dairy Trust Taranaki's Waimate West

– for a few months, so it's very early days, and like any good experiment, it's a case of watch and learn. Early results look promising.

Regardless of how this mix performs, however, two things make it worth watching. First, it's being trialled here, not in another part of the country. Second apart from the timothy, these are all known, certified pasture cultivars.

Stay tuned.

*Bruce Paterson and Janelle Gillum Barenbrug*

## Critical worker status a win for vets and their patients

The New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) has welcomed the announcement that vets and other animal welfare professionals are now included in the Government's critical worker category.

The decision allows people in animal welfare roles to register as a critical worker, meaning they can continue working if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, provided they return daily negative Rapid Antigen Tests. Critical workers will still need to isolate outside of work.

NZVA Chief Executive Kevin Bryant says the decision gives already stretched veterinary teams

more certainty about their availability to treat animals as the Omicron outbreak continues.

"It puts vets in a much stronger position to reduce any disruption that Omicron may have on their services," he says.

"Veterinary teams have been working exceptionally hard to meet their clients' needs during the current vet shortage. They now have the mechanism in place that will help to keep essential services operating

when Omicron becomes widespread."

Under the rules, animal welfare professionals can now register with the Government that they are a critical worker.

Bryant is encouraging veterinary practices to register their entire teams, which will allow veterinary nurses, technicians and other essential workers in their clinics to be included in the scheme.

**We welcome your contributions  
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editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz**

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# The best ballcock



This ballcock is one of our original test sites – a dry stock situation – with a huge static head, in the bottom of a valley.

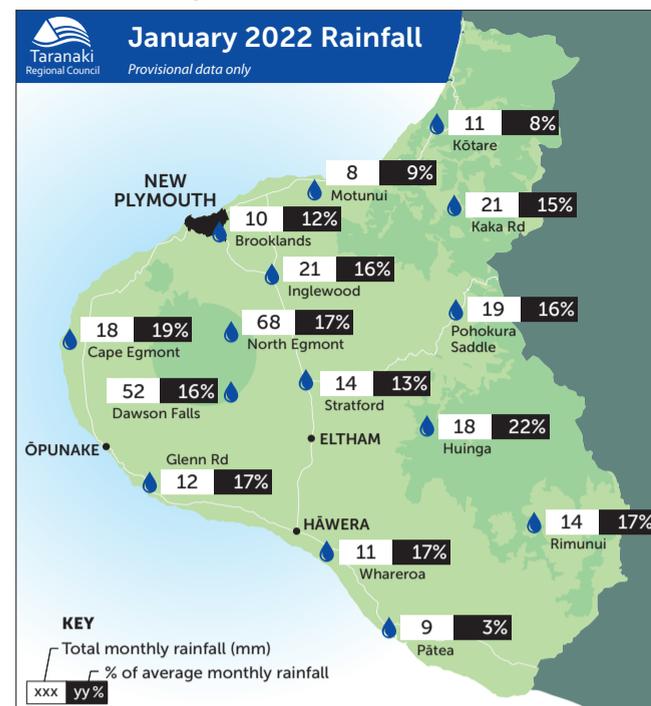
The SIS Ballcock was a concept of Ray Collins. I have shot ducks on Ray's farm for over 40 years and we have shared many (at sometimes crazy) engineering projects. Ray processes designs in his mind and with the ballcock I couldn't picture his design in my mind. So he made one. We made five, then we made 10, then we made 50 – now we do runs of 1000s. Ray has had a lifetime of frustration with ballcocks that prompted his comment "make the best ballcock in

the world." They are all made from 316 marine grade stainless steel. They have no internal parts – the sealing face is on the exterior. Our design is so simple your children, your wife, your bank manager would be able to understand how the SIS valve works. A farm in our area has 300 troughs, this property has 20 per cent of ballcocks fail every year, that is 60 a year. Of those 60 at least 10 per cent of those will be less than a year old. An independent trial

showed at 52psi with 50mm pipework to the ballcock gave a flow rate of 13 cubic metres per hour. We are now seven years into producing ballcocks and not one has been thrown into a rubbish bin. Many thanks to Ray Collins, Ross Symes and Terry Nelley. These farmers gave me access to their properties for the development process. Ray Collins gets free ballcocks for the rest of his life. Geoff Furborough

# A dry January

The heavy rains and flooding that hit Taranaki in early February were preceded by a dry January. Rainfall was extremely low for January, with totals ranging between 8% and 29% of normal, with an average of 17%, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures. Rainfall occurred on between three and seven days, and was largely the second driest January on record, with the driest January being in 2015. Stratford recorded just 13.5mm, which is the lowest January rainfall recorded since records began in 1998. Te Maunga rainfall was between 17% and 23% of normal, and had rain fall on between five and seven days.



Due to the below normal rainfall, river flows were all well below normal recording just 35% to 60% of normal. The Tawhiti Stream, however, recorded above normal flow for January with 541 L/s, which was 124% of normal. Water temperatures were all above normal by between 0.55°C and 1.98°C. No new extremes were recorded. Air temperature for the region, excluding Te Maunga, was 18.52°C, which was 0.65°C warmer than the January long term

average. The maximum temperature recorded was 31.94°C in Inglewood, while the coolest was 4.37°C near Whareroa. Inglewood and Motunui recorded new January maximum temperatures with 31.94°C and 28.14°C respectively. Soil moistures were below normal for the month by between 0.33% and 11.37% for all sites except Cape Egmont and Manaia. These two sites record just below normal by 0.83% and 0.33% respectively. Te Kiri recorded a new minimum

soil moisture with 9.03%, which was 2.97% lower than the previous minimum of 12.00%. Soil temperatures were above normal for the month by between 0.89°C and 4.51°C, except for Cape Egmont. Cape Egmont had a mean soil temperature slightly lower (0.14°C) than its January mean of 20.75°C. Motunui recorded a new maximum soil temperature for January with 23.28°C, this being 0.56°C higher than the previous maximum



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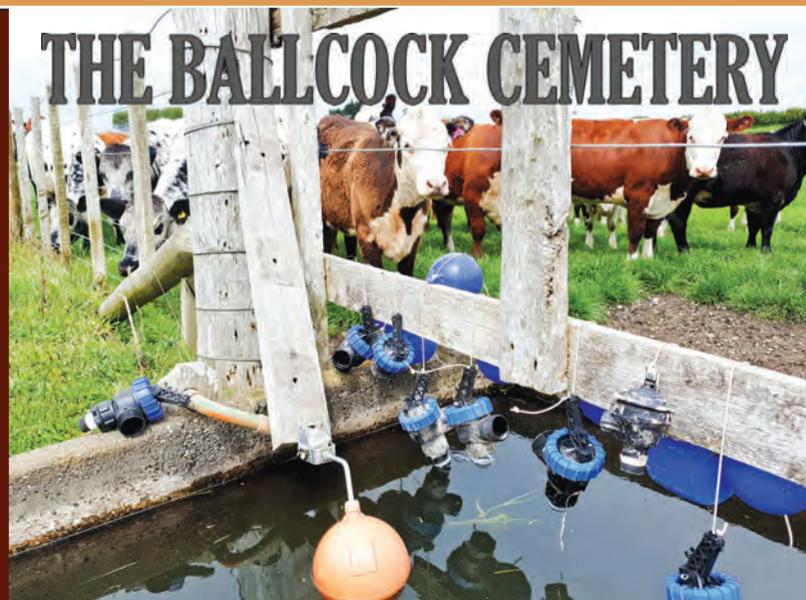
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# A combination of chess and snooker played on grass



**Former Croquet World champion Paddy Chapman.**

The first time the New Zealand Open for Association Croquet was held was back in 1913 in Christchurch. This year it was played for the first time in Hawera with games played at the Park Croquet and Hawera Croquet Club grounds.

In previous years the Open has attracted international players as well as local, but this year COVID has meant numbers have been down, with 25 players taking part. That was however an increase from the 16 who took part at last year's Open which was held in Christchurch. Despite the numbers, there was a good regional cross section of players taking part, from Warkworth in the north to Otago in the south. There were five New Zealand

Open champions among the players, including up and coming Taranaki player 22 year-old Felix Webby who was last year's champion and is set to represent New Zealand in the teams world championships in Australia to be held in November. Also there was Paddy Chapman from Hamilton who had been World Champion back in 2018 when he beat perennial rival British-based South African player Reg Bamford, who is now the current world champion. In 2015 Chapman's wife Miranda won the World Women's championship.

The tournament began at the Park Croquet Club on the morning of Saturday February 12, shortly before the rain set in. Play continued through Saturday, but had to be abandoned for Sunday.

"Sometimes I have to remind myself that croquet is a summer sport," commented Janet Boutel, who along with husband Brian was there as one of the referees.

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon opened the tournament.

"It's absolutely fantastic to have the tournament here in South Taranaki," he told everyone. "It's been really difficult these last two years with COVID, so I'm really pleased you've gone ahead."

Janet and Brian Boutel are both international referees who have refereed international championships in New Zealand and overseas. Depending on COVID and "other things" they plan to be refereeing at the world team championships in Australia in November.

New Zealand had won this title when it was played in New Zealand in 2014. Three years later Australia emerged the winner when it was held at Palm Springs. COVID meant that it hasn't been played for since then.

"We meet heaps of people around the place," says Janet. "There's a real croquet community. You can turn up at a croquet club anywhere in the world and say I play, and they will invite you in to have a game." As a result they have ended up having friendly games in places like Australia, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Malta.

"It's a combination of chess and snooker played on grass," says Brian. He recalls refereeing when Miranda Chapman became World Women's champion.

"Miranda was thanking me for refereeing, but I just love watching good croquet," he said.

Brian is chair of the World Croquet Federation's Golf Croquet Rules Committee. Golf Croquet is a shorter version of croquet than its Association Croquet and is now more popular worldwide.

Results. Doubles Winners: Paddy Chapman (Waikato) & Greg Bryant (Wellington) 26 / 3. 26(tp)g / 6

Runners-Up: John Christie (Thames Valley) and Nelson Morrow (Auckland)  
CNZ Open Singles: Paddy Chapman (Waikato) 26(tp) / 2. 26(tp) / 0. 26 / 14.  
Runner-Up: Felix Webby (Wellington)

Bronze Medal: John Christie (Thame Valley)  
Heenan Plate Winner: Steve Clarke (Bay of Plenty)

26 / 13. 26 / 13.  
Runner-Up: Bonnie Johnstone (South Taranaki)  
Charles Jones Memorial Encouragement Salver. Bonnie Johnstone (South Taranaki)  
The Salver is awarded to the player with the best record in the handicap range as determined by the Tournament Management Committee.



**Last year's New Zealand Open winner Felix Webby.**

## Sandfords Manaia Golf results

January 31. Monday Night  
Ambrose. 1. Hakana Matata.  
2. Golfing Gibbies. 3. Hot Nuts. 4. The Bas.  
February 7. Monday Night

Ambrose. 1. On Call. 2. Tui & Red. 3. 20 Whacks.  
February 14. 1. Dan the Man. 2. On Call. 3. Rama Road.

February 19. Saturday Men. 1. Grant Gibbs. 2. John Oliver. 3. Codie Clark. 4. Grant Gopperth. 5. Nathan Ngere.

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# Four out of four for Barbwire's Bobby



Bobby Katene(right) with James(Batman)Langton.

It's been two years since Bobby Katene first set foot in the Barbwire Boxing Gym in Opunake. On March 5 with four wins and no losses under his belt he is seeking to make it five out of five when he fights Louie Taufa in Putaruru. After this he has fights coming up in Wellington at the end of March followed by a fight in New Plymouth in April.

Barbwire Boxing Gym owner James (Batman) Langton says that if he wins seven fights he is no

longer a novice and can go into New Zealand national tournaments.

"If he can get to seven fights with a reasonably good record he will be pushing for higher honours in boxing," says James. He says this could include taking part in national tournaments and being selected for national teams.

James says there has been a rise in the popularity of boxing, with a recognition of the part played by New Zealand boxers like Joseph

Parker, Israel Adesanya and Dan Hooker on the international stage. There has also been an increase in funding.

Bobby, who is now 15 years-old first started coming into Barbwire Boxing in early 2020.

"I was hanging around with a few friends, and a few came here for training. I came and kept coming back," he recalls.

After seven months training he had his first fight in Taupo in February 2021.

"I was pretty scared to fight, but then I got my confidence up with sparring in the gym. I got better and then I was ready to fight," says Bobby. He went on to win that fight like all his other fights by decision.

The path to making it to seven fights might have

come sooner if it wasn't for COVID restrictions meaning events having to be canned along the way.

As well as going to school, Bobby also works for James at Barbwire Fencing. James says the boxing journey has been good for Bobby.

"I've noticed a really big

change in Bobby in the last few months in his attitude to school. This is the fittest I've seen him, and the most motivated. Bobby is only at about 10 per cent of his capabilities. There's so much more to do to reach his potential."

## Basketball Camp at Opunake



Taranaki Mountain Airs players at the first Basketball Camp held in Opunake two weeks ago. With Bryan Roach(left) are Carlin Davison, Cameron Quinnell, Ben Carlile-Smith, Dwayne Tamatea (Assistant Coach).The Mountain Airs are hoping that the lift in COVID levels will allow them to have crowds in to watch their games in the NBL(National Basketball League) this year.

## Work starts to replace roof for Yarrow Stadium's West Stand

The redevelopment of Stadium achieved another significant milestone as work

gets underway to replace the roof on the West Stand.

Completing the West Stand roof in will also see the Yarrow Stadium refurbishment project on track for a planned reopening for the 2022 winter sports season.

Taranaki Regional Council

Chairperson David MacLeod said that although the initial refurbishment plans called for the repair of the West Stand roof, a peer reviewed structural engineering report recommended a replacement.

"Accordingly, Council decided to replace the West

Stand roof based on expert engineering advice which demonstrated it was much more feasible than a repair. Importantly, replacement also remains within the original project budget, so it is a win-win all round for the people of Taranaki," says Mr MacLeod.

Replacing the West Stand roof mitigates the likelihood of future risks or unforeseen issues adds Mr MacLeod.

"Engineering recommendations for additional strengthening during the consent process showed that repairing the existing roof to full code carried potential future costs and risks, which is not acceptable best practice for us and our construction partners.

"This move from repair to replacement of the West Stand roof is a normal variation during this phase

of a construction process and means we still get to deliver the vision of the best regional stadium in New Zealand."

"We are excited that the people of Taranaki will have their Yarrow Stadium back again soon as a functioning facility in time for the resumption of winter sports. Despite disruptions caused by COVID-19 alert levels, our focus continues to be ensuring progress on all aspects of the Yarrow Stadium refurbishment and repair," says Mr MacLeod.

The project is has received funding of \$20M from the Government's IRG Covid Recovery Fund. Yarrow Stadium will reopen with a repaired West Stand, new hybrid Grass Master turf, and replacement LED lighting. The new East Stand is forecast to open in 2024.



View from Yarrow Stadium's West Stand.

### BARBWIRE BOXING & FITNESS



Bobby Katene vs Louie Taufa Putaruru, March 5

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Training will be conducted by Heavyweight Champion of New Zealand James Batman Langton

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Opunake Basketball Association

### KIDS CAMP

Coached by the TARANAKI AIRS



Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February

13 years and under: 11am-12.30pm

### ELITE BASKETBALL CAMP

13 years and over 12.30pm-2.00pm

DON'T FORGET A DRINK BOTTLE & BALL

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COST: \$2.00 entry fee  
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Contact Bryan Roach with any questions phone 027 445 7888

# Still Walking for good health and happiness

Yes we are still walking. At 10am every Tuesday morning a very keen and enthusiastic group meets on Havelock Street corner to walk with company around the streets and tracks of Opunake.

There's no need to ring anyone. Just turn up and you will be made very welcome. However a phone contact is available. Margaret on 027 477 5600. Bring a friend, and although at the moment we are a female group we are very happy to include any males who would like to be part of a walking group. We usually walk for 1 hour 20 minutes, and the distance is around 7kms. We accommodate all types of fitness, and you will never walk alone. And of course there is a well-deserved coffee at the end and some time for socialising too.

This year for the first Tuesday of each month we



Members of the walking group on their walk between Dawson Falls and Stratford Plateau earlier this month.

are walking out of town with transport available for everyone. Last month we enjoyed walking on Hawera's newly completed walkway to Normanby.

This month as our photo shows 15 of us walked from Dawson Falls to Stratford Plateau and returned, enjoying a picnic lunch as well. Conditions were perfect for a bit of fun at Wilkie's Pool and the walk was accompanied by a lovely cool breeze.

We were all proud to think we all had the fitness to complete this 7km walk confidently. Our membership is 23 and numbers fluctuate weekly depending on other commitments.

We welcome new members or just friends or family who happen to be in town

Margaret Mullin

# National art award searches for new winner

Entries are open for the award that has brought urban and rural communities together for 25 years – the Fieldays No.8 Wire National Art Award.

The renowned competition challenges artists from across Aotearoa New Zealand to transform the iconic agricultural product, No.8 wire, into inspiring art. Hosted by Waikato Museum Te Whare Taonga o Waikato and supported by the New Zealand National Fieldays Society, the 2022 award will be judged by carver, sculptor, and multi-disciplinary artist Eugene Kara.

Last year's winner was Auckland artist Gina Ferguson with Wear 'n'

Tear, a profound work of art reflecting on the situation we find ourselves in with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gina says the initial idea came to her when she was thinking about the correlation between the way a fence delineates a boundary and our regional and international borders during the pandemic.

"These structures have become paramount in our response to Covid-19," Gina remarks. "This made me want to use wire and gorse in combination with soap."

"Using soap to clean and protect remains in our psyche," she explains.

"Once the soap is used up the gorse barbs within it will scratch the skin

– so fundamentally our protection is lowered. I also wanted to express the sense of loss and sorrow being experienced throughout this pandemic, so Wear 'n' Tear also refers to the grief worn, and the tears shed by many."

Gina's impetus for entering the awards was an interest in tactile and temporal materials, socio-political positioning, and rural New Zealand.

She notes her family farm in Springfield, Canterbury was a place of inspiration where she sourced some of the materials, saying, "farming is in my DNA and these memories are all part of the fabric that informs my ideas and methods when making art."

Gina is a practicing artist and a Senior Lecturer at Unitec in the Department of Design and Contemporary Arts in the School of Creative Industries, Auckland. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Art from Ilam, School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury, and a Master of Fine Art from RMIT in Melbourne.

According to Gina, submitting her work to the No.8 Wire National Art Award competition was "a hell of a lot of fun and a challenge."

"The range of work exhibited is broad, and a bit like number 8 wire itself: tough, quirky, and often really clever. It is definitely

reflective of our rural communities and what it means to be creative and live in Aotearoa New Zealand."

For artists who thinking of putting their artwork in the running for this year's award, here are Gina's winning words of wisdom:

"My main advice would be to just do it. Enjoying what you do and having something meaningful to you to say in your work is a good place to start. Enabling the materials and processes to guide you is also fundamental."

Gina Ferguson

from out of the blue studio gallery

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February & March 2022

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**NIGHTMARE ALLEY**  
Drama, Thriller | 2hrs 30mins | R13: Graphic violence, cruelty, language  
Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 7pm | Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm

**CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG**  
Kids & Family | 1hr 36mins | G  
Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 1pm

**BLACKLIGHT**  
Action | 1hrs 48mins | M: Violence  
Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 7pm | Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm

**MARRY ME**  
Comedy, Romance | 1hr 58mins | PG  
Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 7pm

**KOATI**  
Animated, Family | 1hrs 31mins | PG  
Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm | Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm

**MARK HUNT**  
Documentary, Sport | 1hr 24mins | M:  
Violence, offensive language, drug use  
Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm | Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm

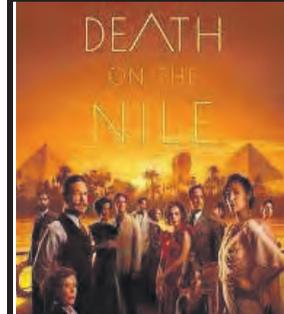
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Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March Doors open 6pm Movie starts 7pm

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(Please note: No dessert with Boutique now)

**DEATH ON THE NILE**  
Crime | 1hrs 36mins | R13: Violence, Language  
Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm | 18<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm | 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm



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**CoastalCare would like to welcome Alex Jones**  
Counsellor Bio

Alex grew up in London and has lived and worked in New Zealand since 2008. He is a father of three young boys and has lived in Taranaki since 2016. Alex is a registered counsellor (NZAC) and during his several year career so far, he has had the fortune to work in various different fields and with a variety of different presenting problems. These include, mental health, addictions, couples and family counselling, parenting difficulties, grief, trauma and violence prevention. Alex has a strong passion to ensure that people who come and talk to him feel safe and secure to tell their story and leave feeling empowered to make the changes they are needing.

"It is the client who knows what hurts, what directions to go, what problems are crucial, what experiences have been deeply buried".

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Opunake: Playing several days and nights each week. Refer timetable in newspaper.

**MONDAYS:** Tainui Day Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman Street

Opunake: Each Monday 10 am - 12:230 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

WEEKENDS

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

**FROM JAN 18 2022**

**Members New Year Exhibition:** At the Village Gallery, Eltham.

FEBRUARY 27

**Life Drawing Tuition with Marianne Muggerridge:** At Marianne's Oeo Rd studio. See ad for more details.

**MARCH 3 TO APRIL 11**

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



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**LIFE DRAWING TUITION WITH MARIANNE MUGGERIDGE**

Beginners and experienced drawers welcome. Bring your own materials, paper, pencils, charcoal etc.

**Sunday 27th February: 11.00am - 2.00pm at Marianne's Oeo Road studio**

There will be a follow up session on Tuesday 7-9pm, March the 1st at the Emporium Gallery, Opunake

For more information please ring Marianne on 021 482 464 or 06 2745 713

Numbers are limited




**LIVING AWAY FROM OPUNAKE BUT WANT TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON?**

Subscribe to the Opunake & Coastal News and we'll post you a paper as soon as it's out!

**06 761 7016**

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



Next Meeting is on  
Monday March 7, 2022  
at 5.30pm

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

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

**SITUATIONS VACANT**

**BUILDER**, looking for  
builder or hammer hand for  
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**SITUATIONS VACANT**

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL  
NEWS**

**DELIVERY PEOPLE NEEDED**

We need reliable delivery people to deliver our  
fortnightly newspaper to part of Oakura and  
also for Manaia.  
Please phone 06 761 7016.  
Ask for Rolland.



Opunake High School  
Te Kura Tuarua o Opunake

**ŌPUNAKĒ HIGH SCHOOL**

We have the following part time opportunities available:

**JUNIOR TECHNOLOGY TEACHER**

Ōpunakē High School is looking for a teacher to work  
for one day a fortnight with the year 7 and 8s on  
Technology (Food/hard materials/soft materials), starting  
term 2. This is a great opportunity for someone  
interested in working in a vibrant, collegial kura where  
the student is at the centre of everything we do.

**REGISTERED TEACHERS FOR DAY RELIEF**

We are in need for registered teachers to relieve on an  
intermittent day to day basis for 2022.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANT**

An opportunity for an I.T. support person has become  
available at Ōpunakē High School. The role includes the  
maintenance and administration of Chromebooks,  
MacBooks, Ipads Projectors, TVs and Apple TVs, Wifi  
Access Points, Network cabling, printing and the school's  
mobile management system.

This is a wonderful opportunity for someone interested  
in I.T. to work in a very supportive, collegial and forward  
thinking environment.  
10 hours per week.

**FUNDING OFFICER**

An opportunity has become available for a Funding  
officer at Opunake High School. This job involves  
networking with potential sponsors, as well as sourcing  
and applying for funding streams for the kura.  
This is a great opportunity for someone interested in  
working in a vibrant, collegial kura where the student is  
at the centre of everything we do. Pay to be negotiated,  
up to 10hrs/wk, working from home an option.

Enquiries welcome, applications should include a  
covering letter and CV.  
Please apply to:

The Principal  
Ōpunakē High School  
PO Box 4  
Ōpunakē 4645  
admin@opunake.school.nz

Applications close Friday 4th March, 2022

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**FOR SALE**



**Are you having problems with lowered  
immune system?**

Are you saying I haven't been right since I had the flu, or a trauma,  
or accident, or medication.

**SOME IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN FOUND USEFUL IN TREATING SYMPTOMS:**

**Vitamin C**, stimulates the immune system, an antioxidant, and anti-allergy,  
supports tissue and wound healing, iron absorption and eye health.

**VITAMIN D3**, the sunshine vitamin, essential for the immune system.

**VITAMIN A**, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory. Boost the immune system.

**ZINC**. The essential mineral, everyday immunity, skin maintenance, hormonal  
health, vision. Signs you may be low in zinc are white spots on the nails, ongoing  
low immunity, loss of taste, poor skin healing.

**OLIVE LEAF**. Anti-viral. Been used since Biblical times for viral infections

**QUERCETIN**, very powerful antioxidant, anti-inflammatory.

**L-GLUATHIONE**. A powerful anti-oxidant. Detoxes assists in removing toxins from  
the body

You can check all these out on the internet, to reach your own decisions as to  
what will help you.

**The Health Shop Centre City 067587553**

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**Opunake Co-operating Parish**

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

**Okato Co-operating Parish**

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

**Opunake Catholic Church**

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

**St Patricks Catholic Church, Okato**

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

**The Wave**

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

**St. Barnabas Anglican Church**

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

**Okato Community Church**

Meets 10.30am Sunday at Hempton Hall.  
Everyone welcome

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL  
NEWS**

THE NEWSPAPER  
TARANAKI  
LIKES BEST



Look for the Newspaper  
Reading Cow on our  
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The Opunake &  
Coastal News is  
distributed free to every  
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bounded in the north  
by the New plymouth  
City border, extending  
east to Egmont Village  
and around to the edge  
of Stratford, south to  
the border of Hawera  
township and inland to  
Kaponga and through  
Eltham.

**MOVING?**

Subscribe to the Opunake &  
Coastal News and we'll post you a  
paper as soon as it's out!

**06 761 7016**



The next issue of the  
Opunake & Coastal News  
is due out on March 10

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### 2010 HYUNDAI i45 2.0 A6 NZ NEW

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### 2013 FORD KUGA TITANIUM 4WD

2.5 Turbo 5 Cylinder Automatic 5 Stage Tiptronic, Duratec, Power Steering, Climate Control Air Con, ABS Brakes, Airbags x 6, Cruise Control, Leather Trim, Alloy Wheels, Stability Control, Tinted Windows, Driving Lights 50km

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### 2011 MAZDA AXELA SPORTS

2.0 Tiptronic Auto, I-Stop Technology, Stability Control, ABS Brakes, Multi Airbags with Side Curtain, Climate Control Air Con, Auto Lights, Auto Wipers, Remote Central Locking with Push Button Start, Tinted Windows, Driving Lights, Electric Windows, Rear Spoiler, Alloy Wheels, Reverse Camera, 61kms

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07-09 AXELA SPORTS 2.0, TWO FROM \$8995

### 2008 HONDA ELYSION VG 8 SEATER

Beautiful Hi Spec Example. Auto, QuadCam, 24 Valve, iVtec, V6, Alloy Wheels, 8 Seater. Bodykit, Headphone Sets for Rear Passengers. 74km

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### 2014 SUBARU IMPREZA SPORTS 2.0i

LOW KMS. Tiptronic Auto with Paddleshift, ABS Brakes, Climate Control Air Con, Cruise Control, Auto Lights and Wipers, Electronic Stability Control, Driving Lights, Tinted Windows, Dual airbags, Spoiler, Alloy Wheels. 85km

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