



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS



Dancing to the melodic music of the Mike Gordon Trio. On stage are from left Dave Lilly (keyboards), Robert Greenfield (double bass), Tobias Wright (drums), vocalist Kim Carr and Mike Gordon.

## Dancing the night away at Everybody's

An exquisite night out was in store for people who attended the centennial celebrations at Everybody's Theatre in Opunake on Saturday night, February 20.

Many people, dressed in 1920s style outfits, grabbed the chance to dance to the Mike Gordon Trio, who played a wide range of music, although not all of it from that era.

The band includes Dave Lilly (piano), Tobias Wright (drums), Robert Greenfield (double bass) led by one of Taranaki's leading vocalists, Mike Gordon (who also plays the vox).

Singing to the accompaniment of the band early on was vocalist Kim Carr who

entertained us with a range of songs, such as *Blue Moon*, *Summertime* (from *Porgy and Bess*), *On the Sunny Side of the Street*, *Cry Me A River* and my favourite the *Girl from Ipanema*. Kim's soulful rendition of the Latin favourite was one of the highlights of the evening to me.

The special guest was Bernice McKellar who played two of her compositions on keyboard, *Tranquillity* and *Paula*. The first one is intended to be accompanied by a video depicting light changes, including a sunset, over Mount Taranaki. The second composition *Paula* is dedicated to Dr Paula McKellar QSM who was a medical practitioner in Opunake in the

1980s. Both are very moving compositions; *Tranquillity* in particular is amongst my favourite pieces of music.

The rest of the evening we were entertained by vocalist Mike Gordon, accompanied by the band. As the evening continued more and more dancers took to the floor. A special moment was when Mike, who was singing *Fly Me to the Moon*, hopped off the stage to dance with the guests for a few bars, then returned to the stage to finish the song.

The song was written in 1954 by Bart Howard and first recorded by Kaye Ballard. Later, Frank Sinatra also recorded it and it was the theme song to the Apollo

Moon mission. Mike sang many songs with finesse including *I Don't Get Around Anymore*, *I'm Going to Write myself a Letter*, and the famous Cole Porter number *Night and Day*, which was written for the musical 1932 *Gay Divorcee* (and later a film). He also sang *Aint Misbehavin'*, which was a must play number for Ron Morrison's band Rhythm Masters.

The organisers of the eve-

ning, the Everybody's Theatre Trust, must be commended for their organisation of this popular evening and especially for the delicious food they provided. Well done indeed.

Also, special praise is due to the Mike Gordon Trio for their excellent musical accompaniment for this memorable event.

Rolland McKellar

## High tea a touch of class

High Tea at Opunake's Everybodys Theatre marked a hundred years of history of the charming picture theatre with everyone who was anyone connected to the historic theatre in attendance dressed, befitting the occasion, in 1920s style.

Housed in the set of indestructible buildings in 1912-14 – fire has swept through Opunake's business district at least once in the last century destroying wooden buildings – there has been a picture theatre in the main street of Opunake since 1920. "It's a miracle we have

it," said MC Katrina Smith welcoming everyone.

She went on to give a brief history of the historic theatre which began operating as a picture theatre just after the end of World War I.

In 1980, there was a chance it could close down.

A public meeting was called in town which was attended by 5-600 people and it was decided the community should buy it.

Its future was also threatened in 2010 after the Christchurch earthquake when it was red stickered. The initial reaction was "We

can't afford to strengthen this building," said Katrina.

Once again the community rallied holding cake stalls and raffles and grants which collectively managed to raise the \$200,000 needed to carry out the extensive building work and renovations.

The theatre re-opened in 2016 to a delighted public, and as time passed further improvements were added, including more heating.

Continued pages 14 and 15



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## Letters to the Editor

### Mr Mayor you're wrong

On the introduction of Maori reserved council wards in South Taranaki Mayor Phil Nixon said; "Maori have been under represented at the council table and disengaged from the electoral process for too long." It seems our Mayor and councillors with the guidance of Debbie Ngarewa-Packer are jumping on a band wagon for change that has no justification in South Taranaki, as Maori representation on and amongst our council is well catered for. South Taranaki regularly elects Maori as councillors. Our previous council had two Maori Councillors, Jack Rangiwahia (still serving) and Bonita Bigham (didn't stand last election) both long serving. In fact Mr Nixon's friend Debbie Ngarewa-Packer has previously been our Deputy Mayor. We are also served by an Iwi Liaison Committee made up of members from the four Iwi within South Taranaki, they meet every six weeks with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, CEO and Department Heads. Our council also employs a full

time Iwi Liaison Advisor, not to mention the Maori members serving on the various community boards. So for Mayor Phil Nixon to say "Maori have been unrepresented at the council table" is a total fabrication to suit introducing major change to our local body democracy, which was already a testament to a community accepting of diversity. It is also a disservice to the South Taranaki voters who put Mayor Nixon in office saying he has a mandate, when he understandably forgot to mention his intention to introduce two Maori reserved wards while campaigning in the last election. The good people of South Taranaki deserve to be treated better than this. Note: Thank you to the silent majority that took the time and effort to protect our democracy with this petition.

Craig Baylis  
Hawera

### Movie theatre 100 years old

It started as a general store built in 1912 and it was converted into a cinema in 1921, so happy 100th birthday to the Everybodys

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Theatre Trust.

Since that time, this theatre has undergone many changes and upgrades to what it is right now, with proper buildings regulations and requirements run by a trust which was formed in 1980 to run a community owned theatre which is serviced by marvellous volunteer helpers like projectionists, cashiers, ushers, cleaners and managers.

The people of Opunake really don't know how extremely lucky they all are by not only having their town theatre, but having volunteers to run it, as many towns in our province don't or didn't have their own movie theatres. Waitara and Patea have had theirs closed for some time. Hawera and Stratford have their own movie theatres. New Plymouth had four movie cinemas, but now have one huge complex which now harbours about six movie theatres.

So maybe some of the New Plymouth people should venture to Opunake to see a movie or two, and we could all be quite surprised.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth.

### Gospel singer visits Opunake

Opunake's Wave Church should really be congratulated for formally inviting Julia Grace, gospel singer and songwriter, who has been singing and talking about mental wellness, a winner of a Tui Award, and spoken to 100,000 people, not only in our country, but overseas well before lockdown, and was accompanied by her husband Michael.

Look, it's somewhat rare to see such, or any gospel singer and songwriter of the calibre of Julia Grace to actually be invited by a church. We should see these types of singers more often, not once in a blue moon.

I remember some time ago Radio Rhema brought over an English male gospel singer, and from Auckland there was Bill Subritzky, preacher and healer, so maybe it's high time that some of our churches could invite Julia Grace and husband Michael, not only to speak, but to have a combined church service. So I'd like to challenge all churches, and make it open to everyone

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth

## ADELPHOS

# Taranaki volcanoes

Adolescence has been insanity. As a New Zealand called a time of temporary high school guidance

counsellor for 17 years I've experienced many a despairing parent and caregiver. That's because the rational part of a teen's brain usually takes a back seat to the emotional. Moodiness, being easily offended and emotional volcanic eruptions were unexpected when your joy-filled little birth package was first opened. Now of course there's the peer pressure from friends to explore alcohol, drugs, the fingertip availability of social media, pornography and whatever the latest media trend is. But

don't get depressed. There is hope.

Understanding your teenager means understanding their brain. The amygdala is the part of the brain that is activated during those unexpected volcanic outbursts. When teenagers and adults were shown fearful facial expressions while their brains were scanned, the teenagers' brains reacted much more fearfully in their amygdala than the

Continued page 3.

## 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



## Petrol thefts

It appears that someone has been stealing petrol from the Opunake & Coastal News works car on the weekend of February 13/14.

Usually parked outside the office at the corner of Napier and King Streets the thieves also tampered with the vehicle severing one of the fuel lines to get access to the petrol.

It also appears they might

have been disturbed in their action as they left a red and black plastic petrol can nearby.

Apparently there have been other petrol thefts lately in the town.

If anyone saw anything suspicious could contact the Opunake Police who are investigating the thefts.

Many thanks.

Editor

# Hitting the send button as an earthquake struck

On February 22, 2011 a 6.3 magnitude earthquake shook Christchurch killing 185 people. Of these, 115 died when the Canterbury Television(CTV) building collapsed.

This quake came five months after the city had experienced a 7.1 magnitude earthquake in which there was no loss of life.

A question often asked is do you remember where you were when you heard of a certain famous event happening? Some of these are easy to remember and others not so easy. For me the second and more deadly of the earthquakes to hit Christchurch definitely came into the latter category.

On February 22, 2011 I had spent the morning at the gym in Hawera. I wasn't working at the time and I was living in Otakeho while applying for journalism jobs around the country. One job I had applied for was with an outfit based in the Christchurch TV building.

On my way home I stopped at Manaia LibraryPlus to



The collapse of the CTV building 10 years ago left a gaping hole in the Christchurch cityscape.

check my emails. As I walked into the library there was some talk of a quake having hit Christchurch earlier that day. I booked myself on to a computer terminal and

checked my emails, which included one telling me I didn't get the Christchurch job. When reading it, I don't think I would have given much thought to the time on

the email. It was 12.51pm. After I got home and heard more about the day's events in Christchurch that changed as the significance of that time dawned on me.

The time the quake which took out the CTV building struck was 12.51pm. I imagined somebody sitting at a computer in the CTV building typing out a

message to a job applicant from some obscure part of the country telling him that his job application was unsuccessful. Perhaps hitting the send button was the last thing that person ever did before the earthquake struck. Or maybe that person did survive after all.

Either way it seemed to me to be a scenario that would have fitted comfortably into that old time TV show The Twilight Zone.

Earlier this week the nation commemorated 10 years since 185 people were killed in the Christchurch Earthquake. A message of sympathy from the Queen was read by the Governor-General and there would have been many people reminiscing on the events of that black day, and on what has happened since.

Living 500km away from Christchurch I did not feel the quake at the time, but the events of that day still left their own imprint on my consciousness.

*Bryan Kirk  
Opunake & Coastal News*

## Opunake street names

(Notes produced by J.S. Stronge)

The first survey of the Opunake Township area was made in October 1867 by Nelson Carrington. It was not until 1879-80, however, that a complete and comprehensive

survey was completed - this time by C. Finnerty.

The origins of some of the place names in the Township are as follows:

### Allison Street

Possibly named for Dr

James Allison 1816- 67. Member for Wanganui, of the Wellington Provincial Council. Came to New Zealand and 1840. An ardent horticulturalist.

Alternatively this, street could have been named for

a Christchurch businessman who owned farms at Stratford and also two sections in the Opunake Township, probably in the street named Allison Street. These sections, which had been acquired early in the

history of the district were later disposed of.

### Aytoun Street

This also is difficult. The only Aytoun I can find was a farrier and contractor Christopher George Aytoun whose headquarters were Waitara early in the century

### Bowen Crescent

Named for either Sir Charles Christopher Bowen (1830 - 1917) an early Canterbury settler and Minister of Justice in several Governments in the 1870s and later the Legislative Council; or, most probably) Sir George Ferguson Bowen (1821 - 99) who succeeded Sir George Grey as Governor of New Zealand ( 5 February 1868 -19 March 1873) and then he became Governor of Victoria.

### Dieffenbach Street

.. The son of a Lutheran professor and clergyman Ernst Dieffenbach(1811 - 55) was born at Giessin, Germany and graduated M.D. at Zurich in 1835. In 1839 he was appointed surgeon and naturalist to the New Zealand Company and travelled extensively through New Zealand. He made the first European ascent of Mount Taranaki.

### Clouston Place

Was named for George Clouston for many years a very highly respected sole-charge constable in Opunake.. He was the second Mayor of the Borough.

## Taranaki volcanoes

Continued from page 2.

adults. That's because with teens there is a delayed development in their prefrontal cortex which is temporarily shut down for renovation. It will eventually come back online. The prefrontal cortex is where thinking, reasoning and problem solving occurs. The sad news I had to tell parents was that their teens' prefrontal cortex would not "fully" develop until about the age of 25, more recent research indicates 28 years in boys. The good news for

parents was that this was a normal part of their child's developmental stages. There was still hope and light at the end of the tunnel, as was the case for me with my two sons.

The best advice for parents and especially teachers is to keep your reactions as cool as possible and don't feed the volcano by responding to every little comment, especially from the girls doing combat with their mums. Remain calm no matter how hurt and emotional you feel inside. Let the storm pass over

to minimise the damage. Pick your fights. You'll be better able to connect with your teen's limited rational prefrontal cortex when their amygdala has settled down. Remember, you can't use forceful emotions to make your teen do something during a volcanic eruption in that 14-17 year old period. Negotiate calmly and rationally.

A word to parents and caregivers: You need to keep sane and balanced; you can't care for someone else if you don't care for yourself first. Stay positive if your strategy

doesn't work every time. Nobody is perfect. We all make mistakes. To parents and caregivers with adult children, forgive yourself and if you feel it is necessary, be courageous enough to ask for forgiveness. It can be one of the most healing experiences since you first opened your joy-filled little birth package.

*Adelphos*

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COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT

The good, the bad, the ugly



CR BRYAN ROACH

Hi All from Councillor Bryan Roach. "The Good the Bad the Ugly" as I see it.

It's been difficult to keep the Rates increase low. Last year it was 0%. This year we are looking at around 4% but it comes with no increase in levels of service. Everything will remain the same as last year, basically business as usual. We are building a new public toilet block for the Sports Recreational grounds in Opunake this year. The new toilet block will be located in the grass area between the Sandfords Event Centre car park and Main South Road with new footpaths and wheelchair assessable.

At Opunake Beach we are putting up a new safety fence going up around the Opunake Beach Camp Grounds. This will be at the back of the camping area next to the cliffs. This is for public safety when using the

camp grounds.

The Government is looking at taking control over all the Council owned water supplies in New Zealand with no decision being made yet. That is where I think it's going. Is that a really good idea? Does the Government have a good track record of operating and running roading - NZ Rail - hospitals - state housing - Kiwi Built Houses etc? I think they could all be run better. Now add to the list all the Council owned water supplies in

New Zealand. I will let you make your own mind up on that one. I have seen the new water regulations that are coming and I can only see the price going one way, up and up. I have seen the modelling from the Government. It seems to be centred around the three big cities Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch - so are they going to get all the money and our small rural water supplies miss out the same way NZ Roding is run? The Government must run water supply as a user pays system and not using money from the rural sector to pay for urban water. I must emphasise that no decision has been made yet and that's my view.

South Taranaki District Council is scheduling a round of public meetings about the Long Term Plan. You are welcome to come along and have your say

all the dates are on the web site @SouthTaranaki.com. Also, have you got the Council app downloaded on your phone yet? It's called "Antenno." If you haven't got it download it, or if you are having trouble go into any LibraryPlus building and the staff will be able to help you. Council is using this app more and more for road closures, rubbish collections, severe storm alerts, and also public events etc. It's a good way of getting Council Information to you quickly.

To my fellow farmers, download the Council app "Antenno." What a fantastic year. The hay barns are full, silage is full, and the milk vat is full. One for the record books. So the Government wants us to drop cow numbers by 15%. Really. Are they dreaming???

Roachy from the Coast

OBITUARY

SMITH, Constance Mary (Connie) nee Woller



Loved wife of Ian James Smith (dec). Dearly loved Mum. Devoted Nana of 18 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Michael and Wendy, Lauren and Matthew, Elin, Honor, Petra, Ryan and Stacey, Alex(dec), Amber, Isaac, Emily.

Cameron and Lauren, Lilah and Indie.

Patsy and Cliff, Tim and Rebecca and Jarion, Shane and Richell, Otis and Jesse,

Melissa and Marty, Mia and Matteus.

Susan and Neil, Mark and Melissa, Natalie, Craig and Sarah and Jamie, Karley and Dave, Sam and Connie.

Diane and Gavin, Alex and Shaun.

Peter and Vanessa, Taylah and Baylie, and Caleb.

Samantha, Josh, Jordan and Luke and Tate, Jacob, Sarah and Dylan, and Shannon (dec).

Daughter of Bill and Connie Woller, and sister of Bill and Marion, Ken and Robyn, and Len and Helen.

Greatly loved. Sadly Missed.



Connie Smith

Slipped away peacefully in her 87th year. Wednesday 10th February 2021.

After a well lived life devoted to her much loved family.

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# OBITUARY Joan Jeffries

## 13 September 1916- 21 January 2021

Opunake and its beach was always a big part of Joan Jeffries' life.

Mrs Jeffries who died on January 21 aged 104 was the oldest of 12 children. She was Opunake's oldest resident.

"She loved fishing," recalls her daughter Joanie. "She said to me one day that she'd love to go for paus, and that if I could get a helicopter to drop her down at the tide to collect paus that would be a dream come true. She loved the beach, and she brought us up on it."

This attachment to the charms of Coastal Taranaki stayed with her all through her life.

Joan Jeffries (nee Olliver) was born at Kaponga Hospital on 13 September 1916. When she was three years old, the family shifted to Opunake Beach where home for the next 16 years would be a converted boat shed.

She went on to have four daughters, all born within a period of five years.

"She made all our clothes on an old treadle sewing machine and dressed us



Joan Jeffries.

all the same until we were about eight years old," recalls Joanie. "She made our school bags out of sugar bags and embroidered them."

Three of her daughters were involved in marching, with their mother acting as their chaperone.

Joanie recalls a childhood growing up at Okato where

her mother lived a busy and varied life which included keeping an extensive vegetable garden.

"We had no car and no phone, but she was kept very busy, bottling fruit and making jam. She milked a house cow and made her own butter," she said.

In the 1950s the family shifted back to Opunake where Joan Jeffries worked at Cargo's Bakery Shop. Her duties included helping to cater for functions like weddings, skills which would be put to good use when her own daughters got married. There were four weddings in the space of two years, and she made and iced the wedding cake for each of them.

As well as her family, other interests included the Opunake RSA. She was a life member of the Opunake Country Music Club.

Her descendants include 54 great great grandchildren. She will be remembered at a memorial gathering for family and friends to be held at the Sandfords Event Centre at 2pm on March 13.



A young Joan Olliver at a peace commemoration celebrating the end of World War I.

## COVID-19 testing at Coastal Care Opunake



Coastal Care at Alert level 2.

It was déjà vu as three new community cases of

COVID-19 put Auckland into Alert Level 3 and the

rest of the country into Level 2. Although Taranaki

was in Level 2 the fact that two of those who tested positive had earlier visited the province meant there was once again a steady flow of people coming to be tested at COVID-19 testing stations including Coastal Care at Opunake.



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### OPUNAKE FIRE SERVICE

Even though we have had a good rainfall, the vegetation and under growth is starting to dry out. Opunake Brigade has been called out to a couple of burn-offs that were getting out of control. We were lucky with the wind on that Tuesday, to only have a call to a medical that was not related to the wind. Monday night training had an unexpected when we were called out to a car roll over near the gas works. Luckily the driver was OK.

A big thank you to Opunake Lions for a very generous donation from the 'pig in the barrow' raffle. We will be using the money for more LED torches. Opunake Fire Station is receiving a response system called AMS. Basically once there is a call out our phones come up with the app and we push responding or delayed response or not responding. On a screen at the station it comes up with everyone whom is responding and

how far away they are. We are all looking forward to that.

Till next time  
Stay safe

*Craig Dingle  
CFO Opunake*

**RIGHT:**  
**President of Opunake Lions Andy Whitehead (left) handing over a cheque to Craig Dingle, Chief Fire Officer, Opunake volunteer Fire Brigade. Craig is very grateful for the donation from Opunake Lions.**



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### OPUNAKE COPS

Greetings and apologies for not keeping you informed in recent Coastal News issues. It has been some time since we have put pen to paper and for this we must apologise, for it is with your help that we keep our community safe.

We have been kept on our toes lately with a number or reported burglaries in our area including both urban and rural properties. As I have alerted to in previous columns, Rural New Zealand has a reputation for tightknit, supportive communities.

## Burglaries keeping police busy



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Reduce the risk and opportunity by taking notice of who is out and about. Keep all your property secure including your houses, outbuildings and farm equipment. Remove keys from tractors and bikes. Keep a detailed inventory of all your property including marking to easily identify your property if it does get stolen.

We are following positive leads in-regards to recent suspicious activity involving two males. These males have been seen in the theft of fuel from sheds on residential properties. A yellow vehicle has been identified with ongoing enquiries with

witnesses to confirm the identity of these males involved.

We are compiling complaint files in relation to vehicles being broken into over the last couple of months. These complaints are connected to the recent arrest of four young people in the Inglewood area. These young people were involved in a number of low speed pursuits culminating in their arrest after a minor crash.

We live in a small community where most people know each other or know of each other. The problem with this is that some people are reluctant to talk with us when they know someone has been doing something illegal. I say to you; consider that by not coming forward you are only enabling their behaviour to continue. As with most things the more they get away with the more they do. Next time it might be your property damaged or stolen.

We continue to have the usual problems with idiotic

drivers leaving their trade mark rubber deposits on our roads with notably the worst outside schools, along Whitcombe Road. To some this may be no more than an annoyance, it is of real concern and only a matter of time until someone is badly hurt.

Again, if you see or hear something going on that shouldn't be, call 111. Give us a fighting chance to catch them in the act. All too often we have heard two or three days later about incidents. Please call and report what you have seen. I know that we are not always able to attend immediately but if you don't call, these people just get to cruise around town and cause havoc as they please.

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

*Constable Kylie Brophy.*

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# One vehicle involved in crash at Oaonui

Emergency services attended a road accident at Oaonui on Monday evening February 22. At around 8pm the Opanake Fire Brigade and ambulance services were called to the scene of a one vehicle accident on the Surf Highway opposite Shell Todd. A car appeared to be travelling north when it veered across the road and over a fence. The vehicle's sole male occupant was able to walk clear and left the scene in an ambulance.



**RIGHT: This car ended up in a paddock and severely battered. Luckily the driver was uninjured.**

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# Tractor involved in Manaia accident

Emergency services were called to an accident near Manaia on Friday morning after a tractor ended up in a ditch.



The accident happened on the Manaia Road between Skeet and Thomas Roads. The tractor driver had already been taken to hospital when the Manaia Fire Brigade arrived, Manaia chief fire officer Shane Taylor said.

"We were turned out at around 10, and we were there for about an hour," he said. "The tractor was stuck in the ditch on its side and our guys helped the police and protected the scene and did traffic control. The police organised a crane and put the tractor back on its wheels."

It is understood that the driver was a 33 year-old man who had been taken to Hawera Hospital by a member of the public before emergency services arrived at the scene.

Last week a tractor was left lying on its side in an accident between Manaia and Kapuni.

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# Strong focus on rural communities

After a very different and difficult 2020, here we are already on our second month of 2021. Despite a January Covid 19 scare, we are still living in the luckiest country in the world at this time.

I've noticed a bit more use of the tracer app and signing in by yourselves and I've certainly been using it a bit more myself lately. While my diary is a relatively good indication of where I've been, it doesn't count for every coffee or toilet stop on my journeys.

In the first two weeks back at work again after the summer break with my family, I have clocked up over two thousand kilometres while travelling around the electorate. It has been a great start catching up with many of you at events such as the Whangamomona Republic Day and the



**BARBARA KURIGER MP**

Kawhia Kai Festival just to name a couple.

At the time of writing this column on February 8, I am making preparations to head back for the first week of Parliament sitting. It is lining up to be a very busy, and hopefully productive year. I'll be focusing on my roles as Spokesperson for Energy & Resources, Associate Transport, Rural Communities and Food Safety, along with being Chair of the Governance &

Administration Committee.

My team of Sarah, Letitia, Alice, Tracey will be available to assist you with your queries and ensure we get as many as possible of your events in my diary. I will be circulating the electorate frequently, spending time in each area and I look forward to your invitations.

My hopes for the year are that we can run all the events that were put off due to Covid in 2020. Life is currently very good but I'm feeling deeply for those in tourism and travel as their businesses have really struggled and many people have lost their jobs. Domestic tourism got off to a good start but seems to have slowed down considerably, particularly now that school has started. I wish all of our students a happy and successful year at school and thank

those teachers who are so dedicated to their learning.

The events industry is picking up slowly, but again it is very stressful organising events such as Fieldays, New Zealand Shearing Champs and Americarna with fingers and toes crossed hoping that we won't have Covid in the community. The upfront costs of these events make a last minute cancellation very costly.

You will all be aware that the Climate Commission released its first report last week. There has been quite a bit of commentary about it and now there is a submission phase where the public are able to feed back. The report has been considered well, with plusses and minuses for some depending on views. My focus will be on transition for both the agriculture and

energy industries. Recently we've seen a scientific peer reviewed paper that confirms our dairy farmers are the lowest emitters of the fifty five exporting countries and our sheep and beef farmers are also in a good place. We have to pace change so that we don't shift our food production off shore where the emissions are much higher and our economy suffers. It is going to be an interesting time of discussion.

On the energy front, the same applies. While almost forty percent of the world's energy is still produced by coal, we have a much cleaner source in natural gas which has been globally identified as a good transition fuel. I worry about the Government's refusal of new gas permits which has resulted in us now having a

five year high of coal to cover the short months when dams are low and wind doesn't provide enough energy. We must work through this in a sensible way.

Rural Communities will be a strong focus of mine in Parliament this year, as always. That is all of you. We need to ensure that our health services, roads and connectivity are as good as the cities. The formulas to fund teachers in rural schools are not always the easiest to manage by boards of trustees. We need to run the rural ruler over all legislation to ensure it works in your communities.

Have a great year. I will see you in your community

*Barbara Kuriger  
MP Taranaki-King Country.  
National Party  
spokesperson for Energy & Resources.*

## Petition presented to overturn ward decision

Lobby group Hobson's Pledge have presented a petition to the South Taranaki District Council seeking a binding referendum on their plans to introduce a separate Maori ward for the next local body election.

Under legislation which the government at the time of writing is seeking to repeal, a petition with the required number of signatures can force a binding referendum to overturn a council decision to introduce Maori wards. Last year the South Taranaki District Council voted unanimously to introduce a separate Maori ward for next

year's local body election.

Hobson's Pledge have said their petition contains 903 signatures.

The South Taranaki signatures were among the more than 25,000 people in nine districts who had signed petitions demanding binding referenda on Maori ward proposals, according to Hobson's Pledge spokesman Mike Butler.

"Despite Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta sabotaging the process by announcing, on February 1, a law-change to prohibit such referenda, sufficient signatures were collected in seven of the nine areas to

trigger votes," said Mr Butler in a statement released by Hobson's Pledge.

"To be clear, although Hobson's Pledge funded flyers and some newspaper advertisements, and became the focus of media outrage, signatures were collected mainly by voters and ratepayers who are not Hobson's Pledge members. People contacted us from the least-expected places with pages full of signatures collected outside libraries and supermarkets."

South Taranaki District Council spokesperson Gerard Langford said the council had received the petition and

would be validating the signatures in the next few days to see whether or not there were enough of them to force a referendum.

Taranaki Coastal community board member and former South Taranaki District councillor Bonita Bigham said parliament is due to debate the second and third readings of the legislation ending the power to force binding referenda on Maori wards this week.

"By Friday the petition will be irrelevant," she says.

## Stunning end to the day



Coastal Taranaki sunset.



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# Co-operative learning at Opunake Primary School

This month Opunake Primary school have been conducting whole school co-operative learning at Sandfords Event Centre. All the students had been assigned specific discussion groups which consisted of a spread of ages. The idea was for the older students to help and guide the younger students in each group. The core values of PRIDE (Perseverance, Respect, Initiative, Diligence and Empathy) underpinned all learning and discussion.

Principal Lorraine Williamson conducted the various sessions, helped by the teachers, learning assistants and also some parents. There were a number of set tasks and activities.

One session involved the learning of the famous haka Ka Mate Ka Mate devised by Maori chief Te Raparaha and made famous by the All Blacks pre-match ceremony. "The adults will be learning with you," Lorraine explained to the assembled students. A video was shown to help everyone learn each part of the haka. Lorraine acknowledged the



Discussion groups listen attentively to Principal Lorraine Williamson at Sandfords Event Centre.

important input of Matua Clive who has taken Kapa Haka at the school for some time. The whole school haka was most impressive – and loud.

Another session involved an imaginary visit to Mars;

what would we need to survive a planet which has no oxygen or food? In groups the students brainstormed to include such vital items as oxygen tanks, food, clothes and even toilet paper. "You'll need heaps of stuff," Lorraine

commented.

Each group was rewarded for good behaviour and co-operative effort with 'money' (not real) which each group could use to buy the items they need for survival. The adults circulated watching,

helping and dishing out money where it is deserved. A short film was shown to help stimulate ideas for the groups.

Another session dealt with the meaning of mana. The

topic was introduced by a short film with well-known Maori Leader Tama Iti who explained things most effectively.

Guide questions included; How do you get mana? How do you feel when you have mana? and What is the difference between fake man and real mana?

The students certainly enjoyed the co-operative learning and their perspectives varied. Hoani Ratahi said, "Its good fun. It's good to work with the little ones." Olivia Rose Purgaric commented, "It's fun. I've learnt the haka and what mana is about." Ashley Symons explained, "I think it's good to talk to others who you wouldn't usually talk to." Ava Bennett summed up the experience in one word, "Cool."

Well done to Lorraine and her team for this worthwhile event. As many people are aware Opunake Primary School is one of the nation's leaders in the establishment of co-operative learning and teachers from other schools have visited to learn more about co-operative learning.



Opunake Primary School students participate in team building activities.

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# Tempting work offers and holidays



Tahiti, an idyllic location for a holiday.

way, but thanks Coles Myer.

Prior to this, they sent me on several all costs paid holidays; one was to Tahiti for two weeks, another to

Darwin for two weeks and I was offered a long weekend at the Hilton Sydney, as well as other benefits like free shares in the Company which I still have.

The reason for these gifts was for having ideas on how the liquor stores could increase their average sales.

Before leaving I was asked to give staff training classes,

which I did.

I was thankful to Coles Myer for all they gave to me. Now it was back to New Zealand for the New Millennium.

## New GP service for South Taranaki

Taranaki DHB says a new general practice operating out of Hāwera Hospital will help meet the primary healthcare needs of the South Taranaki community.

The new general practice is one of many new services being offered to assist in improving health outcomes for the people of South Taranaki, and Taranaki DHB chief executive Rosemary Clements says the focus has been on providing high quality, accessible, sustainable and culturally responsive community, primary and secondary healthcare services.

“Through a commitment

to ongoing co-design of new ways of working with our community, primary care, iwi and health service community providers we believe we can make a collective difference to the health and wellbeing of those with long-term complex conditions, and of the health of Māori in the community, by enabling people to receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place.”

For the past year Taranaki DHB has worked closely with the South Taranaki health sector to determine what help and support is needed to enhance primary and community services for the region. Collaboration has resulted in a new model of care being developed called South Taranaki Rural

Health.

The new South Taranaki Rural Health General Practice (the Practice) is the third service improvement to be implemented in South Taranaki, following the new 24/7 after-hours GP phone service and a new St John See & Treat Service which started last year.

The Practice will operate out of Hāwera Hospital offering walk-in and booked appointments. Patients will be seen by a team made up of senior nurses that are specialists in general practice care, and general practitioners with specialist training in rural hospital medicine, including Dr Tom Dawson and Dr Rory Kennelly who will head the Practice.

Dr Dawson says all services

typical of a general practice will be available, including diagnosis and treatment; health education; disease prevention and screening.

“We will work alongside the existing primary healthcare services in South Taranaki to really make a difference in our community, caring for patients and their whānau, helping everyone access the right care at the right time.”

“We know that people with non-urgent and long-term health issues are best seen by a general practice team, where they can receive ongoing care. We also need to save ED for emergencies,” Dr Dawson explains.

## MAC SOLE Episode 32

Some six months before I was to leave Australia I was offered the position of Queensland Supervisor of three or four hotels Coles Myer had bought there, but as I knew I was about to return to New Zealand, I turned down the position. It was a position I would like to have taken advantage of had it been a year or two earlier.

When I did resign I was asked to reconsider, but my furniture and goods were on the way to New Zealand.

Anyway, the head man for Australia for Liquorland and some other notable Liquorland people took me to lunch at a leading hotel and they again asked me to reconsider, but the dye had been cast and I was on my

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# Head students at Coastal Taranaki School



However, before committing to a career in policing, she'd like to attend Waikato University.

**Nalani Renau**

"I was pretty happy to be chosen as student leader. The whole feel was very positive."

English, Mathematics (her favourite), Maori, Physical Education, Business Studies and Design are Nalani's subjects this year.

Promoting a better

relationship between the seniors and juniors is one aim of Nalani's as student leader. Another goal is to encourage the students to respect the teachers more.

She is very family orientated and most of Nalani's interests involve time spent with them.

Like Taysha, Nalani is also involved in the WITT course on policing. She is keen to join the police force when she leaves secondary school.

Pictured are the student leaders at Coastal Taranaki School, Taysha Ryder (left) and Nalani Renau.

The student leaders for 2021 at Coastal Taranaki School (CTS) are Taysha Ryder and Nalani Renau, both aged 17.

appointed, overwhelmed. It was a bit of a surprise."

This year Taysha is studying English, Business Studies, Physical Education, Food Technology and her favourite - Maori.

As a student leader one

of her aims is to encourage student learning about history, especially that pertaining to Maori. "About Parihaka, things like that." As is well-known Parihaka was invaded by British soldiers in 1881, buildings demolished and atrocities committed - against a background of passive resistance to the confiscation of Maori land.

Another aim of Taysha's is to encourage students to strive to reach their potential: "I'd like to encourage students to recognise their strengths. They tend to sit back and don't push themselves enough."

As regards interests Taysha's focus is on sport; she plays rugby union, rugby league and netball.

When she leaves secondary school she would eventually like to join the police force,

"when I'm in my early thirties." Currently, she is involved in a course on policing at WITT.

**Taysha Ryder**  
"I was happy to be

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# Kaponga WI presents Dene with a trophy

The members of Kaponga WI got together on February 8 for their AGM.

Our president, Dorothy Hughes, for her last day was presented a beautiful posie by our secretary, Fiona

Collins.

A vast selection of books were read and shared as our roll call for the day.

Our thought for the month was 'who has been to Waitangi' since we got together on the day we were

observing Waitangi Day. Only a few of the members had been there, which was a bit disappointing.

The raffle was won by Jo Jones.

Secret friends were thanked for their Christmas gifts that were given out on our December get together at Shakee Pear Cafe. Also a few members thanked their secret friend for their birthday gifts since November.

We all enjoyed a great catch up with each other over lunch, as most of us hadn't seen each other since mid-December.

Our AGM proceeded after lunch and the following members were nominated and accepted into the following positions:



Dene Lines with the Jubilee Cup for the most competition points overall.

President - Jo Ellis.  
Vice President - Dene Lines.  
Secretary - Fiona Collins.  
Treasurer - Sharyn Hurley.

Competition Cup winners for 2020 were:

Jubilee Cup (most overall points) - Dene Lines.  
Morrisey Cup (2nd overall points) - Dorothy Hughes.  
Joy Eliason Cup (handcraft) - Dorothy Hughes.  
Thanksgiving Trophy (gardening) - Diane West.  
Miscellaneous Trophy - Joy Eliason.

A great day had by all.

Jo Ellis.

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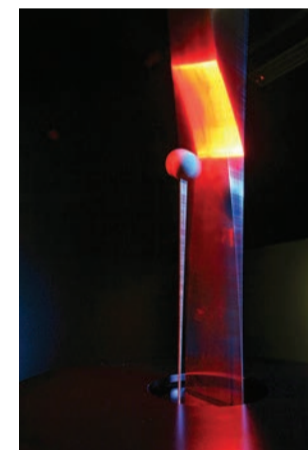
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## Taranaki partnership takes Big Blade to Auckland Art Fair

The Govett-Brewster Art Gallery / Len Lye Centre have teamed up with the Auckland Art Fair 2021 as its exclusive Museum Partner, forging a stronger connection between the national art event and Taranaki as a vibrant, creative place.

The Auckland Art Fair is the biggest event on the nation's visual arts calendar, and an important opportunity for Taranaki to



Len Lye's Big Blade sculpture.

connect to thousands of art collectors and supporters. Through a creative collaboration between Taranaki organisations and attractions Len Lye's Big Blade sculpture will be on display for the first time in Auckland this February.

"We've teamed up with some great partners to present an iconic sculpture by Len Lye at the Fair and offer a unique package to visit New Plymouth and explore all Taranaki offers those seeking an art adventure, including NPDC's Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre, the district's cultural hub with galleries, a cinema, shop and celebrated

Monica's Eatery café," says New Plymouth District Council's GM Customer Services Teresa Turner.

Collaborating partners Technix Industries, King & Queen, the West End Precinct, Venture Taranaki, the Govett-Brewster Foundation, John and Lynda Matthews, and the Len Lye Foundation have made it possible for Len Lye's spectacular kinetic sculpture and fan favourite Big Blade to travel from New Plymouth and be displayed at the entrance of the Art Fair.

"The partnership with the Auckland Art Fair is a great opportunity to showcase our region's key icon and world-class attraction, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre. It also provides the opportunity to drive visitation back to Taranaki for art lovers to explore our thriving arts and culture scene right around our Maunga," says Justine Gilliland, Venture Taranaki Chief Executive.

"We have so much to offer from ceramics to stunning

garden-art to painting and other visual arts such as kinetic and stone sculpting, and so much more. With countless studios, workshops, and galleries, we're a region blessed with many creative people. We have the opportunity to further grow and support our tourism and creative sectors through arts-focused visitors," adds Justine.

"Bringing Big Blade and a Govett-Brewster Art Gallery presence to the Fair reflects the importance of New Plymouth as a leading creative destination with a lot to offer art lovers and collectors," says Govett-Brewster Foundation Chair John Leuthart.

"The region's visionary partners who have brought this together are leading the reinvention of New Plymouth, and the Fair is an opportunity to rediscover the region," John says.

continued on page 13.

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# Riverlea WI look forward to more centennial celebrations

On Wednesday February 3, Riverlea WI started the year off with their AGM.

Executive officers remain unchanged. They are President Lynette Gargan; Secretary Leonie West; Treasurer Helen Cameron.

Members are looking forward to celebrating 100 years of Women's Institutes in NZ throughout 2021.

Bloom: Riverlea Vase. 1. Leonie West. 2. Carolyn Sullivan; Doreen Matthews.



From left are Leonie West (Secretary), Lynette Gargan (President) and Helen Cameron (Treasurer), pictured at Rissington.

Cluster. 1. Leonie West. 2. Kapuni Trophy. 1. Lynette Betty Goodwin. Homecraft: Gargan. 2. Leonie West. Handcraft: Cherry Willingham Tray. 1.

Doreen Matthews. 2. Margie Bishop. Overall Points: Kuriger Cup. Leonie West. celebrations at Omatua, Rissington, Napier where NZ WI was founded by Miss Jerome Spencer.

The Riverlea WI executive recently attended Centennial

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## Taranaki partnership takes Big Blade to Auckland Art Fair.

continued from page 12.

The Auckland Art Fair runs from 24-28 February at The Cloud on Auckland's Waterfront. Fair-goers will get to experience Len Lye's work up close and learn more about the artist. All fair ticket purchasers can enter the draw to win an exclusive Taranaki Art Adventure package to experience Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre and a host of other key attractions.

The prize includes two-nights at the luxury King & Queen Hotel within the West End Precinct. "The West End Precinct was created to

enhance New Plymouth's arts, culture and hospitality. We are thrilled to be working alongside other key players in the region to help change visitor perceptions of our beautiful city," says Daniel Fleming, Chair West End Precinct.

"Arts and culture is, and long has-been, well and truly alive in Taranaki. It's our job to get the word out there", he added.

More sculptural works by Len Lye are currently on show at the Len Lye Centre, while the adjoining Govett-Brewster is presenting a monumental exhibition by artist Brett Graham.

"Brett Graham's exhibition - Tai Moana Tai Tangata - is on show until 2 May and is receiving remarkable reviews. This is a small slice of what visitors can experience when visiting the region and we look forward to welcoming them," Turner said.

Conceived by Len Lye in New York in the late 1950s, Big Blade is seen as one of Lye's formative kinetic sculptures, inspired by the artist's ability to shake materials like steel and find the natural modes of vibration.

"I see Blade as three evocative sensory moments of past experience which have sunk down into my

thighs. That's how Blade shines and quivers when it is doing its stuff - flashing light, shimmering fish and taut quivering horse" - Len Lye

As a student of movement, Lye choreographed these vibrations and motions, automating performances and making one of the most vibrant and energetic bodies of modern sculpture. It is no wonder that Big Blade has become one of Lye's seminal works and a firm fan favourite.

The 2021 Auckland Art Fair will be Big Blade's first ever exhibition in Auckland.

## NP Airport joins the Safe Space Alliance

The Safe Space Alliance has registered New Plymouth Airport as a safe space for the LGBTIQ+ community.

The Alliance was founded by New Plymouth born artist Shannon Novak, an activist for the LGBTIQ+ community, and has registered numerous venues across the country as safe spaces.

The non-profit organisation defines a safe space as a place where the

LGBTIQ+ community can "freely express themselves without fear" and a verified safe location is a site "having your back" if an incident encroaching on a LGBTIQ+ member's rights were to occur.

The Alliance blossomed from an artwork at the Suter Art Gallery in Nelson and the gallery became the first venue to be verified as a safe place. Then other locations in Nelson, including the City Council, followed suit. From

there other sites across New Zealand have signed up. The effort has now gone global.

New Plymouth Airport is one of a dozen locations verified as safe spaces in Taranaki.

Safety and Security Manager Paul Tench says among its protocols the airport has an Equality policy that strives to ensure a non judgmental environment in regards to age, gender race, religion or sexual orientation.

"Being registered as

a Safe Space dovetails appropriately with the airport's policy while we are buoyed by other businesses in the airport terminal also registering to becoming Safe Places."

Marketing Coordinator, Jacqui Brown, says it was an easy decision for the airport to join the alliance.

"In recognition of our support for the LGBTIQ+ community the airport is working on an instalment for Pride Week in April."

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# Everybody's Theatre centenary celebrations

The theatre also was revamped with arm chair and couch seating complete with colourful crochet blankets downstairs art house style and the more conventional seating upstairs. Two chandeliers in the main entrance added to the opulence of the revamped theatre. These days it has a capacity of 160 – it once seated 600.

It's certainly been a community effort said Katrina. "We wanted to

acknowledge you all".

She then went on to introduce the members of the Everybodys Theatre Trust who each came forward. They are Kim Gatenby (Chairperson), Maree Drought (Treasurer), Mary Young, Steve Muller, Vicky Muller, Rachael Hughson-How, Arnold Hickey, Jane Forkert, Katrina Smith, Jenny Bennett and Graeme Dodd. Patron and also Aretha Lemon (Secretary/Facility Manager) and Life

Member Bev Henderson was also similarly acknowledged.

With the theatre decked out in flowers – courtesy of the Opunake Floral Art Group – and fairy lights and many dressed as flappers and ... the opening was a charming step back in time as well as an investment in the future.

So Everybodys Theatre is good for another 100 years with regular screenings, and the popular Boutique nights where patrons get to enjoy a wine and cheeseboard and

dessert before sitting down to the movie.

Life Member of the Opunake Everybodys Theatre Trust, Bev Henderson (93), cut the centenary cake.

Recounting her long association with the theatre Bev who lives in Opunake said she began as a cleaner, then became an usherette, then Manager of the theatre and finally President of the Everybodys Theatre Trust.

She resigned as president, she said because "I thought the younger ones would do a better job" and they have she added. "They have done a wonderful job. I congratulate all the staff and all the committee for bringing it up to date."

Over the years apart from a bit of underage drinking among the patrons which necessitated calling the cops, things had run smoothly and she had enjoyed her long association with the theatre.



Graeme Dodd with one of the old projectors.

## Chairperson's comment

Despite under stage flooding in December and the COVID levels moving up right in the middle of our February celebrations we were pleased to still be able to bring all three planned events to fruition. It was wonderful to see how many people came and assisted us to celebrate our 100 years.

With lots of fun, dancing, dress up and bling everyone had a great time. Many thanks to everyone who attended and supported us in celebrating the life of the Theatre.

As with everything it takes a whole community, and we would like to thank all the Trustees for the months

of hard work to spruce the place up. the Opunake Floral Art Group for the wonderful decorations, Opunake and Coastal News for advertising our events Pastimes for the bubbles for children and Staci Holmes for covering all events with a fantastic array of photos and TSB Trust.

We would also like to thank Soul Kitchen, Humdinger Cakes, Dobsons Hire and the wonderful Mike Gordan Trio Jazz band.

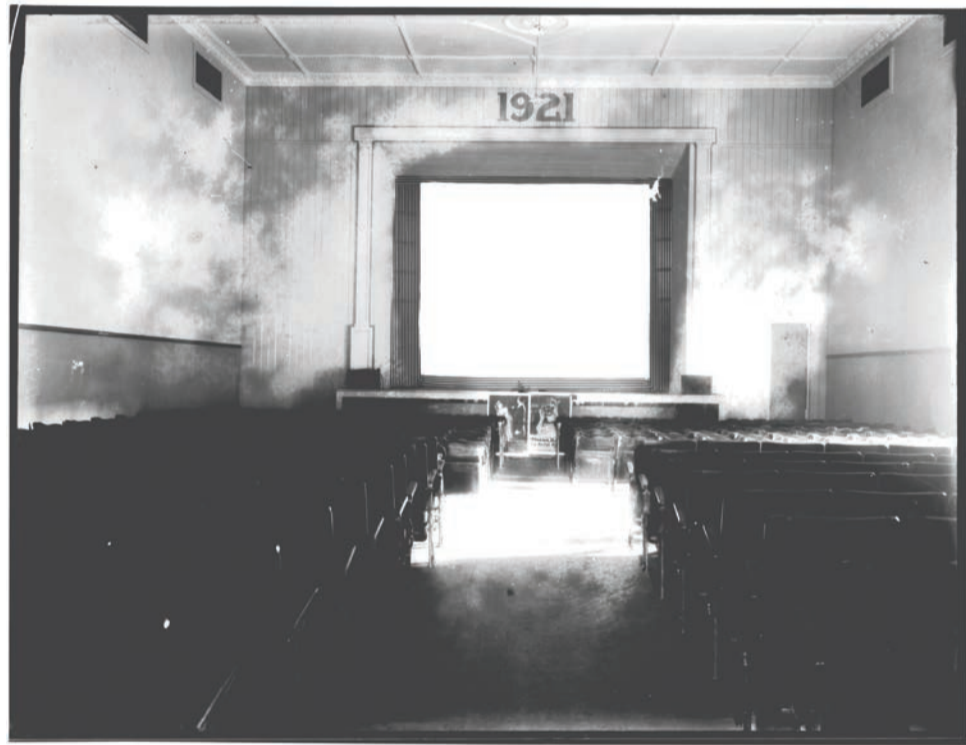
Congratulations to Ava Haste who won the children's colouring contest.

We have our Centennial book available to order This book is an in depth look at the changing face of the

Opunake Cinema over the years. It starts in 1910, when the Cinema was first opened and moves through the decades right up until the present day.

Compiled by Debbie Campbell and Maree Drought, this 150 page book is full of photos and faces that will bring back many memories to all those people who have attended or worked in the Cinema during its lifetime and finishes with photos of all the events – to order go to the website or call 027 383 7926

Kim Gatenby  
Chairperson,  
Everybodys Theatre Trust



Everybody's Theatre in 1920 when it first opened..

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# Everybody's Theatre centenary celebrations

## The historic theatre is rumoured to have a ghost

Graeme Dodd has been a projectionist since the mid-1980s.

He fondly recalls the old projectors, one of which is on display in the sweet shop (now part of the theatre).

Opening the inside of the old projector, Graeme points out its intricacies. "You had to take care to make sure the light source didn't go out. Also that the sound track lined up properly or the speech didn't follow people's lips. There were also two different lenses to complicate things further. Sometimes the film would break.

Graeme recalls that on his first screening by himself the film broke no less than three times.

There were two projectors side by side. There would be 9 reels which you swapped between the two projectors. The film was also very flammable hence the projector room being lined in tin.

Also "You had to wait till the bigger theatres had finished with the film before they got it. "Now you can get it straight away."

Among the most popular movies he recalls were Crocodile Dundee. Ghost was another that was screened twice to meet the demand. There were queues down the street to see it.

Graeme recalls an uncanny experience.

In those days you were required to rewind the film. There's a little room leading off the projectionist room where the film was rewound. Graeme had done this countless times but on this occasion "It came off the rewind spindle," breaking a glass window. It was eerie recalls Graeme adding that it was around the time Ghost was screening and perhaps he speculates an omen for the lead character who met a premature death.

Rumours of a ghost have abounded since and a number of people have stated they don't like being in the theatre alone.

Among those also attending the centenary celebrations were Tony True who was a projectionist and maintenance man. Maree Fisher, whose late husband Robert was a projectionist and was involved in the theatre for 50 years, also attended.



Everybody's Theatre Trustees with Life Member Bev Henderson (seated in front) who cut the centenary cake. Trustees are from left Vicky Muller, Kim Gatenby (Chairperson), Aretha Lemon, Graeme Dodd, Rachael Hughson-How, Steve Muller, Jenny Bennett, Maree Drought, Katrina Smith and Mary Young. Absent are Jane Forkert and Arnold Hickey.

## History of the building

Also among those at the High Tea were the O'Rorke siblings Colleen (now living in Inglewood), Cushla (Auckland), Margaret (Inglewood) and Richard (Waitara) who grew up in Opunake. The original building was built for their

grandfather John O'Rorke, a farmer in Oaonui, in 1912. It was first a grocery store, then a hardware store before being converted to a picture theatre in 1920.

Later their father Dick (Richard) and his brothers Nick and Jack owned the

building which they sold to L. (Boss) Whiting. On Boss's retirement his son Bruce took over the theatre who ran it till 1980 when, unable to find a buyer and wanting to retire, Bruce closed its doors. The community subsequently

rallied and bought the theatre. It re-opened in May 1980.

Margaret fondly recalls queues of people lining the road to get into the theatre. She also remembers the days when each screening would begin with theatre patrons

standing for God Save the Queen.

She remarked of the revamped old theatre "It's beautiful," and added "I like the couches."

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# Rock protection barrier for Opunake Beach Holiday Park



Work has started) on installing a rock protection barrier around the base of the cliffs above the Opunake Beach Holiday Park. South Taranaki District Council Projects Manager, Kobus van der Merwe says the 1.5 metre-high barrier fence is designed to stop rocks rolling onto the Beach Camp area should that occur.

“The Cliffs surrounding the Beach Holiday Park aren’t particularly stable and we’ve had periodic rock falls, most recently in 2014 and 2015, which resulted in debris falling onto the roadway, walking tracks and camping area itself,” he says.

While it’s not feasible to stabilise the whole cliff, this barrier fence will reduce the risk to visitors of the Holiday Park from falling debris. Van der Merwe says the project, which costs around \$162,000 for materials and installation.

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# Growing great dairy farmers



Jax Flintoff (Training adviser) and Sydney Porter.

Coming from farming stock, Taranaki's Jax Flintoff was always going to pursue a career in agriculture, but it was the television show McLeod's Daughters that sealed the deal.

Essential viewing through her high school years, she decided that shepherding was the career path to follow after leaving school.

As it turned out, the reality of shepherding wasn't quite the same as it was on TV

and, at that time, didn't offer the career pathway Jax was looking for.

She shifted her focus to the dairy industry and other than a short stint managing a poultry farm, she has not looked back.

Today Jax is a Training Adviser for Primary ITO – the industry training organisation for agriculture, horticulture and other primary industries.

Completing Primary ITO

programmes helped fuel Jax's own career progression. As a Training Adviser, she knows first-hand what it's like to be juggling long hours on the farm with study requirements. But she also knows the satisfaction that comes with completing the papers, applying her newly acquired knowledge and skills on the farm and gaining a well-recognised qualification.

It is this sense of satisfaction

she strives to instill in the farm teams she is working with, as she identifies skill gaps in employers' staff and encourages her trainees to fill those gaps while driving their own careers forward.

"Every time I put anyone into a training programme I think holistically, taking into account the needs of the employer and the employee."

Jax's passion for the dairy industry has not waned over the years and she loves watching future talent coming through and seeing their success as their career progresses.

She sees her trainees go from assistant to 2IC and onwards, and as a facilitator she feels fortunate to be part of their journey.

"I'm the lucky one really. I get to watch these amazing people flourish and become great dairy farmers."

Since starting in South Taranaki, Jax has brought Primary ITO programmes into the Waverley and Patea catchments.

"I am super stoked to be able to offer more programmes in that area which means easier access and less travel for trainees."



## Learning dairy on-farm key to success

Dairy employers and employees are recognising the value of gaining industry qualifications on the job.

South Taranaki dairy farmers Tanya and Phil Nixon have found Primary ITO programmes and qualifications benefit their business through having employees who grow in confidence as well as skills.

"We always see a difference with their understanding in the day-to-day work.

They come and talk to us about what's happening and it helps join the dots, which is ultimately better for us and our business," says Phil.

"They are more confident to go ahead and take the initiative."

The type of Primary ITO programmes their staff undertake include stock handling, animal health, milking systems and pasture management.

The couple, who milk 330 cows in a split calving – so they are calving in spring and autumn and milking all year round – offer their staff the opportunity to study with Primary ITO.

Phil says while they do gently encourage their staff to undertake study through Primary ITO, they need to be committed. They have to want to do it.

The couple and their staff have found their Training Adviser Jax Flintoff to be very good at both supporting their employees and understanding their business and skill requirements.

"It is a three-way stakeholder arrangement. Jax, as an educator, has an understanding of our business and our staff, and will marry them all together."

Sydney Porter works for Phil and Tanya and is learning through Primary ITO. She has been working in the dairy industry for two years and believes it's invaluable that Jax has also done the programmes and the hard-yards on-farm herself.

"She has ways of explaining things that help me understand because she knows what she is talking about. She has been there and done that."

Last year Sydney completed a livestock husbandry qualification and is now studying livestock feeding.



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# House wrecked by Explosion Whole Family sent to Hospital - Gelnite warmed in oven

(A news item from *The Press*, July 1935)

Through an explosion of gelnite a whole family of seven persons was sent to hospital, after their house on the Halcombe-Stanway road had been wrecked at 7.45 a.m.

Frank Cowdrey, aged 32 years, a farmer, who intended carrying out stumping operations this morning, placed 50 plugs of gelnite in the kitchen oven to warm. Edward Robinson, aged 18, an employee, warned Cowdrey of the danger, but Cowdrey said that the gelnite would not go off.

Three minutes later, while the family were at breakfast round the kitchen table, there was a terrific explosion.

Robinson told the police afterwards that his chair and the floor were blown from under him. He staggered outside, dazed. He then returned and found all the children, Maurice (9 years), Beverley (6 years), Nita (3 years) and Raymond Davies (9 years, a brother of Mrs Cowdrey) with the father and mother lying on the floor.

He took out the children, and the mother was able to walk out, but the father was too injured to help himself.

The house caught fire, but Robinson went back and extinguished the blaze.

### Condition of Victims

The victims' injuries are:—

**Frank Cowdrey**, fractured right arm, fractured skull, burns on the face, and shock. Condition very serious.

**Mrs Cowdrey**, burns on the face, arms, right leg, and shock. Condition serious.

**Maurice Cowdrey**, burns, severe wound on the elbow, abrasions, and shock. Condition serious.

**Nita Cowdrey**, burns on the abdomen, abrasions, and shock. Condition serious.

**Beverley Cowdrey**, burns on the back and shoulder, and shock. Condition fair.

**Ray Davies**, shock and abrasions. Con-

dition fair.

**Edward Robinson**, wounds on the forehead, left wrist, and left leg. Condition fair.

When the stove exploded the family was peppered with small pieces of iron like shrapnel, which caused most of the injuries.

It was Cowdrey's custom to warm gelnite. He was a frequent user of explosives for stumping purposes. Apparently the explosion was caused through closing the oven door with the gelnite inside.

When the explosion occurred Cowdrey was sitting at the end of the table nearest the stove. The chimney was blown to bits, the roof of the house blown off, the walls blown outward, and the whole place wrecked. The table was shattered and turned over on the family.

Historic newspapers supplied courtesy of Vern Coxhead.  
Thanks Vern,

Editor

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## New Climate Change Ambassador leader

Award-winning dairy farmer Fraser McGougan has been appointed chair of the DairyNZ Climate Change Ambassadors.

Climate Change Ambassadors are leaders for climate change action on dairy farms. They help communicate the challenges and opportunities dairy farmers face in playing their part to address climate change, alongside the rest of New Zealand.

"The 13 ambassadors are leading dairy farmers who run their farms sustainably and profitably, while being committed to reducing on-farm greenhouse gas emissions," said DairyNZ strategy and investment leader Dr David Burger.

"The ambassadors work to raise awareness and mobilise change for the benefit of the environment, farmers and New Zealand."



Fraser McGougan.

Mr McGougan (42) from Whakatane said he was looking forward to leading the ambassadors to engage with farmers, communities

and decision-makers, and to provide a farmer voice at national level. He has been a Climate Change Ambassador since 2018.

"Farmers want to be part of the climate change solution," said Mr McGougan. "Our role as Climate Change Ambassadors includes helping farmers understand the changes they can make on their farm to reduce emissions and improve water quality, while maintaining or even increasing profitability. "There is no one-size-fits-all approach and small incremental changes on individual farms add up to big changes nationally."

Mr McGougan is a fourth-generation farmer – Willowvale Farm has been in the McGougan family for 120 years. He and his wife Katherine have 430 cows on 143 hectares.

Among a number of awards, the couple won the Bay of Plenty Ballance Farm Environment Awards Supreme Award in 2019.

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# The new FVI stars are out



**Blair Cotching – right ryegrass means more profit, every year.**

Early last month, DairyNZ released its latest rankings for its national Forage Value Index.

These are always a must-read before any ryegrass cultivar decisions are made, and this year the top ranking for the lower North Island is dominated by one pasture company across all categories.

With ryegrasses in every 5-star category, Barenbrug describes the 2021 DairyNZ FVI lists as a big endorsement, signalling that its pasture plant breeders and researchers are delivering the goods for farmers.

“Just as a reminder of what these rankings stand for, pastures with 5 stars have the highest extra farm operating profit per ha compared with other ryegrass genetics,” Barenbrug pasture systems manager Blair Cotching explains.

Using Maxsyn NEA4 as an example, that translates to an extra value of \$423-\$541 per ha, every year, in the lower North Island, above the FVI genetic base.

Blair says Maxsyn’s 5 star ranking this year is particularly notable as it has only just been released to the New Zealand market after lengthy R&D.

Uncertified ryegrass by comparison is a 0 star cultivar, and its FVI ‘value’ in this region is in fact an annual loss of negative \$49-\$203 per ha.

Persistent, robust, densely tillered, with superior

summer and autumn growth, Maxsyn NEA4 comes with a great endophyte and the highest yield of any perennial ryegrass the company has released.

Rated alongside Maxsyn as FVI 5- star perennial ryegrasses for the lower North Island region this season are Governor AR1 and AR37, and Trojan NEA2.

Two other Barenbrug cultivars – Shogun hybrid ryegrass and Tabu+ Italian ryegrass – have also top ranked in the 2021 FVI lists.

The pair remain in a class of their own as the only 5

star ryegrasses in the 12 month feed category across the lower North Island.

In the winter feed category, Tabu+ is the only 5 star cultivar, with cool season growth the FVI calculates to be worth \$408-\$522 extra profit per ha compared to old genetics.

Blair says to put that in perspective, lowest ranked, 1 star cultivars in the FVI winter feed category, including the 30+ year old varieties Tama and Moata, are valued at a loss of \$50 per ha to a small gain of \$65 per ha.

“That’s a huge difference

in performance and value for a very modest difference in the price of seed. And we know the importance of cool season growth for taking up any excess soil nitrogen.”

To find the most profitable pasture for your farm this autumn, visit [www.dairyNZ.co.nz](http://www.dairyNZ.co.nz) and use the Cultivar Selector Tool. For more detail about Barenbrug pastures, visit [www.barenbrug.co.nz](http://www.barenbrug.co.nz).

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## Rise in alert levels reminder to be prepared

The double threat of protracted Covid-19 alert level restrictions and lack of sustained rainfall should be cause for farmers to review their level of supplies, Federated Farmers Dairy Chairperson Wayne Langford says.

“There is a high chance this won’t be the last lockdown we’ll see in coming months. Nor does anyone have a working crystal ball to say when the likes of Northland and East Coast provinces will get regular rain.”

Any further Covid

restrictions could put pressure on transport and supply lines.

“Without sounding like telling seasoned farmers how to suck eggs, it is timely for farmers to check available feed levels, to get on with orders for any urgent machinery parts and generally to be prepared for potential disruption,” Wayne said.

Feds Meat and Wool Chair William Beetham agrees.

“We’re not out of the pandemic yet, even with vaccines on the way, and

the dry is starting to crisp up paddocks in many districts - though we had a welcome dose of rain in some areas in the last day or two,” William says.

“We may well have some challenging months ahead of us. I’d add that farmers also need to invest in themselves in terms of getting prepared: try and eat properly, get enough sleep and exercise and stay in touch with friends. It always helps talking to someone when times get tough.”

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### Captain CS plantain

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# Slurry Tankers: Single, Tandem or Tridem Axle?

It's not all about size when it comes to slurry tankers and the number of axles/wheels they have. Axles are an important component to the overall operation of your slurry tanker. Axle configuration contributes to the stability, suspension and manoeuvrability of the tanker, and in some cases can impact the model's design. Here's a quick guide on choosing a single, tandem or tridem axle tanker.



MICHAEL PRESTIDGE

## Single Axle Slurry Tankers

Single axle tankers are a great choice for small farms and softer soils. They have the benefit of being able to turn easily with minimal

scuffing and having two less wheels can mean they have a slightly reduced tare weight. For safety purposes single axles are recommended for slurry tankers with a maximum of 10 tonne total loaded weight. Carrying weights greater than this

will put too much pressure on the axle and tyre loading, causing undue stress.

Having only one axle and two wheels there is less suspension to absorb impact and lurching from bumps and uneven ground, hence they are much better suited to smaller slurry tankers carrying lighter loads. A single axle slurry tanker will generally be designed and manufactured with a partial chassis and the drawbar is integrated with the tank. This means the tank now becomes part of the integral structure of the machine, and stress is then transmitted through the tank. Given a slurry tanker is a pressure

vessel, this is not ideal.

Be wary of single axle tankers with large single wheels. In the past some manufacturers would design the slurry tanker with a notch cut into the tank so that particularly large wheels could be fitted. The intention was to provide larger wheels to help with impact absorption, however pressure vessels need to maintain their cylindrical shape for proper functionality. Recessed tanks have been found to trap slurry causing premature corrosion and fatigue. Best practice is to always maintain a completely cylindrical shape.

## Tandem Axle Slurry Tankers

Tandem axle slurry tankers are ideal for medium to large farms, and are generally available in the 8,000-16,000L range. At least two axles are recommended for carrying anything over 10 tonne total loaded weight. The advantage here is that the load is spread over a larger surface area creating much better stability, particularly over rolling terrain.

A tandem or tridem

axle slurry tanker will typically be designed and manufactured with a full chassis and drawbar separate from the tank itself. This provides much better shock absorption from undulating terrain, reducing shock loading through to the drawbar.

Best practice is to have braking on both axles of your tandem slurry tanker. This makes them much safer, especially when spreading over hills.

To help with manoeuvrability, a steering rear axle is recommended.

## Tridem Axle Slurry Tankers

The only thing better than 4 wheels is 6. Tridem axle tankers are the ultimate choice for large, multi-farms or contractors. With 6 wheels on the ground there's a lot less ground pressure, making them suitable on flat and gentle rolling land. A tridem axle is recommended for anything over a 20-tonne total loaded weight. The relatively small cost of stepping up from a tandem to a tridem can be well and truly worthwhile.

A tridem axle slurry

tanker can handle a larger load with the weight being shared across three axles. This improves stability, and larger loads will mean less trips, meaning a tridem is often more economical. What's more, a tridem axle slurry tanker actually has improved manoeuvrability due to the middle axle being the turning point (front and rear are steering).

As tridem axles generally only appear on larger slurry tankers, other important considerations are:

- For safety it is recommended the tanker have large capacity braking on all three axles.
  - You will need to have a tractor that can handle the load.
  - You may consider choosing an accelerated loading system.
- Farmers often overlook tridem axle tankers due to affordability, however the cost of stepping up from a tandem is surprisingly low for the added benefits.

*Michael Prestidge  
| Nevada Effluent  
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Not all slurry tankers are the same.

## On this month in history

### Blue Smoke released

On February 23, 1949 Blue Smoke was released. It was the first commercial recording which was wholly written and produced in New Zealand. The musician was Ruru Karaitiana and he wrote the music on a troopship in 1940.

HMV declined a request to record it so Ruru asked the

label TANZA (To Assist New Zealand Artists) who obliged.

The original sheet music was published by Charles Begg and Co Ltd and was a two part vocal harmony. The original piano accompaniment was by George Winchester.

The song was number one

in NZ for six weeks and sold 20,000 records.

Overseas interest included Dean Martin (and others) recording the song. He phoned Ruru to see if he had any more songs.

Born in 1909 Ruru died in Wellington in 1970.

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# Securing a future for NZ pastures

Farmers, scientists and rural industry leaders are meeting in Waikato later this year to start mapping out a secure future for New Zealand pastures.

The Resilient Pastures Symposium (RPS), organised by the NZ Grassland Association (NZGA), comes 10 years after the association's landmark Pasture Persistence Symposium.

With agriculture currently earning more than 40c in every NZ export dollar, those behind the event say pasture – and innovative thinking about its prospects in coming years – has never been more relevant.

Pasture is a significant global advantage for NZ, but faces increasing pressure from climate change, environmental regulation and social and market expectations.

“The uniqueness of NZ's high value animal protein exports – their embedded naturalness and low per unit emissions compared with competitor countries – rests on our pasture base,” says RPS organising committee chair David Chapman, principal scientist at DairyNZ.

“We want to make sure our market strength continues to



Warren King(left) and David Chapman.

grow from this base, because that is critical to NZ's economic future.”

The 2011 Pasture Persistence Symposium gave rise to significant new pasture R&D and industry-led initiatives, including the highly influential DairyNZ Forage Value Index.

NZGA president Warren King, senior scientist at AgResearch, says 10 years

on, climate change effects signalled in 2011 have intensified, and the physical environment for growing pasture is more challenging and volatile than ever.

But other challenges that barely registered then are now competing for the attention of researchers, plant breeders and farmers alike.

Environmental regulations

are putting caps on nutrient inputs and losses from pastoral systems. GHG emissions are being considered, with emphasis on reduction.

Social and market expectation around the way animals are farmed and treated are now part of the farming landscape.

“And all this needs to be done using less land, with

more trees being planted and better exclusion of waterways.”

David Chapman says in this context, all the signals suggest NZ grassland farmers will need more information and support over the next two decades than at any time in the past.

“So there is urgency to pinpoint the critical knowledge gaps and get to work on filling them. That's what the symposium will focus on.

“Pasture persistence is still a key part of the programme, but the scope of this event has broadened to pastures that are resilient, and capable of playing their key role in meeting coming challenges.”

The RPS will highlight current soil, plant genetics and management solutions, and look towards future opportunities, giving those who attend a chance to contribute to charting future

priorities, he says.

A key goal for event is to achieve broad-based primary sector collaboration and direction for further pasture development.

It also seeks Government and industry recognition of the pressing need to invest in future proofing pastures for the good of all New Zealanders.

The two-day programme will feature peer-reviewed research papers and a range of keynote presentations, including strong focus on farmers' own experiences and observations.

Equally important will be Q&A sessions, and a future-focused workshop to scope required industry action.

The NZGA Resilient Pasture Symposium will be held 11 and 12 May at Karapiro. Earlybird registrations open 1 March at [www.grassland.org.nz](http://www.grassland.org.nz).

**We welcome your contributions**  
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# Opunake Bowling Club results



**The winners of the Cucumber Stakes Tournament from the Paritutu Club. From left. Trevor Keightley (Skip), Wilma Crawford, Barbara Harvey, Val Keightley.**

On January 14 a very successful Ladies Fours and Pairs tournament was held in beautiful sunny weather. It was great to catch up with teams from other clubs after the Christmas and New Year break. Fourteen teams competed on a smooth runnin g green. A very popular attraction was the multi raffle draw with 55 items donated by our ladies. 1st Paritutu. Val Keightley, Margaret Farmer, Wilma Crawford and Barbara Bishop. 2nd West End.

Lauren Bright, Deborah Kalin, Lorraine Heal and Trish Howard (skip). 3rd Paritutu. Gloria Shaw(skip), Barbara Harvey, Marlene McArthur and Ilona Legge. A super Cucumber Stakes tournament was held on February 14. There was great weather, a great green and great friendly competition. There were cucumber, tomato and onion sandwiches all day, plus a ham salad, potato and pea lunch made sure everyone was well fed. Out of the

14 teams that played there was only one four winner. Two in this team were ex Opunake ladies, and this was a popular win. 1st Paritutu. Trevor Keightley(skip), Val Keightley, Barbara Harvey and Wilma Crawford. 2nd Waimea. Kevin Stachurski, Justin Jones, Dennis Gladding and Matt Glazier. 3rd Opunake. Levi Davis' team.

*Kay Fleming.*

# Aotearoa Bike Challenge expands horizons

Jake Ryan's world is set to get a whole lot bigger thanks to the Aotearoa Bike Challenge.

Jake, who has the movement disorder of ataxia cerebral palsy, got a new bike two months ago and he's got big plans to take it round the country.

The Inglewood High School student took up the nationwide Aotearoa Bike Challenge, which is being promoted by NPDC's Let's Go team, to improve his fitness and is often seen racking up the kilometres on the Coastal Walkway.

"I really enjoy the sense of freedom and independence. Cycling strengthens my core muscles and my legs, and I enjoy getting out and meeting new people," he says.

"I've set myself the goal to do some of the bike trails around New Zealand – something I would have never thought I could achieve in the past."

Thousands of individuals, groups and workplaces are logging their bike rides on the Aotearoa Bike Challenge during February. It's a great way to rediscover a love for cycling, especially as a 10-minute ride is all that's needed to log a trip.

NPDC's Let's Go encourages more sustainable travel and has several



**Inglewood's Jake Ryan has a new goal after taking up the Aotearoa Bike Challenge.**

spot prizes available for including two prizes of \$750 New Plymouth District to improve bike equipment residents who take part in or facilities at workplaces, the nationwide challenge, clubs or groups.

# Sandfords Manaia Golf Club results

February 8. Monday Night ambrose. 1. Winks Rdad. 2. The Smashes. Gross. Kobi Symes Simpson, Eisla Elliott. Putting. Kobi Symes Simpson, Eisla Elliott. February 13. Saturday Men. 1. John Oliver. 2. Coby Clark. 3. Gary Dowdle. 4. Caleb Andreoli. 5. Colin Koch. 6. Kingsly Young. The Boss. Gross. Cooper Symes, Boston Symes. February 14. Junior. Rat Putting. Luke Norris,









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# Aussie Influence comes to Eltham

Artists Glenys Howland and Ian Littlewood are the featured artists at The Aussie Influence exhibition showing at The Village Gallery in Eltham until March 12.

Now living in New Plymouth, Glenys Howland was born in Brisbane. As a child she lived on a farm on Buderim Mountain, overlooking the Glasshouse Mountains. After her education at Nambour High School, she completed a nursing degree.

Glenys achieved a Bachelor of Visual Art (Fine Art) at Western Institute of Technology (WITT), studying from 2002 to 2006, and majoring in Sculpture and Drawing.

One of the artists who especially influences Glenys, Spanish Artist, Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) said: "An idea is a point of departure and no more. As soon as you elaborate it, it becomes transformed by thought." And another Picasso quote: "I begin with an idea and then it becomes something else."

Glenys's work is mainly conceptual, her ideas coming from her memories of her



Artist Glenys Howland with her WOMAD 2020 creation.

childhood in Queensland and life experiences. She reads extensively, researching books and the internet, and nature and life in general. She works from her studio in New Plymouth, with everyday challenges also influencing her artworks.

Ian Littlewood (Dpt.T, B.Ed, M.Ed) was born in Melbourne during World War II. He began experimenting with art when he was a primary student in the late forties. As a teenager working on a sheep

property for three years he learned to appreciate the beauty of the bush and the country landscape. He moved to Adelaide when he was 18 years old.

Ian became familiar with the Heidelberg School Painters and the Australian Impressionist Movement through an artist friend, Lloyd Schrader, with whom he went on numerous occasions to paint en plein air in South Australia. He studied at the South Australia School

of Art in the mid-seventies, later gaining a degree in education with a major in Fine Arts at the University of South Australia in the early eighties.

He has lived and painted in many states in Australia and in Papua New Guinea, coming to New Zealand in 2002. Now living in Inglewood, Ian has held five solo exhibitions in Taranaki and exhibits regularly in many galleries in the region.

Ian paints in a minimalist impressionist style, freezing time, capturing the atmosphere of the moment by manipulating light, tone and colour. He endeavours to mirror the world around him by reflecting the joy and the overwhelming designs and patterns that surround us by celebrating the glory of the Creator.

He sees his artwork as a legacy for future generations to help understand the history, feelings and atmosphere of the past. Ian works in many mediums - pencil, pastels, acrylic, oil, fibre and mixed media - and enjoys painting landscapes, seascapes, still life and people, many depicting the 'Aussie Influence' in terms of the colours, landforms, trees and buildings he paints.

The Village Gallery, Eltham is open 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Free Entry.

Below: Ian Littlewood and Billabong.



from out of the blue studio gallery

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Solo exhibition of visiting Artist in Residence, Birgit Moffatt - "In Dialogue with Papatūānuku" Installation is open from now until 29th March. Entry is free.

<https://www.facebook.com/silktangles>  
<http://fromoutofthebluestudiogallery.com/>

## Building a resilient community in Opunake

A public meeting will be held at the Sandford's Event Centre, on Wednesday 10 March at 7 pm for anyone interested in being involved in Opunake's Community Emergency Management planning.

During disasters, councils and emergency services are likely to be overwhelmed and may not be able to respond to every issue immediately. Communities have many of the skills, resources and contacts needed to help each

other at a local level.

This community meeting will discuss ways the Opunake community can respond locally to help each other and build community resilience.

If you think having an Emergency Plan for Opunake and the surrounding area is important and you might be able to help, please come along to the meeting at Sandford's Event Centre on Wednesday 10 March at 7 pm.

Taranaki Emergency Management staff will be present to explain how communities can be involved with emergency management, and what training they can give to volunteers.

If you have any questions or would like to be involved but can't make the meeting, please contact Glenn Hansen at 0800 111 323 or email [glenn.hansen@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:glenn.hansen@stdc.govt.nz)

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## Come and see vintage machines at work

Every two years the Taranaki Vintage Machinery Club throws a big party. These shows are aimed to showcase rural life as it was in times gone by. This year over Taranaki Anniversary Weekend (March 6 and 7 from 10 - 4) the Vintage Machinery Working Weekend will take place at Hawera, at 172 Turuturu Rd, on land kindly provided by the Lintern Family.

These events were started as a way for club members to get gear from their collections out and to give the public a small taste of life from yesteryear. From humble beginnings they have grown to now be a big event, with people travelling from out of the region to attend. This is the second time the event has been held on this site with the first in 2018 being a huge success - this time it promises to be

bigger and better.

As its name suggests the show is focused around vintage machinery being put through its paces. There will be dozens of vintage and classic tractors at work, matched with implements from the same time period, hard at work ploughing, hay making, harvesting potatoes, baling straw, and more. Beside the tractors, and in many ways the stars of the show, there will be

five vintage steam traction engines at work over the weekend. These engines would have once been a common sight around Taranaki but are now a rare sight. To see them at work is a really rare sight.

The vintage machinery at work is only a small part of this great show, there will be kids rides and activities, tractor pulls, vintage stationary engine displays, miniature steam engines, a fairground organ, a

working blacksmith's shop, a 'country kitchen' cooking up scones and pikelets, a vintage stone crusher where kids (and adults) can have a go at crushing rocks, a display of vintage and classic cars, trucks, and motorbikes, cars from the sport trial club in action, freshly dug new season potatoes for sale, as well as craft and memorabilia stalls and food available.

The weekend is intended to be an inexpensive day out

for the whole family. Entry is \$10 for adults with kids free. Parking is by gold coin donation.

It is hoped that the majority of money raised can be donated back to local community groups.

For more information check us out on Facebook at Taranaki Vintage Machinery Club Working Weekend 2021, or phone Rob Lintern 027 272 8335 or Neil Higgins 027 439 3412

### Taranaki Vintage Machinery Club

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Facebook - Taranaki Vintage Machinery Club Working Weekend 2021



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# Tū Tama Wahine o Taranaki exhibition at Lysaght Watt Gallery



Prizewinning photographer Tania Niwa speaking at the official opening of the Tū Tama Wahine o Taranaki exhibition.

A remarkable pūkauae (exhibition) is on show at the Lysaght Watt Gallery in Hawera. It is entitled Tū Tama Wahine o Taranaki and it is a photographic record of 18 notable Maori women, such as Dr Leonie Pihama and Ngaropi Raumati, showing their moko kaue, as well as outlining their personal history.

The photographs were taken in locations, personally significant to each wahine, by award-winning photographer Tania Niwa. Amongst Tania's many accolades is the fact she is the youngest Grand Master of Photography with the Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP). "My photography is all about connecting, capturing and reflecting upon the essence, character and soul of people, their families, environment and culture." Taranaki born, Tania splits her time between Sydney, Australia and New Plymouth.

which was commissioned by Tū Tama Wahine, was opened on Friday 10 February by curator Elizabeth Harrison, amidst several moving waiata and a number of addresses including one from Tania Niwa.

An informative booklet entitled Tū Tama Wahine o Taranaki; 30 years of liberation work is available. It is published by Tū Tama Wahine o Taranaki Inc, 62 Powderham Street, Ngamotu, Taranaki. The booklet replicates (words and images) the larger displays at the Gallery and includes such information as photographic location, Tohunga Ta Moko and photographic artwork (Tania Niwa), as well as the capture date. Each photograph can be described as: Medium, Chromalux HD Metal Print Canon camera EOS5Ds 50.6 Megapixels.

The statement of each wahine expresses a wish to free themselves from the oppressive effects of

colonisation, especially over the last 30 years, and the moko is an expression of empowerment. Although Tū Tama o Taranaki has been providing social services for all of its 30 years of existence, the organisation really has its genesis in the 1881 invasion of Parihaka by colonial troops: "the plunder of Parihaka. The message that our Prophet Te Whiti o Rongomai left with the women who remained in Parihaka after the forced removal of the men from the papakainga was e tū tama wahine I te wa o te kore." This was an instruction of wisdom (insight and foresight) but also one of action and hope.

One speaker at the opening, who is also one of the 18 photographic subjects, was Ngaropi Raumati (Ngati Mutunga Te Atiawa, Nui Tonu, Ngati Kahugunu). She pointed out that although Maori suffered from colonisation they did not have to like it or accept it. "Wearing traditional

markings, (like moko) and undertaking out traditional practices, are acts of resistance to colonisation." She was understandably angry about what she described as "scorched earth" policies, no doubt with the atrocities of 1860s military leader General Chute in mind, as well as the wholesale confiscation of Maori land.

Ngaropi was photographed with a female ancestor in the background. "I stand beside my great grandmother in an enlarged image from the exhibition Ko Taku Poi Te Manu. I am connected to her because the work that I do requires being linked to Tupuna and trusting in their guidance as we progressively advanced through 30 years of liberation work. This is about healing ourselves, healing our tupuna, healing out whanau; because we are connected. Maori women and land are intimately



connected."

There has been huge interest in this important exhibition, with a record number of patrons – make sure that you do not miss out. The last day of the exhibition is Saturday March 6.

Above: Attendees listening attentively.

Below: Waiata with actions during the opening of the exhibition at Lysaght Watt Gallery in Hawera.



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**FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021**

Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs and Senior Citizens \$8, Under 4 free

<p><b>MAYA THE BEE 3</b> Animated, Kids &amp; Family  1hr 28min G Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1pm</p> <p><b>EARWIG AND THE WITCH</b> Animated, Family 1hr 22mins PG Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm  Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm</p> <p><b>DAISY QUOKKA</b> Animated, Family  1hr 28mins G Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Mar 1pm</p> <p><b>AMERICAN DESERT</b> Drama, Romance  1hr 18mins  R16:Violence Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 7pm Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm</p> <p><b>THE FOOD CLUB</b> Comedy, English Subtitles  1hr 39mins M Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm  Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm</p>	<p><b>HIGH GROUND</b> Action, Historical  1hr 44mins R16:Violence Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Mar 7pm</p> <p><b>SUPERNOVA</b> Drama, Romance  1hr 33mins  M: Language Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 7pm Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm</p> <p><b>AMMONITE</b> Drama, Romance  2hrs   R16: Sex Scenes Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 7pm Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm</p> <p><b>THE LITTLE THINGS</b> Crime, Thriller  2hr 8mins M Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm</p> <p><b>COUSINS ***MARCH BOUTIQUE***</b> Drama, NZ Film  1hr 23min   PG Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Mar 7pm</p>
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If you missed our centennial Celebrations there is still time to order our book call us 027 383 7926

CoastalCare  
Haumaru ki Tai  
Health and Community Centre  
Haumata ki runga, Hauroa ki raro

**AED**  
Sharing Community Resources To Save A Life

EMERGENCY DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATOR

IN AN EMERGENCY  
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**Did you know where ever you are in NZ you can locate a defibrillator if needed.**  
Visit the website <https://aedlocations.co.nz/> or download the app onto your phone.  
Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.abletech.aedlocations>  
Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/nz/app/aed-locations/id424094430>

**Current DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS for Opunake District are listed as below**

These have all been contact and confirmed with the exception of Balance Agri in Pungarehu.

<p><b>1: Opunake Fire Station</b> 33 King Street Opunake PH: 111</p>	<p><b>2: Opunake Medical Centre</b> 26 Napier Street, Opunake PH: 06 761 7324</p>	<p><b>3: Opunake High School</b> 155 Tasman Street Opunake PH: 06 761 8723</p>
<p><b>4: Wood</b> 3 Tai Road, Opunake</p>	<p><b>5: Sandfords Event Centre</b> 156 Tasman Street Opunake 06 761 7534</p>	<p><b>6: Opunake Surf Life Saving Club</b> 3 Beach Road Opunake</p>
<p><b>7: Parihaka Pa</b> exterior wall, entrance to Marae Building 291 Parihaka Road Pungarehu (available 24/7)</p>	<p><b>8: OMV</b> 31 Tai Road, Opunake</p>	<p><b>9: Rahotu Fire Station</b> 9 Lower Kahui Road Rahotu PH: 111</p>
<p><b>10: Campbell Contracting</b> Office Building - Secure Cabinet on Porch 90 Puketapu Road, Pihama (available 24/7)</p>	<p><b>11: Balance Agri-Nutrients</b> Pungarehu - Reception 6332 South Road, Pungarehu Ph: 06 763 8220</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #e91e63; font-weight: bold;">For further info contact CoastalCare Manager Aretha Lemon on 06 761 8488</p>



## What's On Listings

### ONGOING

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

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

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

### TUESDAYS

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

**Life Drawing Group:** Weekly at the Emporium, 86 Tasman St, Opunake 7pm to 9pm. \$10 to pay for the model. Models always wanted; male, female, any age. If anyone is interested please call Marianne Mugeridge 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.

### THURSDAYS

**Coastal Young Farmers:** Meet 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Okato Bowling Club.

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

### 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.

**Opunake Bowling Club Twilight Bowls: 5.30pm at the Club.**

### WEEKENDS

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

### MARCH 7

**Ngati Tara 26B AGM:** 10am, Headlands Hotel, Opunake.

### MARCH 10

**Taranaki National Art Awards AGM:** 1pm, Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake.

**Opunake Community Emergency Management Meeting:** 7pm, Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake.

### MARCH 11 TO MARCH 14

**2021 TET Taranaki Masters Games:** All around Taranaki. See article for more info.

### JUNE 4 TO 6

**Coastal Rugby 25 Year Celebrations:** Raho Domain.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**The Opunake Boat and Underwater Club wishes to acknowledge and thank their sponsors for their generous support of our 2021 tournament:**

Snapper section (\$1000 first place) - McDonalds Real Estate/OMV

Kahawai section - Marine Services Whanganui/ECOLAB

Blue Cod section - Malcolm Campbell Livestock/ASB

John Dory section - Sandfords Carriers

King Fish section - Campbell Contracting

Tuna section - Tasman Marine

Tarakihi section - NZ Farmers Livestock (Tim Hurley)

Gurnard section - West Coast Marine

Trevally section and a big new club BBQ - Taranaki Building Ltd (Shaun Stanley)

Hapuku section - TCM Construction (Gary Watts)

Crayfish section - Blair Burnett (McDonalds Real Estate)

Three rod/reel combos raffle draws donated by Symes Outdoor & Sports, Whanganui Marine Services and Kilwell Sports

Early Bird Entry Ticket \$1000 draw sponsored by Ballance Agri Nutrients

Lucky Snapper Draw \$1000 sponsored by Gibson Plumbing and staff

Products and services donated by Symes Outdoors & Sports, Tasman Marine, Farm Source, Walsh Agrimec Autos, Gopperth Contracting, Silver Fern Farms, Coastal Agri Services (Simon Foley), ANZCO Foods, J Swap Contractors, FMG Insurance, Hunting & Fishing, Farmlands, Okato Home Kills

*Your support is sincerely appreciated and made for the best ever tournament this year, look forward to seeing you back for 2022!*

*Opunake Boat and Underwater Club Commodore, Committee and Members*



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The Health Shop, Centre City, New Plymouth

Ate Forty One, Tukapa St, Westown

The Store, Cnr Tukapa St & Wallath Rd, Westown (By the Locals Café)

Nth Taranaki Community House, 67 McLean St, Waitara

Inglewood Book Centre, 31 Rata St, Inglewood

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Next issue out March 11.

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Trouble sleeping,

Feelings of doom,

Dread,

Apprehension,

Crying for no reason

Sudden tears,

Increased muscle tension,

Breast soreness, tenderness

Inability to concentrate

Itchy, crawly skin, Aching, sore muscles, tendons & joints

Painful intercourse, Osteoporosis, Frequent urination, Insomnia or weird dreams,

Disturbing lapses of memory, Incontinence upon sneezing, laughing

Change in headaches, increase in Stomach discomfort indigestion, gas

Hot flashes, night sweats, Bouts of rapid heart beat. Irritability, Mood swings, Loss of libido - sex drive, Vaginal Dryness, Tendency to cystitis

Crashing fatigue, increased allergies, sudden weight gain

Hair loss, Changes in body odor, Electric shock sensation, in body or head

Anxiety and loss of self confidence, Fluctuations in sexual desire and sexual response

Depression



The Health Shop, Centre City, New Plymouth

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**Public Meeting – Ōpunakē Community Emergency Management**

A public meeting is being held at the Sandford's Event Centre, on Wednesday 10 March at 7 pm for anyone interested in being involved in Ōpunakē's Community Emergency Management planning. Emergency and council services are likely to be overwhelmed during a disaster and may not be able to respond to every issue immediately. This community meeting is to discuss ways the Ōpunakē community can respond locally to help each other and build community resilience. If you think having an Emergency Plan for Ōpunakē and the surrounding area is important and you might be able to help, please come along to the meeting. Taranaki Emergency Management staff will be present to explain how communities can be involved with emergency management, and what training they can give to volunteers. If you have any questions, or would like to be involved but can't make the meeting, please contact Glenn Hansen on glenn.hansen@stdc.govt.nz or 0800 111 323.

**TARANAKI NATIONAL ART AWARDS AGM**

1pm Wednesday 10th March 2020  
Sandfords Event Centre, Opunake  
Further information at  
contact@taranakiartawards.co.nz

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**Opunake Co-operating Parish**

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

**Okato/Oakura Co-operating Parish**

Oakura - St James - 10am, 2nd & 4th Sundays each month  
Oakura - St James - 9am Bible Reading, Prayer and Reflection every Tuesday  
Okato - St Pauls - 10am, 1st & 3rd Sundays each month  
Okato - St Pauls - 10.30am Fellowship time 3rd Thursday of each month  
Okato - St Pauls - 6.30pm Silent Prayer and Reflection 3rd Thursday of 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 10.30am Tuesday  
Men's Group 7pm Wednesday  
Come along or contact  
Murray Baylis  
027 218 3377

**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



**DO YOU HAVE A DAIRY OR DRY STOCK FARM?**

**LEASE FARMS**

CMK are actively seeking lease farms for existing clients.

Please send any information to:  
Email: georgia.yates@cmk.co.nz  
Phone: 027 555 1421

**SOLVING THE AGRI / BUSINESS PUZZLE NEW ZEALAND WIDE**

**NGATI TARA 26B AGM**

Sunday March 7  
10am to 12pm  
Headlands Hotel  
Restaurant  
4 Havelock Street,  
Opunake

Agenda:  
Karakia open  
Minutes  
Financial report  
Chairperson's report  
General business  
Karakia close

Light luncheon will follow.  
RSVP before February 26  
for catering purposes



Next Meeting is on  
March 1, 2021  
at 5.30pm

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

The next issue of the  
Opunake & Coastal  
News is due out on  
March 11, 2021. Phone  
us to be in it.

**SITUATIONS VACANT**



**SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR**

An energetic and passionate person is required to co-ordinate activities for junior students in a range of sporting areas. 20 hours per week.  
Job description available from office.

Written applications should include a brief CV to:  
The Principal  
Opunake High School  
PO Box 4  
Opunake 4616  
admin@opunake.school.nz

Applications close  
Tuesday 9th March, 2021

**HELPER WANTED.**  
Gardening, painting, cleaning. Contact William 761 7054.



**TEACHER AIDE**

We require a Teacher Aide to support teaching and learning in the classroom and Student Support Centre.

Total hours for this position to be negotiated to a maximum of 25 hours per week.

Experience working with students with diverse needs would be an advantage.

Written applications should include a brief CV to:  
The Principal  
Opunake High School  
PO Box 4  
Opunake 4616  
admin@opunake.school.nz

Applications close  
Friday 5th March, 2021

**TRADES & SERVICES**

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

**COASTAL STOPPERS.** GIB Phone Glenn 027 524 5745

**CARPETS** second hand, large selection After Disaster Ltd 223 Devon St West, NP. Phone (06) 769 9265

**HCL BUILDERS** for alterations. Ph 027 236 7129.

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

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

**HCL BUILDERS** for all kitchens. Ph 027 236 7129.

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**IF YOU CAN'T** get into the store for your health products, please phone or email and we will deliver. The Health Shop in Centre City 06 7587 553 or healthshop36@xtra.co.nz.

**FOR SALE**

**NORWAY RECLINER** chair and footstool, light beige soft leather, good condition, dark brown wooden stands, \$500. TV cabinet black with glass doors. \$30.00. 2 x vacuum cleaners going \$15.00 and \$10.00 ono. Text or phone for photos or further information 027 412 7817 Okato pickup.

**HAY, SILAGE & STRAW** available. Kalin Contracting 027 384 4822.

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