



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Local news, local people, local businesses, local sport, local arts and events.  
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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS



Former MP Mahara Okeroa has the Taranaki coast as his brief.

## Coming weeks will be test for rahui

Mahara Okeroa was shocked when he returned to Taranaki and saw the depletion of seafood resources along the coast where he had grown up. He noted the lack of respect shown by visitors helping themselves to as much as they wanted.

"I was devastated emotionally and spiritually at what I considered to be a total and complete disregard of any sense of sustainability," he said.

"We grew up considering Tangaroa to have the same sacredness as the land. From the mountain to the sea everything needed to be cared for. The seafood is not just for sustenance but it's about our relationship with the natural universe based on a sense of reciprocity."

Mahara had grown up at Parihaka and gone to Opunake High School and St Stephen's College in Auckland. He has been a teacher and a public servant and in 2002 he was elected MP for Te Tai Tonga, the largest electorate in the country.

"It goes from Porirua to Upper Hutt and covers everything that moves and shakes through to the Chatham Islands including all of the South Island," he says.

He was a government minister before being defeated in 2008. Three years ago he returned to Taranaki.

Seeing what was happening to his beloved coast, he wanted to do something about the lack of compliance with both the law and the lore protecting the sustainability of coastal seafood resources.

"When confronted with something like that you either do something or you don't. The complete exploitation of a natural resource was being ignored."

As a result of this, Taranaki Iwi placed a rahui against collecting seafood between Paritutu and Opunake.

Mahara says support for the rahui has been inter-generational, "from quite young through to older buggers like us."

He is also pleased with the support the rahui has received from the wider community.

"It's not a Maori issue per se and should not be seen as being that. It should be seen as a community response to an issue that needs to be resolved. We're not just concerned about the present, but we're also driven by the preservation of all these things looking to the future."

In December 2022 the government gave the

rahui some legal teeth by approving the ban.

Mahara sees the next step as being some permanent protection by way of setting up a mataitai reserve. This is distinct from a marine reserve and there are already a number of them operating in different parts of the country. It would still allow taking seafood under certain circumstances, allowing where, when and how much can be taken.

"We are using present legislation to make protection of our taonga permanent, but it does allow for harvest whether seasonal or according to agreed principle. Taranaki Iwi and Hapu are critical in this. It's a tremendous sacrifice for people from Taranaki who are brought up on food from Tangaroa as their staple diet."

"People might say there's a lot of paua out there, but that's how it should be."

Three years later how much respect does he think is being shown for the rahui? "That's a very good question. The best tides are from now through to March, so the test is going to be from the start of next week. That's where we want community support. If you see something all you have to do is ring MPI. We've

already had visitors from outside of Taranaki on our beaches as well as people internal to Taranaki. It's not just paua or kina but everything edible including seaweed."

Last year the Taranaki Iwi Rahui Group picked up the

Taranaki Daily News Person of the Year Award, the first time it has been achieved by a group. Mahara says this is as it should be.

"We wanted to make sure that people going through the hard yaka were acknowledged as well."



A ban against collecting seafood from Paritutu to Opunake received Government recognition in 2022.





# Letters to the Editor

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

Send your your views to:  
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You are welcome to use a pseudonym but must supply your name and address to us.

## Genocide

Hamas attack of October 7 has reached the point of madness. Of Genocide.

As of January 8, 23,835 children women and men

have been killed in the bombing of residential Gaza; plus 7000 reported buried rotting in the rubble. The targeting of refugee centres, schools, hospitals. UN facilities add to the purposeful starvation caused by cutting all aid, water, food. These are by definition, war crimes.

Independent broadcasts from within Gaza show unprecedented levels of viciousness, so we know what Israel is doing. We can see it. They film themselves on TikTok and it is fair to say the barbarity of IDF toward the Palestinian people transcends hate and enters a more terrible ground. An eschatological cruelty. There are no words for it, so we write none. No reasons explain it, so none are given. No excuses allow

for this psychotic violence; except that Israel has divined for itself the right to 'self-defence' requiring the mass-murder and ethnic cleansing of millions of people against which we, as observers, have no rights to contest; or, if we do, are accused of 'anti-semitism' and ultimately 'Holocaust denial' as result.

A small price to pay, as it happens.

If we suffer, and we most certainly should as human beings bearing witness to this ritual slaughter; then we suffer a tyranny Zionism has long prepared us for and is determined to deliver.

Roger Morris.  
Oeo

## New Year greetings

Now what a great eventful 2023 we have had starting with the FIFA Women's World Soccer Cup which was won by Spain, the Canterbury Crusaders won the Super Aotearoa rugby competitions for the seventh time, the Ranfurly Shield was somehow dropped and broken into two pieces, our Taranaki provincial rugby team won the Bunnings Warehouse provincial competitions by defeating Ranfurly Shield holders Hawkes Bay, then having the Rugby World Cup competition in Paris, France, and our All Blacks were defeated in the grand final by the Springboks, then to put the icing on to the cake we had our general election

in which National, ACT and NZ First became the coalition government, which I call the Three Stooges Government, so my question is how long will they last? If they do their three-year term God help us all, as we'll be in for an extremely rough time. I'm not joking at all.

So we've had Christmas, and now it's 2024, so I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone living in Taranaki regardless of their occupation, where they live, culture and gender, also our great newspaper and everyone who helps to put this great newspaper out, to everyone an extremely happy new year, plus be

*Continued on page 3.*

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## ADELPHOS

It's 2024 (in case you hadn't noticed). Many of you have received and given gifts during the Christmas season. Some have been welcomed. But others may have been regifted. The 6:00 pm news reported that on Trade Me, after last Christmas, the level of regifting appeared well above previous years. I guess it's great for the economy! Maybe we're getting more fussy? Or perhaps we may feel guilty for selling a friend's gift intended for us or rewrapping a gift and giving it to someone else. I must confess to the latter.

In a group discussion this question arose: Should I tell

him/her that their unwanted gift was being regifted to another person? And what about informing the receiver of our unwanted and regifted present? Perhaps it's weighing both wisdom and honesty. After asking our group of ten people, seven said they would not reveal details regarding a regifted present. However, situations and relationships vary so it's an open topic for discussion.

The idea of regifting also applies to God's Christmas gift of the baby Jesus; He grew up to become our priceless Easter gift by conquering death for us through His shed blood on

the cross, was resurrected to life and is now our heavenly high priest who alone is able to forgive sins through our repentance and faith in Him.

Before ascending back to heaven Jesus requested believers to regift His gospel of hope and salvation and that He would help them: "Therefore, go and make disciples of [ALL] NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV).

In 2024 the world needs hope. Jesus' priceless gift of Himself is still available for all to accept. And, if we have already welcomed Him, do we keep the gift of Jesus only within our own hearts? Or, do we regift Him to others through our actions and example? Jesus and The New Testament instructs us to share the gift of Jesus as His Holy Spirit will help us.

A Happy and hope-filled New Year to our Opunake and Coastal News readers,  
*Adelphos*

## Gifts and regifting

## Apology

The obituary story on page 29 Of the December 15 issue of the Opunake and Coastal News should have been attributed to Sheryl Glover of the Morrinsville News and should have read 11 October 1943-15 November 2023.

We apologise for these errors.

# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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## Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 2.

careful on our roads, don't swim alone, don't fish in rough seas, don't drive after drinking or do anything stupid, and take care not only of your families but also your neighbours, wherever you may live.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth.

With the weather being so fine the Taranaki's new Egmont National Park Pouakai Crossing Trek and the Mangorei/Pouakai Tarns have been more popular and busier than ever with many taking advantage of the Department of Conservation upgraded tracks in our national park. With Taranaki beachgoers finding them too hot, they look for other attractions, trekking being one of them, enjoying them for what they offer. The downside

is Taranaki's infrastructure and the difficulty to park vehicles at North Egmont Road End. More and more people are turned away and to get parking up there, you need to be quick or miss out.

Ian McAlpine  
New Plymouth

## Pukekura Park winners again

For the eleventh time New Plymouth City's Pukekura Park has been awarded the prestigious Green Flag by the international judges plus having a five star rating at Gardens of National Significance judged by the New Zealand Gardening Trust, so no doubt our

District Council would be extremely pleased.

I myself have spent to many visitors from overseas and within our country and they have all stated the same thing. They couldn't get over how people could walk from our CBD to our wonderful inner-city parks and reserves without any problem, and wishing they had the same thing, like incorporating the Bowl of Brooklands, Brooklands Zoo and our wonderful city racecourse, all in one area, so close to our city.

Look, us Taranakians really don't realise realise or appreciate what our whole province does offer like parks, reserves and walkways, plus we can

drive around our mountain regardless of what way we can go. People who are travelling in our province from Auckland actually can't believe their eyes on what we actually have to offer the whole world at our fingertips, so every so often just take a drive around the mountain and take some of these people.

Tom Stephens  
New Plymouth.

## Windmills

'Giant windmills blow hapu to UN' Mr John Hooker spokesperson for Ngaruahine iwi moaning about another environment project this time windmills, not long ago in South Taranaki sea mining. Easy for people/organizations to oppose projects but they never recreate options for work options.

Ian McAlpine  
New Plymouth

## Lack of mountain parking

# Walkway boasts new facilities

The old long drop with a view to enjoy will be dismantled now that a new ablution pod with handwashing and two toilet facilities has been installed at the Nowell's Lakes Walkway. A partnership between the Nowell's Lakes Trust, Fonterra and South Taranaki District Council has enabled the build, and the facilities are now open and available for public use. A ramp and larger floor area ensures access for all. The new pod is one of three placed by council, using funding received from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the others being at Waihi Reserve and at Cape Egmont. Water is supplied by Fonterra via plumbing connections.

Iwi and representatives of the key stakeholders were present to bless and formally open the facility. Mayor Phil Nixon thanked Fonterra and the Trust for working together to provide another destination for the community. "We want to see families come to enjoy the walkway, look for bugs in the numerous bug hotels, spot the native birds, photograph the mountain and enjoy the two freshwater lakes" Mayor Phil said. "With the old long drop replaced, and these modern,



From left. Reg Korau (STDC), Doug Hutchinson (Nowell's Lakes Trust Chair), Michelle Dwyer (Fonterra), Shay King (Ngāti Ruanui), Mayor Phil Nixon, Nigel Kareko (Nowell's Lakes Trust Volunteer), Sandy Parata (Ngāti Ruanui), Graham Young (Ngāti Ruanui).

clean facilities available, Nowell's Lakes can again become the science and nature outdoor environment for schools and community groups too".

The Nowell's Lakes Walkway is situated at the end of Rifle Range Road, off Manawapou Road, just past Fonterra. The short walks lead you through

farmland that has been planted in native trees by local schools. The walks are well signposted and have seats dotted along the way. "Nowell's Lakes are a slightly unknown gem in South Taranaki and the volunteers from Nowell's Lakes Trust have created an area where there are lots of fun places to run

and hide, hills to climb and nature to enjoy," Mayor Phil remarked. "It's awesome to have this facility open in time for picnickers and holiday makers."

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## Be a Wai Warrior – summer water restrictions

It's time to turn off the sprinklers and irrigation systems because NPDC's Wai Warrior summer water restrictions are now in place. "Summer is when our water use is highest, but our supply rivers are at their lowest" says NPDC Manager Three Waters Mark Hall.

"Gardens are where most water is used and the odds-and-evens system helps ensure there's enough water for everyone, while keeping as much water in our supply rivers as possible for the benefit of the environment."

Under the odds-and-evens system which came into force on 1 January, hand-held hoses can be used at odd-numbered houses on odd-numbered days and at even-numbered houses on even-numbered days. The use of sprinklers, irrigation systems and unattended hoses is banned up to 31 March.

This summer is predicted to be drier than average because the country's weather pattern has switched from La Niña to El Niño, which will probably bring to Taranaki more westerly winds and less rain than usual.

New Plymouth District's average daily use was 315 litres per person in 2022/23. "Building good habits around water are about small actions every day, such as turning off the tap while brushing your teeth or cleaning vegetables. Little actions can make a big difference," says Mark.

Wai Warrior tips to reduce water use around the home include:

- Water your garden no more than twice a week and use a good mulch to reduce evaporation.
- Take short showers.

- Don't wash down paths and driveways – use a broom instead.
- Use a bucket and sponge rather than a hose to clean your car.

New Plymouth District residents use an average of 315 litres of water per person per day.

The New Plymouth, Ōākura, Ōkato and Inglewood water supplies connect to just under 28,000 homes and businesses.

New Plymouth residents consume 30 per cent more water per person, per day than the national average.



New Plymouth water restrictions are in place.

## Solution in sight for puriri dispute

A solution appears to have been reached over replacing a puriri tree that was cut down on the McDonalds Restaurant site at Hawera.

As reported in the Opunake and Coastal News (September 21 2023), the puriri which was on the north-western corner of the site had been cut down on August 22 last year. At the time Simon Kenny of McDonalds had said the puriri was not protected in the District Plan and was becoming a hazard to nearby power lines. Clare Prestidge



McDonalds restaurant Hawera and the north-west corner where a puriri once stood.

and her neighbours had campaigned to save the tree and said it had been protected by a condition in the resource consent allowing McDonalds to set up the restaurant.

In December Clare received a letter from the South Taranaki District Council planning and development manager Jessica Sorrenson saying

that the planning team had met with McDonalds and an agreement had been reached that a new puriri tree will be planted in the same garden where the previous one was.

"There are expectations that a Puriri tree of at least 1m tall be planted between the months of March and May 2024," the letter read. "This timeframe has been recommended as the most

appropriate time to plant a Puriri tree to give it the best time of establishing.

"As previously communicated we acknowledge that there has been a miscommunication from Council where the wrong advice was provided to McDonalds and their contractor, leading to the removal of the protected Puriri tree."

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# Book launch attracts old-time surfers



Murray Baylis, author of *Surfing the Unruly Coast*, with a buyer from the next generation of Opunake surfers.

About 60 old-time surfers and their families turned up at Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club on Friday 1 December for the book launch of *Surfing the Unruly Coast* by prominent local resident Murray Baylis. On sale were copies of the book (\$50) which had just been released that night, and the opportunity for Murray to personally sign copies.

*Surfing the Unruly Coast* took three years of hard graft, he told the audience, but its publication marked the achievement of a long-term goal. He always wanted to write a book ever since his school days when he enjoyed writing stories.

Once leaving school he did not know what he wanted out of life, so began a nursery business in Opunake which has only recently been sold in readiness for a shift to New Plymouth.

The idea for the book was based around a recognition that all the old local surfers would not be around forever. He began interviewing them and recording their conversations on his cell

Things began to get hectic for a time at the book signing table, so Eileen Baylis helped her husband.

phone as many were living overseas. He wanted the book to stretch back to the early days in South Taranaki and managed to get as far back as 1953, and then reached forward into the 1970s.

The book project took up a lot of his time and he was often full of self-doubt.



“Will I really be able to do this?” he would ask himself, especially as he had only reached School Certificate level at school. But he knew that he could write and was creating poetry after being inspired by James K. Baxter. “We all have gifts,” he told the audience, “and one of them for me is to write.”

The presence of so many young people at the launch was poignant, Murray said, because so many old surfers were moving on or cannot surf any more. In their place a rising generation of “grommets” were continuing the reputation of Opunake as a surfing mecca. Surfing “is such a good thing for young people to get into,” he said.

Greg Wood



Long-time surfers grabbed the chance to reminisce with Murray while picking up a signed copy of his book.

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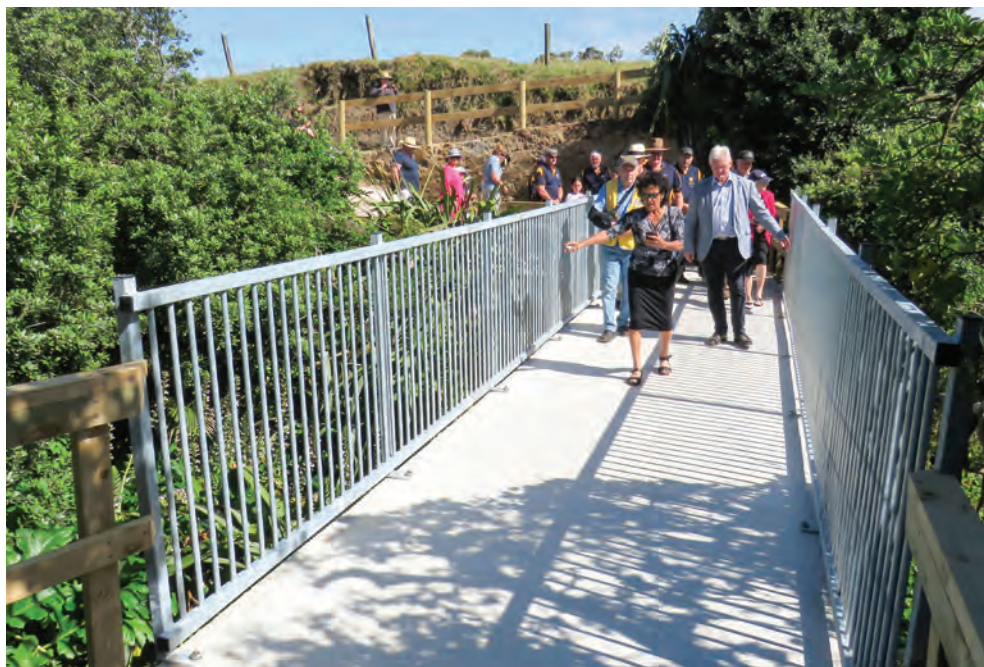
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# New Dudley Bridge on walkway opened

A new bridge replacing Dudley's Bridge on the popular Opunake walkway was opened by the South Taranaki mayor Phil Nixon on December 20. The former wooden bridge

named in honour of the late Dudley Morris who did so much to establish the walkway, which needed to be replaced after many years. Among those at the opening was Dudley's daughter



The opening of the new bridge, led by Adrienne Young, followed by South Taranaki mayor Phil Nixon and members of the Opunake Lions Club.

Morris myself, but what I hear of his legacy we are much indebted to him. He added, "It does take a community to do such things."

He also paid tribute to the Opunake community.

"This is a community that gets things done and this is testament to this," he said.

Adrienne, who also spoke, said it had been "an honour" to support the project.

Seven cubic metres of concrete went into the concrete bridge.

The Opunake Lions have also been busy concreting part of the Opunake Walkway near the Otahi Road bridge by the old dairy factory damaged during floods last year.

Maree, granddaughter and great grandchildren.

The new bridge was an Opunake Lions project and the Lions were all in attendance at the ceremony marking the opening of the bridge.

Commented the president of the Opunake Lions Eric Arden, who unfortunately was not able to lend much of a hand practically in its construction as he was recovering from a shoulder injury and had his arm in a sling, he would like to thank the workers. "I didn't play a very part in it," he said. It had been in the planning a long while and he said he was very proud of the job. "It's going to make this part of the walkway much more user friendly."

He then went on to speak of the man in whose honour

the bridge is named, Dudley Morris.

Dudley Morris had been a member of the Lions Club since 1968.

"He was well respected. He always had foresight and was one of the instigators of the walkway," said Eric.

"He was a great Lion right up to his passing," he added commenting on Dudley's "passion for the town, the walkway and also the lake.

"He was truly one of the great Lions that's been in the town." The mayor who also spoke began by saying 'Well we're back in Opunake with another good story.'

He went on to pay tribute to the Opunake Lions and turning to Adrienne Young there on behalf of her hapu, said he'd also like to thank the hapu for their support.

"I did not know Dudley



A memorial stone to Dudley Morris near the bridge.

## Avoid complacency wars FENZ

Complacency warning following recent Taranaki rain

Recent rain in Taranaki has not dampened down the fire risk across the District. Fire and Emergency New Zealand's Taranaki

Community Risk Manager Christine McGinty says vegetation continues to dry out due to the windy conditions being experienced.

"The triggers have not been met for entering a restricted fire season (where a permit is needed for any open-air fire), but caution should

still be taken with the windy conditions.

"We have particular concern for the southern areas of Taranaki."

Christine McGinty says if people must light a fire, such as for a controlled burn or rubbish fire, there are some precautions they can take.

"Do not light more than one fire at a time," she says.

"Wait for it burn out and then dampen down the burn area. Make sure the fire is fully extinguished.

"Keep piles small and monitor old burn sites regularly for reignition, especially in coastal areas."

**S**  
**SCHURR IRELAND**  
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# Seven days in Rarotonga

Having spent a week in Rarotonga in early January of this year, the largest (and most populated) of the 15 Cook Islands, it was an enriching experience. The 2021 census of the 67.1 sq km island indicated that the population of Rarotonga numbered 10,863 residents (of the Cook Islands total of about 15,000).

Apart from an urban band around the coastal circumference the background of bush, rising to quite high peaks on this volcanic island, is uplifting. No urban sprawl here, thank goodness.

The Cook Islands were named in honour of explorer Captain James Cook, who was in the vicinity in 1773 and 1777, but it should be mentioned that he did not land on Rarotonga. He did land on another island, which he named Hervey Island after Augustus Hervey, the Third Earl of Bristol, a Lord of the Admiralty.

Tourism is the main buttress of the island nation's economy with 168,000 visitors arriving annually. Some of the attractions are the extraordinary island dancing (accompanied by traditional rhythmic drumming), swimming with turtles and going snorkelling.

Other money earners for the nation are offshore banking, pearls, marine and fruit exports.

First impressions are best experienced on the bus which encircles the island's main (coastal road). This bus alternates clockwise or anticlockwise for just \$5 – good value.

The islanders are very friendly, helpful and courteous. Although the islanders have their own language, everyone speaks English and signs in English are everywhere. Visitors



Traditional dancing in Rarotonga.

will hear the phrase *Kia Orana* many times, which means *May you have a long life*.

There is a strong Christian tradition, going back to missionary John Williams (arrived 1813), reflected by the many churches. The museum's document the history of the Cook Islands, including its religious and political aspects. Until 1965 when self government was granted, the Cook Islands were administered by New Zealand (and Great Britain before that, from 1888). Sir Albert Henry (Cook Island Party) was the first premier, whose government ruled until 1978, when Dr Tom Davis (Cook Islands Democratic Party) took over following electoral malpractice. The current prime minister is the Hon Mark Brown, who is also Minister for Tourism.

The parliament, which is modelled on the Westminster system, has 25 members elected by universal suffrage. The Head of State is the King's representative. A House of Ariki (traditional paramount chiefs) provides counsel and advice to the

government, in conjunction with the Koutu Nui, a body of traditional chiefs.

A huge number of cemeteries can be seen - ranging from one or two on residential properties to much bigger ones. The graves tend to be above the ground mausoleums and are mostly adorned with flowers.

Feral poultry are virtually everywhere you look, including roosters crowing and clucky hens leading tiny chicks.

There are also many wandering dogs, which we're told are not stray, but tourists are urged not to feed them.

At least in the urban part there did not seem to be many birds, except for a multitude of Myna birds.

Although the Cook Islands have their own currency, New Zealand money is welcome. Many shop items were similarly priced as in New Zealand, or maybe a bit more.

Because it is incredibly hot and humid air conditioning is in all buildings, accompanied often by whirring fans.

One highlight was a visit to Te Ara, the Cook

Islands Museum of Cultural Enterprise, which has a wealth of documented history and the curator Stan Wolfgramm was very helpful. The images and photographs are intriguing. One showed New Zealand prime minister Richard Seddon, who visited in 1900, pictured with King Ngamaru, Queen Makea and Louise Seddon (Richard's wife). The photograph was taken on Mangaia Island. The extensive and lively Pununga Nui Market is well worth a visit, as are cultural places such as the gallery of master carver and author Michael Taviani.

I thoroughly recommend a visit to Rarotonga, which will leave rich and lasting memories.

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# Labour will hold government to account

Although the election did not go Labour's way, I am grateful to be heading back to Parliament this year as the Labour Spokesperson for Agriculture, Rural Communities, and Biosecurity. I'll have more to say about Labour's plan for the primary industries soon, but I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on the last six years.



JO LUXTON  
LIST MP

Since I first entered Parliament in 2017 the country has been through a lot: terrorism, natural disasters, and a pandemic. Labour steered a steady ship through it all, but dealing with these events, of

course, was not without its complexities. It's Labour's values and our care for all New Zealanders – not just the few – that drives us. It is true that we have work to do to make sure Kiwis know and feel that Labour backs

them. That's why we will be working with communities right across the country to build this support back. Over our time in Government, we worked hard to tackle the long-term challenges facing New Zealand and I'm proud of the progress that we made on

the big issues like housing, inequality, and climate change. We were able to raise incomes, increase the housing supply, help more New Zealanders into work and training, and reduce climate emissions. The new coalition Government made up of National, ACT, and

New Zealand First want to leave all of this to chance, likely taking the country backwards.

We campaigned on progress and it's something I will continue to fight for. Our diverse line-up for the 54th Parliament brings energy and experience to the very

important job of Opposition. I am confident our Labour team is up to the challenge of holding the new Government to account.

Jo Luxton MP  
Labour Spokesperson for Agriculture, Rural Communities, and Biosecurity

## Rahotu pupils emerge as winners



From left, Hannah Ward (National Programmes Manager, Blue Light), Christine Julian (Rahotu School teacher), JC Goodman (student), Lydia Helms (student), Stephannie McGregor (Rear) (Blue Light Youth Worker), Mia Leatherby (student), Senior Constable Matt Goodman (Rear) (NZ Police) and Jeremy Spademan (student) with their 2023 Blue Light National PCT winning medals and award.

Four young people from Rahotu School returned triumphant from a demanding test of their physical fitness, teamwork, and deductive skills. Lydia Helms, Mia Leatherby, Jeremy Spademan and JC

Goodman were crowned 2023 Blue Light National Physical Competency Test Champions (PCT) at Blue Light's National PCT finals held at Blue Light's National Youth Centre in Auckland on 9 and 10 November.

South Taranaki Blue Light Coordinator Leanne Richards, who assisted the team to get to the national competition after they won the Taranaki Regional PCT

Finals in May, says "We are thrilled that our South Taranaki representatives (Rahotu School) took out the nationals. They were the smallest school there but dominated the competition".

"We knew we had the fitness, but we also communicated with each other and worked as a team to get through the obstacles" says JC Goodman.



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# Friendship lasts the distance

In 1944 Yvonne Gadsby was a boarder at Opunake Convent School and Hilary Frost was a day pupil. Eighty years later Yvonne Gundersen (86) lives in Waitara and Hilary Edmonds (85) lives in Whangarei, but the friendship formed back then lives on.

"She and I are still the best of friends to this day," says Yvonne.

Hilary agrees. "We immediately became friends and we never stopped being friends. We've lived in different islands and in different countries, but we've always kept up the friendship."

In the years since, the two have travelled together and Hilary was godmother to Yvonne's oldest son Paul.

When the two first got to know each other, World War II was still being fought and Yvonne recalls the convent having blackout curtains so that any passing enemy submarines couldn't see them.

She has fond memories of Marcella Walsh who was Mother Superior at the time and remembers the letter of condolence she sent to Yvonne's mother after the passing of a daughter who was stillborn.

Yvonne's family lived at Rahotu on the Kahui Road. Two farms away from them was a family called the Bolgers. She remembers asking her parents why they



Yvonne Gundersen and Hilary Edmonds.

talked funny. The answer was that they were recent immigrants from Ireland. Their children included James Brendan Bolger, Prime minister from 1990 to 1997.

The Gadsbys have long connections with Opunake. One relation Florrie Gadsby was grandmother of Opunake rugby legend Graham Mourie.

The father of Yvonne's grandmother Alice Vickery provided the timber used in building St Barnabas Church.

Yvonne was the oldest in her family, followed by three brothers. After the passing

of her sister the family moved to New Plymouth in 1945 where two more sisters were born.

Hilary's mother's family the Gearys also had strong links to Opunake where Hilary's grandfather had a butchers shop next to Teddy Wallace's toy shop.

"My grandmother and mother and older sisters used to hang up the Christmas puddings on the hooks of the old butcher shop," says Hilary.

Like Yvonne she has fond memories of her time at the Opunake Convent School. These include music lessons with the Reverend Mother ("a beautiful beautiful pianist and a wonderful teacher").

She laments the demise of the convent building where the nuns lived.

"It was such a shame. It was a beautiful old building," she said.

After her schooling at the Convent and Opunake District High School she

worked as a receptionist for local dentist Brian Munro.

Other personalities she recalls include Dr Swinburn who ended up marrying his nurse who had been a Miss New Zealand, and a Dr Watt who was known as a chain smoker. She remembers him having a cigarette in mouth while he stitched her forehead after an accident. These were great times she said.

"Opunake had four butchers and four grocers. There was the Mardi Gras and the dances. It was a magical place to grow up."

From Opunake she joined the army dental corps based at Burnham Camp where she continued to work as a chairside nurse and receptionist. After that she transferred to Christchurch where she married Harry Edmonds who hailed from Guernsey in the Channel Islands and they lived there for a time.

Meanwhile Yvonne had been on her own since 1971

and decided she wanted to see something of the world. She has made six trips to England and been to Egypt twice. Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and the Channel Islands are among other places she has visited. On a couple of trips, to Perth and the Gold Coast she even had her old friend along for the ride. History, particularly family history has always fascinated her. She is the author of

Lincolnshire Links, a history of the Gadsbys that took 27 years to write. Despite all the places she's visited there is one place she says she can't get away from.

"I've travelled thousands and thousands of miles but Opunake is still in my blood."

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Yvonne Gundersen looks through photos from Opunake Convent days.

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# Seek emergency care if dogs consume karaka berries



## Karaka berries.

The New Zealand Veterinary Association Te Pae Kīrehe (NZVA) is urging animal owners to be on the lookout for highly toxic karaka berries, as the tree's fruiting season intensifies between January and April.

While signs of karaka toxicity have been recorded in humans, sheep, cattle, chickens, and other species,

dogs are especially sensitive to the toxin in the orange berry, as they contain the alkaloid, karakin. Consumption of the berries in dogs can lead to respiratory failure, impaired neurological function, and even death.

NZVA president Kate Hill said early treatment is best, so if you think your pet has ingested karaka berries, call your vet clinic immediately.

"We are already seeing trees absolutely laden with fruit in some parts of the country," she said. "While karaka berries are an important food source for the kererū, they are particularly dangerous to dogs at this time of year as the berries ripen and fall from the trees."

Signs of karaka berry toxicity in dogs can be delayed up to 48 hours following ingestion. Signs to

be aware of in dogs include: vomiting, diarrhoea, reduced appetite, and abdominal pain, paralysis of hind limbs, loss of balance, convulsions and reduction in the dog's breathing rate and eventually paralysis of muscles used for breathing.

Preventing any ingestion of the karaka berry is better than treatment. Dr Hill advises pet owners to be aware of where karaka trees are located; keep dogs on leads if walking in an area where karaka trees are present; to know the signs of karaka berry toxicity; and if there is concern an animal has ingested the berries, seek emergency veterinary treatment. Even if ingestion has occurred and there are no clinical signs within one to four hours, dogs should be taken to a vet clinic and made to vomit.

The NZVA encourages t

he use of signage in appropriate areas advising the general public about the potential risks of karaka berries between January and April.

# Forecasts could help save marine animals

Existing forecasting and marine management tools could be used to predict and prevent accidents with vulnerable marine animals caused by climate extremes, according to international researchers.

When climate extremes disrupt marine ecosystems,

marine animals can get hurt as they move into unexpected areas, potentially becoming entangled in fishing nets or being caught and discarded by humans fishing in those areas.

The researchers demonstrate how ecological forecasting systems can be used to forewarn people and predict the movement of these animals - for example identifying when cooler waters used by whales are pushed to the coast and whales are at risk of becoming entangled in fishing gear - so that risk can be mitigated.

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# Mangatoki WI



**At the Beatles Museum.**

On 22 November 17 ladies headed towards Palmerston North where they would spend two nights.

We all met up at Springvale Garden Centre and Café where we had breakfast. After a quick look around the place and a bit of shopping it was on to Marton and Granny's Christmas Grotto. After lunch, we headed to The Wool Company in Utiku. Taihape was next before we headed to Palmerston North and the Heirloom Christmas Company which had stayed open after hours for our visit. From here we checked into our motel, Aubyn Court. With rooms sorted, we got together for pre-dinner drinks before heading over to Rosie O'Gradys for dinner. Dessert was back at the motel where we had ice creams to celebrate Bev's 80th birthday. Happy Birthday Bev.

Day 2 – First port of call was RJ's Licorice in Levin. Next was Otaki for casual shopping and lunch. Back into the vans and away to Paraparaumu and a call at The Shed Upcycle Store. Here, all the disabled folk of all ages make an assortment

of mostly wooden things. It was back towards Palmerston North we headed. Afternoon tea was had at Lewis Farm, a very large strawberry farm where they make fresh fruit ice creams. Himatangi and The Country Village was the next stop where there was a great assortment of garden pots, etc. They also had outdoor furniture made from truck tyres. A great assortment of sizes and they were very nice. The last stops were in Palmerston North at Uncle Bills and Postie.

Dinner tonight was our own choice as we headed over to The Plaza and then into KMart for late night shopping.

Day 3 – This morning was our own until 12pm. We had to have lunch by the time we were back in the vans. The first stop on the way home was the Furniture Fair. A lovely furniture shop with all sorts of other goodies as well as very tasty coffee. Onto the Christmas Barn on the outskirts of the city and then onto Bulls. Great shopping in Bulls for all sorts of goods.

Up to Whanganui and afternoon tea at Windermere

Gardens. A lot of strawberries were purchased as well as coffee, cake and ice creams.

Into Hawera and our dinner stop was Zaika. After a gift game and farewells, each van went its own way. We had travelled 785 Kms by the time the vans were returned to base.

A great trip was had with great women who all get on, look out for and after each other. Bring on next year's adventure.

While we were away, 12 of our male folk got together and had dinner and a chat at the Kaponga Hotel.

On December 6, 14 members and Charmaine Robertze's daughter headed to Opunake. Our first stop was at the Beatles Memorabilia Museum, a private museum owned by Graeme and Marilyn McPherson. Graeme started his collections in the 1960s and has continued ever since. We found the museum to be very interesting and it brought back memories to many of us.

From here, we continued our journey around the coast

to just beyond Oakura, to Tapuae Country Estate, and were welcomed warmly by Patrick Cameron MBE and his husband Randy Buckley with drinks. Patrick is a famous hairdresser who grew up on a dairy farm on Lower Duthie Road and went to Matapu Primary School and Hawera High School. Randy is a family lawyer and grew up in Canada. They met each other in London some years ago. Patrick still does hair dressing and shows all over the world, while Randy has set up a new business called FairPath Resolutions. We were given a tour of their very modern home and the garden. Members took a plant from our own gardens to contribute to their lovely coastal garden. Back at the house, Olwyn and Bernice,

our hostesses, arrived with a box or two containing a very nice lunch for us, now 19 people.

After lunch, Randy told us of his life story as a family lawyer and then Patrick gave us a talk on his life story. Afterwards, Patrick uncovered a rack of beautiful dresses which had been worn by models all over the world, in shows which he had presented. One dress was the very first dress he had hand drawn himself, many years ago. Tea, coffee and sweet slice treats were served. Randy and Patrick were warmly thanked and reluctantly we departed, after having a very enjoyable day out.

*Lucy Moger and Denise Carter.*

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# Taranaki Treasures Salome

A captivating bronze statue is on display at Cecilia's on Tasman in Opunake. Dating from the 1940s the statue of the biblical figure Salome is an eye-catching 1200mm in height.

The Gospel of Mark (New Testament) recounts the story that Salome danced beautifully for her father Herod II and was asked to name whatever she wanted as a reward. Upon the advice of her mother Herodias (who held a grudge against the intended victim) she requested the head of John the Baptist on a platter. The year was AD 34 and King Herod ordered the

immediate execution of John who was in his prison; he was duly beheaded and the head presented on a platter as requested.

The statue has lived in a residence in New Plymouth for many years and evidently the daughters of the house were a bit embarrassed to bring their friends home, because Salome is scantily clad.

The craft and antique's owner Raewyn commented that the bronze statue had been appraised overseas and is "highly valued."

Right: Salome-in-bronze is a captivating sight at Cecilias on Tasman.



## Gardening with Palmers Gardening Centre



# How to grow passionfruit

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

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

Once you have planted

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

It is particularly important to water regularly throughout the flowering and fruiting period from spring until the end of summer. When watering, keep the water off the foliage to avoid fungal problems. Mulching will help retain moisture.

Feed at least twice over the spring, summer, and autumn

months with a slow-release Citrus fertiliser. During the fruiting period feeding with a liquid fertiliser is also recommended.

Passionfruit vines will fruit in a relatively short time, from 8-9 months old. The fruit ripen from mid-summer onwards. Passionfruit are ripe when the skin turns purple and fruit fall to the ground. Consistent watering is required in the summer to help prevent fruit drop and premature wrinkling of the fruit.

For some delicious passionfruit recipes go to <https://www.palmers.co.nz/>

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Coastal Medical Ltd wishes everyone a happy new year and a healthy 2024. We are excited to share some updates with you from Opunake Medical Centre.

We are pleased to introduce Suki Bishop as our new Operations Lead. Suki brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the role, and we are confident that she will help us continue to provide the best possible care to our patients. We would also like to welcome Carolyn Reardon and Richard Wang as General Practitioners. Our long-standing GP Rachel Volcani is taking a step back from General Practice so Carolyn and Richard's highly experienced and dedicated approach will continue the provision of quality care to our patients.

At Coastal Medical, we are committed to developing a sustainable, fully integrated General Practice and Subspecialty service for the coastal community. To achieve this, we are fortunate enough to have the expertise of Kelsey Pruitt, a US trained Physicians Associate (PA). PA's are a critical part of international General Practice care and are rapidly being introduced in New Zealand. Kelsey has comprehensive medical training in Primary Care specifically to work within the GP comprehensive care team model with the Doctors and Nurses. She can manage most conditions seen by a GP and works closely with the rest of our care team.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience as we transitioned to the new computer software, Indici. We believe it will allow us to provide higher quality and more responsive care. The patient portal "MyIndici" is a great way of seeing your results and requesting repeat medications with a minimum of hassle. We would recommend all patients sign up to this to really optimise their care.

NZ medical law allows for repeat prescriptions of long-term medications for stable conditions with regular medical reviews. They require careful medical review prior to repeating to ensure safety and efficacy. Urgent repeats will be completed within 1 working day and Routine Prescriptions within 3 working days. If you have any questions about your repeat prescriptions, please contact the medical centre for advice.

Coastal Medical's core values of People, Purpose, and Positive impact shape all our actions and how we achieve our goal of creating a sustainable, high-quality, integrated teams-based General Practice service. If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve our service, please reach out to us. We are always looking for ways to improve and provide the best possible care to our patients.



Kelsey Pruitt



# Farm Art Competition



Most Sustainable award for the Taranaki Catchment Communities annual Christmas Art competition

## Housing market stalls – now what’s in store for 2024?

Slow and steady growth appears to be on the cards for Aotearoa New Zealand’s housing market in 2024, as evidenced by a general stalling in home value growth this quarter.

The latest QV House Price Index shows home values have increased across all of the main urban centres, but at a reduced rate overall. The average home value increased nationally by just 0.6% throughout the December quarter to \$905,070, down from the 2.3% quarterly home value increase reported at the end of November.

Taranaki ended 2023 with an average 1% quarterly increase in residential property values. South Taranaki was the only local district to end the calendar year in the black, with its average home value sitting 0.7% higher than at the start of the year at \$444,705. Home values in neighbouring Stratford finished last year 5.1% lower on average, while values in New Plymouth ended 2023 precisely 3% lower, despite a small 0.4% increase this quarter

Across the main centres, Rotorua (6%) and Tauranga (3.3%) recorded the most home value growth on average in the December quarter, with the latter recovering from a small deficit in the previous month’s figures. New Plymouth (0.4%) recorded the smallest increase on average, while Auckland (1.9%), Wellington (2.4%) and Christchurch (2.5%) continue to experience relatively robust growth by national standards.

Quotable Value (QV) operations manager James Wilson said the latest data demonstrates how volatile value trends can be, given current market conditions. “With relatively low sales volumes in many markets across the country it doesn’t take much change in activity to change the overall value performance,” he said.

“This slight stalling in the rate of home value growth nationally could well be a result of the increase of new property listings and stock available for purchase, which came to the market throughout the last few months of the year and allowed supply to balance demand in some key markets, thereby suppressing competition.

“In the short term, this influx of new listings should result in market activity increasing throughout January and February. Competition among those buyers who couldn’t find their next property in 2023 will remain in place to some degree, but this will likely be subdued over the first couple of months of 2024 as it’s met by an increase in stock available.”

Notwithstanding unforeseen extreme weather events such as those experienced around this time last year, Mr Wilson expected home values to continue to strengthen at broadly similar levels over the next few months, then eventually slow as we move into the autumn months.

“High net migration remains in place, increasing demand and putting pressure on the rental market, and the expected reintroduction

of interest deductibility for property investors will also certainly impact the housing market. However, the biggest handbrake to home value growth right now is interest rates, which are expected to remain at current levels throughout much of 2024 as the Reserve Bank looks to reduce stubbornly high inflation levels.

“While many buyers and sellers remain relaxed to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on their properties, the winds of change are beginning to blow, so watch this space in the year ahead. The nationwide land risk classification framework that is currently being assessed across the country also has the potential to significantly and quickly change the housing market in higher risk areas.”

“Insurers have already signalled their intent to re-price or remove the ability to insure within certain risk areas, which will change the game for some locations and re-set value fundamentals,” he added.

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**Mā te whānau te tamaiti e puawai / Through collaboration, our learners will thrive**

## PRINCIPAL'S KŌRERO

Mā te whānau te tamaiti e puawai | Through collaboration our learners will thrive; capturing the spirit of our school's journey and the spirit of our staff. It's the message we're giving to our students: to work together; to aim high – because the stars are worth reaching – with all the joy, wonder and personal fulfillment that learning and achievement bring. It certainly feels like we're on a mission and the commitment from everyone associated with the school is magnificent. I couldn't ask for better people to deliver the ambitious goals we've got for our school and that is pretty exciting, as we say goodbye to this academic year and look forward to the next.

The world today is shrinking into a smaller yet more complex system of interconnections and interdependence. We are closely rooted in our community and traditions, yet we take leaps and reach out for opportunities that the world offers us. Therefore, it becomes imperative that we inculcate values that foster a sense of personal wellbeing and also make us responsible for the greater good of the world around us - to be true global citizens.

This year has been a gift, and we as a community of learners, feel a sense of pride in each of our tamariki and rangatahi who made progress in their learning journey. The new academic year will open the doors to a myriad of opportunities. We are more than ready to equip each tamariki to walk through those doors. We will continue to be a vibrant learning environment that strives for excellence in all our endeavours. In collaboration with our parents and whānau community, we will ensure that our tamariki have the support they need to grow and thrive in the years to come.

Thanks from our Principal:

Every year, people at the helm have contributed their might to achieving our objectives. It is with great sadness that we farewell Board members, students, parents and whānau as their children start the next chapter of their lives, and staff for pastures new. Through it all, your support has been overwhelming, and we are extremely grateful to you all for the memories created in your time with us.

So it is with sadness, but it is also with pride and excitement for the new challenges and experiences that lie ahead, that we farewell you all.

To our staff, I would like to say a huge thanks and farewell to:

- Glenda Palmer - Semi retired at the end of Term 3. Her role was in Careers Pathways and Social Studies for the past 8 years at CTS.
- Marian Richardson - retiring Foods and Deputy Principal, has been part of the staff since the 2005 amalgamation
- Sylvia Howieson - After 4 years as Deputy Principal and two terms during 2023 as Acting Principal, Sylvia is resigning to study part time in 2024 at Canterbury University.
- Baylie Bright - Year 2/3 teacher - who has accepted a position at Rahotu after two years at CTS.
- Āria Broughton - pursuing career with Te Ahu O Te Reo Maori - teaching adults te reo. Aria has been at our kura for 5 years.
- Kenny McMorland - who is retiring after 5 years teaching English, Drama and Senior Social Studies.
- Josie Simons Sports co-ordinator who left at the end of Term 3 to focus on farming

## COASTAL TARANAKI SCHOOL 2023 PRIZEGIVING

### SPORTS AWARDS

#### Athletics

Junior Boy Champion  
 Junior Girl Champion  
 Intermediate Boy Champion  
 Intermediate Girl Champion  
 Senior Boy Champion  
 Senior Girl Champion

#### Swimming

Junior Boy Champion  
 Junior Girl Champion  
 Intermediate Girl Champion  
 Yr 9 Boy Champion  
 Yr 9 Girl Champion  
 Yr 10 Girl Champion  
 Senior Boy Champion  
 Senior Girl Champion

#### Basketball

Senior Basketball Sportsmanship Award  
 Senior Most Improved Player  
**Most Outstanding Sportsperson/Team**  
 Callum Taylor Trophy

Hunter Weir  
 Gabriella Grendon  
 Riley Klaassen  
 Amie McMurray  
 Ben Moffitt  
 Te Arika Williams-Clay



Above: Te Kapa o Pouakai.

Joel Becroft  
 Livia Becroft  
 Ava Lind-Mitchell  
 Ben Moffitt  
 Amelie Staunstrup-Moore  
 Mia Wade  
 Ben & Thomas Moffitt  
 Amelie Staunstrup-Moore



Head Students for 2024 . At left, Zak Tunnicliffe-Fougere & at right, Connor Rayner. At centre is 2023 Head student He Tairoa Goodin.

He Tairoa Goodin  
 Zak Fougere

Basketball: Coastal Shakers - Year 7 and 8 Team

### SPECIAL AWARDS

#### Award

Whanau Champions  
 Cheryl Vosper Memorial Award - Service to the Library  
 Kgystern Manual Memorial Award - Enthusiastic Learner Year 1-6  
 Corbett Award – Knowledge & Kindness in Year 6  
 Garry Brophy Cup - Citizens Award Year 1 – 6  
 Gold Cup - Service to Intermediate School  
 Newall School Community Cup - Most Helpful Year 6 Student  
 Carpe Diem Cup  
 Head Student  
 Te Rangi Uenuku - Gaye Taingahue Memorial Award  
 Komene Memorial Award  
 Prime Ministers Vocational Excellence Award  
 Proxime Accessit Cup  
 Dux

Whenua  
 Zara Crispe  
 Marlo Farquhar  
 Florence Moorby  
 Pixie Debreceny  
 Ava Lind-Mitchell  
 Joshua Burmeister & Millah Ripia  
 Fynn Megaw  
 HeTairoa Goodin & Jordan Smith  
 Deakin Phillips-Sinton  
 Teina Pauora  
 Deakin Phillips-Sinton  
 He Tairoa Goodin  
 Zara Crispe



Above: Florence Moorby - Corbett Award with parents Jemma and Matt.

### SUBJECTS AWARDS

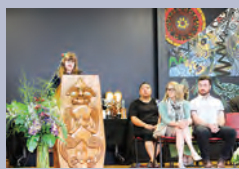
#### Subject

Julian Trophy - Agriculture & Horticulture  
 Gwen Matthews Memorial Music Cup  
 Art Cup Year 9 - 10  
 Segedin Memorial Trophy - Art Year 11 - 13  
 Herbert Smith Trust - English Year 11 - 13  
 English Cup Year 9 - 10  
 Maths Year 9 - 10  
 Physical Education Year 9 - 10  
 Physical Education Year 11 - 13  
 Science Year 9 - 10  
 David Adams Memorial Cup - Science Year 11-13  
 Technology Hard Materials Year 11 - 13  
 FoCTS Trophy - Materials Technology Years 9 - 10  
 JP Art and Frames - Year 5 Speech  
 Butterworth Speech Cup - Year 6 Speech  
 Intermediate Speech Year 7 - 8 Speech  
 English Department Year 9-10 Speech  
 Speech Year 11-13

Thomas Moffitt  
 Soren Grevers-White  
 Mia Wade  
 Zara Crispe  
 Caspian Fowles  
 Danu Fraser  
 Danu Fraser  
 Clyde Hart-Yates  
 Connor Rayner  
 Amelie Staunstrup-Moore  
 Soren Grevers-White  
 Connor Rayner  
 Clyde Hart-Yates / Hayley Sulzberger  
 Livia Becroft  
 Ruby Robinson  
 Sam Rowe  
 Monique Thomson-Simmer  
 Thomas Moffitt



Above: Deakin Phillips-Sinton Prime Ministers Vocational Excellence Award



Above: Principal Stephanie Clifton.



Left: Marlo Farquhar - Kgystern Manual Memorial Award

### YEAR PRIZEGIVING LIST

#### Award

Excellence Year 1  
 Excellence Year 2  
 Excellence Year 3  
 Excellence Year 4  
 Megaw Cup - Excellence Year 5  
 Stewart Cassie Memorial Cup - Excellence Year 6  
 Excellence Year 7  
 Excellence Year 8  
 Top Academic Year 9  
 Top Academic Year 10  
 Top Academic Year 11  
 Top Academic Year 12  
 Yr 12 - Donald Sisters Consistent Effort

Rylee Barry  
 Orla Casserly  
 Charlotte Miles  
 Evelyn Maxwell  
 Gabriella Grendon  
 Jett Wharehoka  
 Ari Wattam  
 Jake Kohalmi  
 Amelie Staunstrup-Moore  
 Danu Fraser  
 Caspian Fowles  
 Soren Grevers-White  
 Connor Rayner



Above: New Entrant Students and Principal Stephanie Clifton.



Above: Zara Crispe - Dux



# A drier December for the south coast

On average December rainfall for Taranaki was 159.1 mm, 3% less than usual, ranging from 60% less rain at Kaupokonui at Glenn Rd, and 61% more than at Waiwhakaiho at Hillsborough, according to Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) figures.

The year's rainfall for 2023 ranged from 12% less rainfall at Omaha at Moana Trig, and 10% more rainfall at Omaru at Charlies, with an average of 2% less than for a typical year. So, on average, sites have received 98% of a typical year's rainfall total.

Mean river flows for December were 30.3% lower than typical values, low flows were 11%

greater, and high flows 27.2% lower than typical values. The maximum river flow recorded in December was 343 m<sup>3</sup>/sec at Waitara at Bertrand Rd.

Mean river (non-mountain) water temperatures were 17.2°C, an average of 0.4°C warmer than long-term December values. Nighttime-low water temperatures were on average 0.5°C warmer than historic lows, and daytime high temperatures were on average 0.5°C warmer than historic highs. The maximum river water temperature recorded in December was 26.6°C at Kapuni at Normanby Rd.

The average December air temperature for the region

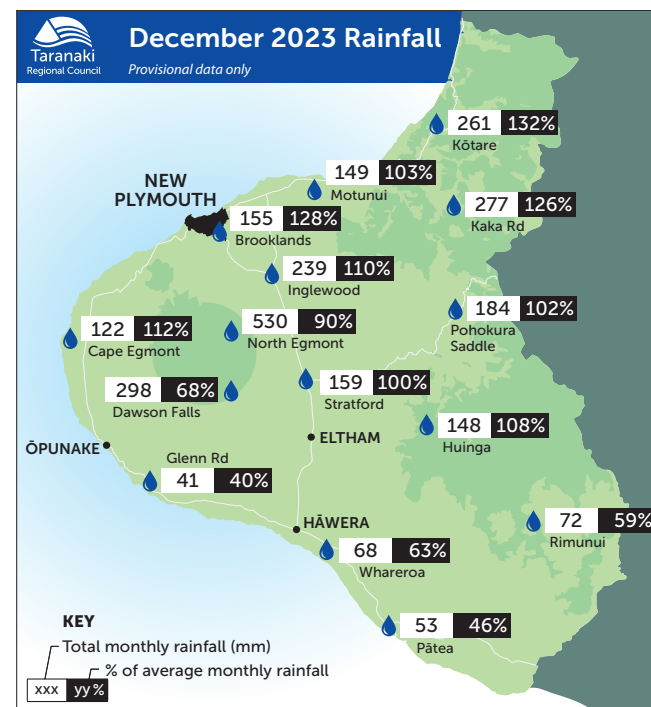
(excluding Te Maunga sites) was 16.6°C, which is 0.4°C warmer than long-term December averages. Low air temperatures for December were on average 0.8°C warmer than the December average for previous years. Day-time high temperatures were on average 0.2°C warmer than historic highs. The maximum air temperature recorded in December was 27.5°C at Inglewood at Oxidation Ponds.

The average soil moisture for December across sites in Taranaki region was 30.3%. Soil moistures were on average 1.4% wetter than typical December values. On average, low soil moistures were 9.1% wetter than

previous lows, and the highs were on average 2.4% drier than previous values for December.

December soil temperatures were generally 0.2°C cooler than long-term averages. Average nighttime low soil temperatures were 0.1°C warmer than recorded lows, and upper day-time soil temperatures were on average 0.6°C cooler than long-term December highs. The maximum soil temperature recorded in December was 28.1°C at Waitotara at Rimunui Station.

December average wind speeds were 15.8 km/hr, with average gust strength of 42.9 km/hr, these were 0.5 km/hr lighter, and 0.4 km/hr weaker than the long-term average. Average calm weather wind speeds were 0.4 km/hr lighter than recorded lows, and windy



conditions were on average 0.9 km/hr lighter than long-term December highs. The maximum wind gust recorded in December was 85.3 km/hr at Waiwhakaiho at Hillsborough.

## On-farm actions helping improve water quality

Scientific data highlights the success of dairy farmer and wider sector efforts to improve surface water quality across five New Zealand catchments.

As part of an Our Land and Water study to analyse historical data, DairyNZ's water quality science team, in collaboration with AgResearch and Lincoln University, has revisited dairy farms in the Waiokura (South Taranaki), Toenepi (Waikato), Waikakahi (Canterbury), Bog Burn (Southland) and Inchbonnie (West Coast) catchments to assess whether on-farm actions have helped improve water quality over time.

The five catchments are dairy farming areas that were part of the 2001-2010 Best Practice Dairy Catchments project, which monitored water quality and environmental work on-farm. Monitoring of water quality and changes to farm practices continued from 2011-2020, as part of national long-term data collection.

Researchers found that, over the 20-year monitoring period, including post-extension, 70 percent of in-stream water quality trend directions were improving or showed no change. The median levels of most contaminants in water have also decreased, due to farmers implementing good management practices (GMPs) such as improved effluent management and stock exclusion.

The study found in-stream concentrations of phosphorus and suspended sediment decreased the most in response to on-farm work.

Overall, the research shows the implementation of GMPs on-farm does improve water quality.

DairyNZ general manager sustainable dairy Dr David Burger says the analysis shows the good outcomes

achieved by improving management practices on dairy farms. "The mitigation options dairy farmers can take to reduce footprint are widely known, but analysis of the positive impacts of these over time is less available. So it's good to see this dataset showing extension efforts to help farmers improve their management practices have led to water quality improvement."

Research lead and Our Land and Water National Science Challenge chief scientist Professor Rich McDowell says the findings are positive but also show continued action is needed in key catchments to maintain the momentum.

"While many trends were improving or showed no change over the 20-year period, we know nitrogen levels increased in many catchments due to development on other dairy farms over the same period. This means there is still more to do in some areas to lower nitrogen and E.coli concentrations. In some catchments, more than good management practice may be required, such as land-use change, to meet water quality expectations."

Farm environment plans identify actions to improve water quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase biodiversity,

*Continued page 17.*

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# A labour of love for Taranaki farmer

Donna Cram always wanted to be a dairy farmer. She became an accountant because she likes numbers, but she grew up on a farm and says even during her training years she never gave up on the dream. "I love being outside, being down on the farm, and having the time to be with animals."

She and her husband Philip have farmed in Awatuna, South Taranaki for 28 years and have owned their current farm for 23 of those, since they bought the original block and later purchased half of Donna's parents' farm. They're committed to improving the environment and were recognised for this in 2016, winning the Fonterra Environmental Leadership in Dairy Farming award for the Taranaki region. Donna and Philip were also one of three finalists for the 2021 Fonterra Responsible Dairy Award, and Donna was 2023's Fonterra Dairy Woman of the year.

Maintaining a viable farm business means looking at every aspect of it, Donna says. "We're doing quite a lot of different things. We're looking at greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures through efficiencies all the time. We've reduced our GHG intensity by 14 percent. But it's not just about the environment and we can't look at just GHGs on their own.

"We've got to look at everything, including environment, biosecurity and animal shade and shelter. We need to be economically sustainable if you're going



Farmers Philip and Donna Cram.

to carry out environmental work. That's all about people, profit and planning. I'm really passionate about financial literacy."

Donna and Philip have worked with DairyNZ, the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA) and Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) over the past couple of years to construct a wetland on their Awatuna farm. Wetlands can significantly reduce nutrient and sediment losses on farms and improve water quality. They also boost biodiversity and can provide habitat for birds and fish.

This project was a labour of love for Donna, who's

on the National Advisory Committee for Dairy Environment Leaders. She helps drive positive change and leads by example in reducing environmental footprint. She's passionate about helping communities and other farmers build a more environmental, economic and socially sustainable future.

"This is a whole new part of farming, the environmental side, and thinking at a catchment level rather than just our own farms," Donna says. "This catchment approach will be essential as the new freshwater reforms come to life, with regional councils having to

notify freshwater plans by December 2024."

Donna and Philip feel as though they have a good handle on the legislative changes ahead, but she says many farmers in Taranaki don't feel the same. "That's why Taranaki Catchment Communities was set up, to try and help people through change," she says.

Donna and Philip have one full-time team member – their assistant manager, Jacinta Kete. Jacinta is 23 and in her third full-time season of milking. She's the vice-chair of Taranaki-Manawatu Young Farmers and was the 2023 Taranaki Dairy Industry Awards

trainee of the year. Donna and Philip are very proud of her achievements.

"I'm passionate about helping people through the industry," Donna says. "We're trying to make a lifestyle for her as well, and we want her to love what she does. Farming is such an exciting industry to be part of."

Donna knows first-hand the value of training. She's just completed the Introduction to New Zealand's Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Management course at Massey University and has been accepted for the Fonterra Governance Programme in 2024. She's

also a graduate of the Agri-Women's Development Trust (AWDT) Escalator programme, which is designed to give women the mindsets, skills and connections to create change in agriculture and rural communities.

"I believe in lifelong learning," she says.

Being a Dairy Environment Leader (DEL) has been part of Donna's learning journey. She attends an annual national DEL forum in Wellington, which enables the about-400 DELs around New Zealand to connect, support each other and share successes and advice. This has been the highlight of Donna's time as a DEL.

"I really enjoy it. There are lots of like-minded people. You develop good contacts, and you need that support. I wouldn't have had the confidence to do any of what we've done (on-farm) if it wasn't for DEL and AWDT. I also couldn't do everything I do if Philip wasn't so supportive."

In addition to her DEL and study commitments, Donna has been a Taranaki regional councillor for about a year and is a Dairy Trust Taranaki trustee.

All the work she and Philip are doing on-farm means the business is constantly evolving. She says the hard work is worth it to ensure the farm is sustainable for future generations. "We want to do everything we can to get things right. Having good advisors around us makes all the difference."

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# Festive cheer from the farm

Taranaki Catchment Communities (TCC) ran their annual Christmas Art competition at the end of last year for the third year with the aim to bring festive cheer to Taranaki's rural communities.

TCC was formed to support farmers by being a farmer lead with the aim to lead, engage and mobilise Taranaki's rural sector to ensure a more environmental, economic and socially sustainable

future. The competition theme was broad with a summer, Christmas or festive theme and anyone in the rural area was encouraged to enter regardless of no matter what your artistic ability. There

were prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and most sustainable, as well as many spot prizes. The judge's job in selecting the winners every year is not any easy task as all entries are unique and lots of work goes into creating them.

We will be running it again at the end of the year so we encourage the rural community to get behind and enter their creations as it does bring festive cheer to the rural community. People look forward to seeing

the creations and do drive around to look. The creators often even get people stopping to take photos or give a hoot of the horn.  
*Taranaki Catchment Communities*



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## On-farm actions helping improve water quality

Continued from page 15.

and are tailored to individual farms. Nationwide, 77 percent of dairy farms have farm environment plans – which identify environmental risks on individual farms and address them through good farming practices, while 55 percent have greenhouse gas farm plans.

All farmers are required to have a farm environment plan by 2025 and are progressing towards this goal. Much of this work has happened well ahead of regulations. However, the sector acknowledges there is still work to be done.

“The dairy sector is committed to sustainable dairying and farming within

environmental limits,” Dr Burger says. “Through the Dairy Tomorrow Strategy and other work, DairyNZ, dairy companies, sector partners and research organisations are reinforcing

the value of GMPs and supporting farmers as they continue to improve their systems to achieve environmental outcomes.”

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# New Champion Crowned at Stockcar Championship

Photos. Matt Julian at Contact High Photography.

Nearly two hundred Stockcars from all over New Zealand, as far north as Auckland and south to Christchurch and Cromwell, converged on MG Taranaki Stratford speedway for the running of the Five Star Liquor New Zealand Championship, swamping Stratford and the wider Taranaki region with drivers, crews, families and fans of the sport.

The quantity of competitors created somewhat of a logistical problem for organisers with having to fit them all into the venue but the 'can do attitude' of the Taranaki Stockcar Club along with weeks of planning and putting structure in place saw minimal issues and an exciting two days of racing unfold with a carnival-like atmosphere for the entire weekend.

Racing was tough for the drivers. They needed to be at the peak of their performance from the very start of the event if they were to make it into the final thirty to race for the Championship. The drivers were seeded into eight qualifying groups of twenty five cars with only three



**New Zealand Stockcar Championship podium (L to R) 3rd Cody Lockett. 2nd Logan Peat. 1st Kyle Rowe.**

from each group progressing to the finals and then a further six moving through from two repechages on Saturday. One mistake, one poor finish or a flat tyre and the chance of qualifying was practically gone!

After a mammoth twenty four races on Friday night the first twenty four qualifiers were found and interestingly none of the three defending podium holders made the cut. Taranaki's own New Zealand Champion Josh Walsh suffered an injury in his first qualifying race while 2nz Scott Tennant and 3nz Gary Lonergan just had bad results.

The repechages on Saturday were a brutal affair with drivers keen to use the last opportunity to make the

cut and move through to the finals. Repechage one saw Stratford drivers Mark Duthie and Dale Michielsen move through to the finals along with Gisborne racer Bryce Simpson. There was a massive push off the start in repechage two that had cars pointing in all directions on the track and up the wall. After the carnage was cleared and the race resumed, Whanganui driver Callum Sturzaker was the first driver to the flag to win the race and move through along with Stratford drivers Bryce Jensen and Jayke McGrath.

With the thirty finalists now found, the racing for the New Zealand Championship could begin and with none of the defending champions

having made it through either qualifying or the repechages, it was guaranteed that there would be a brand-new podium.

Heat one saw popular Christchurch racer Harley Robb take the win from a grid one start ahead of Auckland driver Logan Peat and Palmerston North Driver William Humphries. Heat two was won by Stratford competitor Tyler Walker from Sheldon Arapere (Wellington) and Kyle Rowe (Palmerston North). Heat three saw Whanganui's Cody Lockett take the win from Callum Sturzaker (Whanganui) and Kyle Rowe.

On the points front, it was all tied up at the top with Kyle Rowe and Logan Peat first equal. Rowe had made

up good ground in the first heat for an excellent start to his championship bid, moving seventeen places forward to finish fifth from grid twenty two. He then followed that up with the two third places while Peat had scored well in heat one from a front row start and then moved through the field twelve positions in heat two and a huge twenty four positions in heat three, admittedly helped though by the fact that a couple of cars did not start the race and other drivers taking pot shots at each other!

A four lap run off was required to decide the winner. Logan Peat won the coin toss but elected to start from the outside grid. When the green flag dropped to start the race, Peat immediately

pushed Rowe to the infield and held him there. Rowe eventually hooked reverse at which point Peat drove away. After a couple of laps the 'reds' were activated by officials to remove Peat from the track for a breach of the rules (a competitor may not stop during a run off), which made Rowe the winner of the Five Star Liquor Championship. Peat was second and Whanganui racer Cody Lockett who had raced superbly all weekend was a well-deserved third place.

Rowe had been preparing for this event for weeks, testing setups and making sure his twenty year old car was in top condition and he absolutely earned and deserved the title win.

The remainder of competitors raced in the King of the Mountain Champs (Tier two), Tier three and consolation races. Palmerston North competitor Taylor Lampp won the Signright King of the Mountain Stockcar Champs ahead of Scott Tennant and Blake Brooks (both Auckland) while the John Matthews Tier three was won by Whanganui's Kaelin Mooney from Ben Wilson (Stratford) and Troy Cleveland (Christchurch).



Josh Walsh arrived by helicopter to deliver the New Zealand Championship trophy on Saturday night.

Jarrod MacBeth



Racing was fast and furious over both nights.

**NEXT EVENT**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 26TH**  
Mowtika Lawns & Maintenance NZ Streetstock Grand Prix Qualifying  
Minisprint King of the Mountain Champs + OST  
Plus Modifieds & Youth Ministocks

**SATURDAY JANUARY 27TH**  
Mowtika Lawns & Maintenance NZ Streetstock Grand Prix Finals  
Dairymaster West Coast Stockcar Teams Champs  
Plus Superstocks

**MOWTIKA DAIRYMASTER**  
LAWNS & MAINTENANCE

**2023/2024**  
New Zealand **STREETSTOCK GRAND PRIX**  
26/27 January 2024

**Two great nights out for the whole family!**

Gates Open - 4:30pm  
Racing Starts - 6:30pm

Adult \$25, Child \$10 (14 & Under)  
Family \$55 (2 Adults & up to 4 Children)  
Student/Pensioner \$18 (Must Present ID)  
Under 5's Free, Car Parking \$2 (Sat Only)

Please visit our website or find us on Facebook to find more information on each race meeting, what's coming up each week and to see online ticketing options.

[www.stratford-speedway.co.nz](http://www.stratford-speedway.co.nz)

Proudly sponsored by **MG TARANAKI**

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JAMES ST, INGLEWOOD PHONE: 0800 245 535  
[www.valuebuilding.co.nz](http://www.valuebuilding.co.nz)



# Coastal Adult Riding Club host North Island event

# Stratford Speedway putting Stratford on the Map



**Glenda Schumacher on Deigo, riding in the Gamblers' Stakes.**  
Photo credit - Linda Huitson

The Coastal Adult Riding Club recently hosted the North Island Teams' Event (known as N.I.T.E.), a competition, which is run annually for adult riders from areas all over the North Island. This year, there were eight teams, with horses and riders coming from Kapiti, Ruapehu, and North Taranaki and three local teams, mostly from the Stratford area but known as the Coastal Adult Riding Club. It was run over two days from 6 - 7 January at Stratford, but visitors and their supporters arrived and set up camp at the Stratford Show Grounds from Friday 5 January. The teams and visitors were most appreciative of the Stratford A&P's well-presented venue and facilities.

four competitors from a team of up to six riders. Saturday started with the Riding Club Mount and involved a thorough inspection of each horse and rider, followed by an obstacle course. This had three compulsory elements, opening and closing a gate, trotting poles and a canter figure of eight, plus up to whatever other tricky tests the course designer can dream up. The course was timed and points were awarded for completing each obstacle.

In the afternoon, there were the ridden Quadrilles. Each team chose a musical theme and designed an arena pattern and a costume to match and the winning team had a "Lion King" theme, with their horses dressed as the Giraffe, the Warthog, the Zebra and a very impressive

Lion. Later there were Mounted Games which can become quite fast and furious. The points from these first three phases were carried forward to the next day and there was a lot of friendly rivalry. The whole idea was to have fun and enjoy the comradeship. Overnight, one of the Coastal Club's teams, was leading on points and was going to be hard to catch.

In the evening a dinner was held, with a quiz and a raffle and spot prizes, providing a chance for the teams to get together and socialise.

On Sunday, there was a Showjumping competition, known as the Gambler's Stakes, where only the gamest of competitors attempt the extra obstacle, called The Joker. Finally, the competition concluded with Team Formation jumping and it was quite impressive to watch four horses taking the obstacles, four abreast. The two Kapiti teams both excelled at this but were not able to beat the overall points of the Coastal Adult Riding Club team, which emerged the winner of the two day competition.

Maureen Drylie  
Publicity Officer

Running the Five Star Liquor New Zealand Stockcar Championship at Stratford Speedway was no mean feat and required a huge amount of volunteer work behind the scenes to run. The Taranaki Stockcar Club was proud to have the opportunity to run this event and to bring it to Taranaki, to provide the opportunity for our local drivers to showcase their skills and to bring visitors in the form of drivers, crews, families, supporters and fans to the Stratford township and to Taranaki as a whole.

The motels were full with race cars, there were people everywhere wearing team and speedway shirts and there was a true buzz in the air throughout the township.

Taranaki Stockcar Club President Kim Sharpe led the charge on the organising of this event that started well before racing even began for the current season, starting with sponsorship, then entry forms, track upgrades such as pit lighting, extra seating, upgraded seating in the grandstand and so on before culminating in very long

days of logistical planning and configuring in the weeks and days leading up to the event start.

Stratford Speedway is very fortunate to have an excellent pool of volunteers and staff who were able to come together as a single team unit and deliver an event that ran smoothly and provided a good show, from the pre racing activities of the fan zone right through to the drop of the last chequered flag on Saturday night.

Kim said: "I cannot thank everyone involved enough for all their hard work, time and effort put in to make this event what it was. Our committee, sub-committee, staff and volunteers you are all true legends, and we cannot run our club without you. There is never enough thanks or appreciation shown to you all, but you are the glue that makes everything stick.

The track staff who were still on sight prepping the track at 3am Saturday morning thank you.

There are so many individual people who need thanking, but to be honest

everyone played their part, and I am so proud of what we managed to produce over the two days.

To all the drivers from near and far and wide, thank you so much for entering the New Zealand Stockcar event, this would have been nothing without you all. Thanks to your crew and family for keeping you all on the track.

To all our sponsors we are so lucky to have so many fantastic businesses backing us and to our spectators thank you for making the trip to the track, there is no point doing the hard work if no one comes to watch the show and we certainly had good numbers on both nights.

As the President of the Taranaki Stock Car Club Inc (Stratford Speedway) I couldn't be prouder of what we all put together over the last two days and what our club is today. I am so humbled by all the support people have shown me, but I am only steering the ship with a whole bunch of amazing people around me."

Jarrold MacBeth

*Skin*  
ON FORTY-FIVE

**Book a FREE Spot Check Now.**



**Are you concerned if a mole is 'just a mole' or whether it's something more sinister?**

Book in for a FREE Spot Check with us and we can examine the area of concern and if you need treatment we can discuss these options with you.

- SCCA Accredited Skin Cancer Clinic
- Taranaki's only MoleMap provider
- Integrated with experienced Doctors to ensure all your skin concerns are addressed not just your skin cancer concerns.
- Southern Cross Affiliated Provider
- NIB First Choice Provider
- Integrated with Cosmetic and Aesthetic services for optimal management of all your skin concerns.

**Book a FREE Blepharoplasty Suitability Assessment Now.**



**Is saggy skin above your eyes causing you to appear tired or impacting your vision?**

Blepharoplasty is a surgical procedure that removes excess skin from the upper and or lower eyelids with the effect of improving vision and addressing the appearance of ageing and tiredness.

Precision Blepharoplasty provides an effective and safe solution to this condition with minimal downtime and great long term outcomes.

The procedure is performed under local anaesthetic with procedural sedation and takes about 120 minutes from your arrival in the clinic to having you heading home.

Surgical Blepharoplasty generally has effects that last for 10-12 years before the natural ageing process continues its inevitable work.

*\*\*Some insurance providers will cover Blepharoplasty for significant visual impairment.*

**Book a FREE Varicose Vein Assessment Now.**

**Get your Veins sorted with Taranaki's Gold-standard non-surgical RFA team, with minimal or no time required off work and guaranteed results.**

We have a wide range of treatment modalities at our disposal designed to provide the best service for each case.

**Radio Frequency Ablation (RFA)** – recognised as the gold standard treatment for Varicose Veins giving the best outcomes with the fastest recovery and resolution of your veins. Surgery is no longer needed for the treatment of Varicose Veins.

**Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy (UGS)** – always used in conjunction with RFA for the smaller and tortuous veins. It is also used to treat the cases where RFA can't be used due to the complex nature of some people's veins.

**Microsclerotherapy (UGS)** – is available for reticular and spider veins for great cosmetic results.

**Nd:Yag Laser Sclerotherapy** – For the non-invasive treatment of small spider veins and facial telangiectasia.

*\*We offer private payment plans and provide insurance accredited services for all the main providers.*



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TARANAKI  
OWNED &  
OPERATED



# The talking walkers

Most of you probably know who we are when you see us all pounding the streets of Opunake in southerly winds, with dark threatening thunder and rain clouds, and sometimes on a beautiful

sunny Taranaki day.


We are the Opunake Walking Group, the talking walkers, who meet every Tuesday at 10am at the Club Hotel corner. We meet to walk for mental and physical

wellness. We walk for good health and happiness.

Although predominately a female group at the moment we welcome the male variety as well, and if you join us you will be made very



Beach towels for local schools. A Christmas project from the Opunake Walking Group.



**Opunakē High School**  
Te Kura Tuarua o Opunakē

## BACK

## TO SCHOOL

### COMMENCEMENT DATES & INFORMATION

**ENROLMENT FOR 2024**  
Open online

**THUR. 25 JANUARY**  
Office Open

**TUES./WED. 30/31 JANUARY**  
Teachers Only Days

**THURS./FRI 1/2 FEBRUARY**  
Deans available for course confirmation  
Thurs: Prefect Orientation  
Fri. Year 13 Peer Support Planning

**MON. 5 FEBRUARY**  
*WELCOME POWHIRI*  
9am Year 9s and other new students/staff to assemble in front car park  
Year 13's in Common Room  
9.30am *WELCOME POWHIRI* Commences  
(All students and community welcome to attend,  
NO formal activities for Year 10-12 after powhiri)  
\* Students to attend in correct school uniform  
Year 9 & 13 Peer Support & Orientation follows Powhiri  
Year 9's will have an opportunity to change to mufti.

**WED. 7 FEBRUARY**  
9am DREAMS & Celebration IWI for all students  
Correct school uniform  
Regular timetabled classes commencing after Lunch 1.

welcome and well looked after. We have a total of 36 members at the moment.

No flash gear is needed, just a pair of sturdy walking shoes. There are no meetings, no fees, no phone calls

The only commitment is your own commitment to turn up and the incentive a coffee at the end and some good social time.

We usually walk for 1 hour 20 minutes, which works out about 6.5—7 kms. Once a month we walk out of town.

We are a tough rural group who are committed to watching out for one another and to support our community. so as a charity project for Christmas again this year we have given all the local schools beach towels as special gifts for special children.

As no cafe is large enough to accommodate us you will see and hear us, out the front at the tables on the footpath enjoying some social time over a well earned coffee.

*Margaret Mullin*

## OPUNAKE OUTDOORS & SERVICE

**OPUNAKE BOAT & UNDERWATER CLUB OPEN TOURNAMENT**



Equipment available instore

Coming soon - Gazebos and Sun Umbrellas

Chainsaw sharpening | Lawnmower servicing  
Fishing gear and bait | 50% off all Black Magic products

Ph 021 306 668

## OPUNAKE BOAT & UNDERWATER CLUB



**LUCKY SNAPPER**  
**\$1000**

**EARLY BIRD**  
**\$1000**



**LARGEST SNAPPER**  
**\$1000**

FISHING TOURNAMENT  
27 JAN - 11 FEB

Eleven Fishing Species Sections. Early Bird & Lucky Snapper Draws of \$1000 each at prize-giving on 11th February at 7pm at Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Event Centre. Over \$20K in cash prizes. Open to Surfcasters, Kayaks and Boats.

All craft must launch and retrieve from Middleton Bay, Opunake only. Competition Rules are on the official entry form. Entry - \$60 per angler, Under 12 years free entry.

Tickets available at Opunake Outdoor & Service or at final Early Bird registration night at Middleton Bay Clubrooms on Friday 26th January. Early Bird entry tickets close at 8pm.

Four Raffle Draws for Rod/Reel Combos (from a choice of eight sets total \$4500 in value) \$10 ticket. Please see our Facebook page for more details.




VIV SCOTT & TARA GIBSON

PROUD TO SPONSOR THE OBUC FISHING TOURNAMENT







Denis Wheeler  
EARTHMOVING

## TARANAKI CUP DAY

## SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

First Race 12.40pm  
General Admission \$10

www.newplymouthraceway.co.nz





The Opunake District Foodbank wishes to thank the community for the many donations of food, money and gifts that were so generously given this year towards our Christmas Parcels. We chose not to have the Christmas Foodbank run due to the economic climate but it was heartening to see all the donations from those who could. We hope to be able to implement the Christmas Food run again this Christmas so keep your eyes and ears open towards the end of the year.

The Christmas drive was very successful, and we were able to deliver lovely food parcels with all the staples and some Christmas goodies to 36 families, all recipients were extremely grateful.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals (most who wish to remain anonymous) and organisations who assisted throughout 2023; Rahotu Store, Opunake 4 Square, Opunake & Coastal News, Opunake Primary, St Josephs Opunake, St Pauls Church, The Wave Church, St Barnabas Church, Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Meat the Need and On the House Charitable Trust. In 2023 we supplied the most we ever have at 361 parcels, this is 3 times more than normal years and a testament of how hard it is for everyone out there in this economic downturn.

So Thank you Opunake for helping us to help our community.



## NZ FARMERS LIVESTOCK

### WANTED TO BUY

Dairy Herds and Dairy Heifers for the coming season

Contact:  
Bryan Goodin - 027 531 8511  
Sheldon Keech - 027 222 7920

## CHEESE BAR ELTHAM



Crazy cheese deals with a great selection of –

- Brie & Camembert • Haloumi, Havarti and Goudas
- Blues • Cheddars, Cheddar offcuts and more!

Find us down the ONE-WAY street at 1 Bridge St, Eltham  
We are open Mon - Fri 9am to 4pm

## OPUNAKE PLAYERS



Auditions

Jan 31  
Feb 1  
7pm  
Opunake  
Playhouse

clue  
Hysterical Farce Meets  
Murder-Mystery

Proposed date of show is early May.  
12-14 people needed both onstage and off.

Contact Lynelle Kuriger for more information on 0273378899

Some of the regular services:

**TAYLOR DENTAL PRACTICE**

Every Thursday and 2nd Friday

**LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY**

Every Wednesday

**ACTIVE + PHYSIOTHERAPY**

Every Monday and Thursday

**NZ POST**

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm

**COASTAL PRINTERS**

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm

**TARANAKI CHIROPRACTIC**

Every Wednesday

**COUNSELLORS**

Gwenyth Richards 06 278 6399

Alex Jones 021 0816 3248

Manuka Matthews 027 239 5896

Steph Vaitupu 021 090 79597

Robert Shaw: robertnz@mail.com

**MATTHEWS OPTOMETRISTS**

Twice monthly on a Thursday

**TARANAKI PODIATRY**

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month

**BUDGET ADVICE**

Wednesday fortnightly

**HIP**

Every Tuesday

**DID YOU KNOW?**

CoastalCare offers for hire private, well-appointed room's for meetings, training opportunities and social gatherings.



### 2024 SERVICES UPDATE

Permanently residing in the building are:

NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY

SERVICES, NZ POST,

OPUNAKE PHARMACY,

OPUNAKE MEDICAL CENTRE,

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE, PLUNKET,

TDHB SERVICES, COASTAL PRINTERS, FOODBANK



For a full list of services & happenings here

Find us on Facebook

or visit us at [www.coastalcare.co.nz](http://www.coastalcare.co.nz)

CONTACT ARETHA LEMON  
Facility Manager on 06 761 8488

## EVERYBODY'S THEATRE OPUNAKE

72 Tasman Street, Opunake | [www.everybodystheatre.co.nz](http://www.everybodystheatre.co.nz)

### The Jungle Bunch World Tour

1hr 29mins | PG Thu 25 Jan 1PM | Sun 28 Jan 1PM

### Mean Girls

1hr 52mins | M Fri 26 Jan 7PM | Sat 03 Feb 7PM

### Ferrari

2hr 10mins | R16 Sun 28 Jan 7PM | Thu 01 Feb 7PM

### Argylle

2hr 15mins | TBC Sun 04 Feb 1PM | Sun 04 Feb 7PM

### The Beekeeper

1hr 41mins | R16 Thu 08 Feb 7PM

### The Holdovers

2hr 13mins | M Thu 25 Jan 7PM | Sat 27 Jan 7PM

### Wish

1hr 35mins | PG Sat 27 Jan 1PM

### Priscilla

1hr 53mins | M Fri 02 Feb 7PM | Tue 06 Feb 1PM

### The Canterbury Ghost

1hr 29mins | PG Tue 06 Feb 10AM



### The Jungle Bunch World Tour

Violence, coarse language, some scenes may scare very young children | 1hr 29mins | Rated: PG  
Thu 25 Jan 1PM



### The Holdovers

Offensive language | 2hr 13mins | Rated: M  
Thu 25 Jan 7PM

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is on the 8th of February. Contact us on 06 761 7016 to be part of it.



**TARANAKI IRISH SOCIAL CLUB INC EVENTS**

**Sarah Rowe International Speaker:**  
29th January, 7pm. Plymouth International Hotel, NP.

**2024 Taranaki Rose Selection:**  
17th February - 7pm. Plymouth International Hotel, NP.  
Live Band - Supper - Cash Bar. Tickets at hotel reception.

*Entries for the NZ Rose selection are now open for young women aged 18-29 with Irish heritage.*  
[www.roseoftralee.ie/apply-to-be-a-rose](http://www.roseoftralee.ie/apply-to-be-a-rose)  
Enquiries ph 027 330 8510

# Top Irish sportswoman to speak in New Plymouth

Sarah Rowe from Ballina in County Mayo, Ireland is a triple code sportswoman and a sought after speaker. She is touring New Zealand and will be speaking at a

function organised by the Taranaki Irish Social Club at the Plymouth Hotel in New Plymouth on January 29.

She is a former Republic of Ireland Women's Association Football international at Under-15, Under-17, Under-19 and Senior Level.

She has played two other codes at senior level, Ladies Gaelic Football for Mayo Ladies and AFLW for Collingwood. At club level she played for Castlecliff Celtic, Raheny United, Shelbourne and Bohemians in the Women's National League and Melbourne Victory in the A-League.

Sarah was a member of the U-19 Republic of Ireland team that won their group in the 2014 UEFA Women's U19 Championships and qualified for the semi-finals.

In 2016 Sarah was a member of the Shelbourne Ladies team that won a Women's National League/FAI Women's Cup double. In 2023 she briefly returned to Association Football playing for Melbourne Victory and Bohemians.

She has been active in the community as ambassador for a number of groups and causes.



Sarah Rowe.

# Wai Warrior Residential water restrictions are here

The use of sprinklers, irrigation systems and unattended hoses is banned until 31 March. Hand-held hoses may be used on the odds and evens system.

be a **Wai Warrior**



Don't waste our water.

Visit [npdc.govt.nz/WaiWarrior](http://npdc.govt.nz/WaiWarrior)



## Summer Flower Show

Saturday February 3, 12pm to 4pm  
Sunday February 4, 10am to 3pm

Hawera Community Centre,  
Albion Street

Displays with goods for sale ..  
plants, seeds, seedlings, crafts.

Refreshments available  
Admission \$3 - Children free  
Society Sales Table

Entries & Enquiries  
Ph Heather  
06 754 7966 or  
021 046 4401



## EXPERIENCE THE Summer

### Summer of Harness



### HAWERA HARNESS RACE MEETING 2 & 4 FEBRUARY

**PACK THE BBQ/PICNIC AND JOIN US FOR AN ACTION PACKED DAYS OF HARNESS RACING!**

**4 FEBRUARY - KIDS GO RACING**  
Kids Go Racing packs  
Mr Whippy  
Train and cars  
Egg and Spoon races, sack races  
Kidz Kartz

**First Race Noon**

Visit [harnesslife.nz](http://harnesslife.nz)

Hawera Harness Racing Club



# OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

## Publication Dates for 2024

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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**DEADLINES:**

EDITORIAL - 5pm Thursday prior to publication.  
 DISPLAY ADVERTS - 5pm Friday prior to publication.  
 CLASSIFIEDS - 3pm Monday prior to publication.

Adverts and readers' contributions may be phoned, emailed, posted or dropped into the Opunake & Coastal News at 23 Napier St, PO Box 74, Opunake.  
 Phone (06) 761-7016 or a/h (06) 761-8206, Email: [ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz](mailto:ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz)  
[www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz](http://www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz)  
 Phone/Fax (06) 761-7016



**PROPERTIES FOR SALE**



**Prime Coastal Taranaki Dairy Farm**

- 266 Pungarehu Road, Pungarehu
- 192ha of fertile land in four titles
  - Currently milking approximately 490 cows, with production an average of 174,790kgMS over the last 3 years
  - Very good H-shaped race system and excellent water supply
  - Effluent system 8 year's old, permit until 2037 for up to 600 cows
  - Travelling irrigator, spraying to 40ha
  - 36 ASHB cowshed, several calf rearing/storage and implement sheds
  - Four homes on farm; main being a 3-bedroom + office, swimming pool
  - Vendors will consider a number of purchasing options from buyers

**For Sale**

By Negotiation

**Viewing**

By Appointment Only



**Blair Burnett**  
021 190 7728

**TRADES & SERVICES**

**Contact Toby Watt - 027 4598 020**

**HAWERA BUDGET** Advisory Service. Wed 9am to 12pm. Coastal Care, Opunake by appointment. Starting Feb 8th 2023 and fortnightly thereafter. Contact us by phone: 0800 333 048 (free from mobile). Facebook page: Hawera Budget Advisory Service. Email: info@hawerabudget.co.nz

**HCL BUILDERS** for building decks. Ph 027 459 8020.

**HCL BUILDERS** for concrete work. Ph 027 459 8020.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**Opunake Players**  
**AGM**  
Tuesday February 22  
7pm at  
**The Lakeside Playhouse**  
17 Layard St  
Contact Lynelle  
027 337 8899

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

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

**CHURCH NOTICES**



*Church Services - Manaia, Kaponga, Opunake, Pungarehu, Okata, Oakura*

**eieio rural**  
TRUSTED IN TARANAKI SINCE 1912

**McDonald REAL ESTATE**  
MIRENZ LICENSED REAA 2008 LIMITED

**TRADES & SERVICES**

**What's On Listings**

**WORK WANTED**

**ADULT FEMALE** looking for paid work. I have experience in gardening, cleaning, working with horses and other animals, house sitting, dish washer. I do 2 x volunteer jobs each week. Contact me on 027 650 9226.



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Email - office@ethernetnetworks.co.nz

**WANTED TO BUY**

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

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

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**Okato Co-operating Parish**  
Okato - St. Paul's - Sunday Service every 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 10.00am  
Oakura - St. James - Sunday Service every 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 10.00am  
Mid-week open church - Okato - St. Paul's - Pew for You, every 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4.30pm-6.00pm

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**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)

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**St Patricks Catholic Church, Kaponga**  
2nd, 4th and 5th Saturdays of the month Mass at 6pm. However during winter the time will be 5pm i.e. Saturday 10th June, 24th June and 8th July. After this date the time will revert back to 6pm.  
1st and 3rd Sundays of the month Liturgy of the Word with Communion at 8.45am.  
Thursday Mass 9.30am (subject to change).

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

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

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**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

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

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**St John's Community Church. Kaponga**  
Cnr West and Egmont Streets.  
Sunday Services 10.30am followed by morning tea

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**Manaia Union Fellowship**  
Terou St. Manaia.  
Meet 10am every 3rd Sunday of the month with communion

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**Friend & Fellowship Group**  
Thursdays @ Manaia  
Support our Faith and support each other with Prayer and Bible study  
Encouraging interactive discussion and Praise  
All are welcome  
We would love it if you could come  
Rodney & Val 274 8550 or 0272384187

**ONGOING**

**Movies at Everybodys Theatre in Opunake:**

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

**MONDAYS: The Barnabas Centre - St Barnabas Church Hall, 141 Tasman**

**Street Opunake:** Each Monday 10 am - 12:30 pm. Information call Jenny 7618080 or Glenys 6558025

**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.

**Pungarehu Golf Club Twilight:** Tee-off between 4.30 & 6.30pm.

**WEDNESDAYS**

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

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

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

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

**Okato Market:** In Hempton Hall, Okato 4pm to 5.30pm.

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

**THURSDAYS**

**Egmont Euchre Club:** Every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club. Inquiries, 06 761 8277 or 06 761 8337

**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.

**AT THE CLUB HOTEL THIS WEEK:**

**Monday:** Pizza - 2 for \$20; **Tuesday:** Order online for 30% off; **Wednesday:** Pizza night- 2 for \$20;

**Thursday:** Pensioners Lunch, \$15, Steak Night for \$20; **Friday;** Pensioners Lunch, \$15, Fish & Chips \$20. **Saturday:** Chicken Schnitzel \$20. Club Hotel Pairs Cup; **Sunday:** Roast Night with complimentary dessert for dine-in customers.

**JANUARY 26 & 27**

**Stratford Speedway:** At Stratford Speedway, Stratford. See advert in Sports section for more details.

**JANUARY 27 TO FEBRUARY 11**

**Opunake Boat & Underwater Club Fishing Tournament:** See advert for details.

**JANUARY 29**

**Sarah Rowe, International Speaker:** At the Plymouth International Hotel, 7pm.

**FEBRUARY 2 & 4**

**Hawera Harness Racing:** At Hawera Racecourse

**FEBRUARY 3**

**Taranaki Cup Day:** Horse Racing at the New Plymouth Raceway.

**FEBRUARY 3 & 4**

**Summer Flower Show:** Hawera Community Centre, Albion Street.

**FEBRUARY 17**

**2024 Taranaki Rose Seccion:** At the Plymouth International Hotel, 7pm.

**FEBRUARY 28**

**Fight Club Online with Barbwire Boxing:** See ad in this issue for details

**MARCH 2**

**Matchbox 20 with Goo Goo Dolls:** Bowl of Brooklands, New Plymouth

**MARCH 15-17**

**WOMAD:** Bowl of Brooklands, New Plymouth



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LOW KM NZ NEW ECONOMICAL HATCH  
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NZ NEW POPULAR 4WD SUV,  
Collision Avoidance, AWD, Keyless Entry & ignition,  
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**2014 Holden Captiva LT**  
Great Value Low Km's SUV, 2WD, Auto Headlights,  
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