

NZNBF Cruiserweight Title & IBO Asia Pacific Cruiserweight Title



James 'BATMAN'
LANGTON



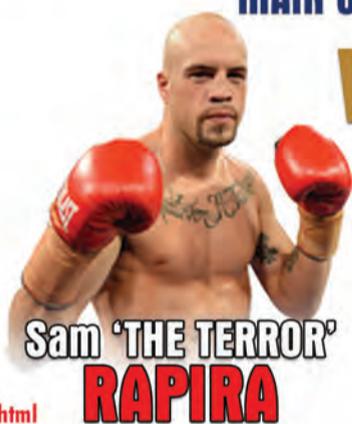
Monty
BETHAM Jnr



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MAIN UNDERCARD



Sam 'THE TERROR'
RAPIRA

VS



Craig
TURNER

PROFESSIONAL BOUT



Simon
JULIAN

VS



Jody
ALLEN

BATTLE OF THE BICEPS



MALONI TUITUPOU VS SAIA AHOLELEI

SPEED MACHINES



KAMERON WARR VS JOSH GIDDY

BATTLE OF THE AGES



JAMES CROFSKEY VS PHILIP DROUGHT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS



LYN SMITH VS SHI-HAN NGAREWA

WARRIOR WOMEN



VALDA BROOKS VS GERI PAUL

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James Langton

For James (Batman) Langton this is unfinished business.

"I want my title back," he said. James had won the NZNBF cruiserweight title at last year's Coastal Rumble, beating Monty Filimaea, only to lose it to Monty Betham later that year.

"I wasn't at my best for reasons out of my control," James said. "I want to see who is the better fighter when it's equal."

Born and raised in Opunake where he attended Opunake

Primary School and Opunake High School, he still lives on the family dairy farm.

He is 42 years old, 183cm tall and weighs 91kg. Before taking up boxing he had been the first player to play over 200 games for the Coastal Rugby Club, and was part of the first Coastal rugby team to win the McMasters Shield. He has played for Taranaki at Colts and B-grade level, as well as representing Taranaki in golf and sevens rugby.

He has enjoyed training.

"I have looked outside Taranaki for good quality sparring which has really sharpened my skills and given me variety so I don't get comfortable with any particular opponents."

He respects Monty.

"He has obviously achieved a lot in his career and that comes with a lot of sacrifice and hard work. Monty comes across as a genuinely nice person but once you are in the ring it's man against man, and there can only be one champion."



Dear James,

So this is where you have chosen to make your stand. You have aspired to greatness from a young age. No sooner could you ride your plastic trike than you upped the challenge and had to take the stairs. I doubt there was a day between 2 and 6 you didn't have a lump developing somewhere on your head. Then there was your pre-teens where something as simple as taking a bus meant avoiding the seat on the inside and standing on the back bumper holding onto a wiper with your nails. At fifteen you borrowed the car, I use the word loosely as you never actually asked. No need for a lesson or a licence or a road code, not with your reflexes.

Sometimes I think having five sisters unhinged you. All the times you had to take tea with our dolls and the hours you lay still as we played doctors and nurses and announced proudly your foot would have to go...

James you have been a great brother, uncle, friend and son. We wish you well.

Love from Anne, Julie, Sandra, Karen, Jan and Mum xox

Sam Rapira

Sam "the Terror" Rapira is a well known figure in Taranaki boxing circles. He is the current IBO Asia Pacific light heavyweight champion, and a former NZNBF national light heavyweight champion. As an amateur he was ranked number one in New Zealand, and represented New Zealand on a number of occasions, winning a medal each time.

Aged 32, 183cm tall and weighing 79kgs, he has his

own company, Sam Rapira Boxing Ltd which promotes his boxing career.

He has been a long time supporter of the Coastal Rumble.

"I love what James has done with his career with the limited time he has been involved in boxing," he said.

"Few men have the courage to jump in the deep end of boxing like he has done. Of course I support it when our

great sport is showcased on such a level in the region.

"Training has been excellent. For the first time in a while, I am injury free and very excited about performing in front of my Taranaki people."

"I have managed to see some kickboxing footage of my opponent, and see he is very explosive. I will use my skills and experience to break him down methodically. I believe in myself every time I step through those ropes. You have to in this game."



Simon Julian

Simon "Slick" Julian comes from a surfing and lifesaving background, having won 13 New Zealand titles.

Born and raised in Opunake, the 30 year-old who works for Coastal Agri Services

is 183cm tall and weighs 76kgs. He started boxing as an amateur four years ago and was able to win the North Island Golden Gloves novice light heavyweight title.

"My training has been

awesome, learning lots under my new coach Colin Smith who has made my transition smooth from amateur to pro," he said.



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BATMAN

Best of luck Champ

From the team at



Maloni Tuitupou

Maloni "the Tongan Tornado" Tuitupou is 36 years old, 178cm tall and weighs in at 109kg.

Born and raised in Tonga, he moved to New Zealand as a teenager in 1995. Working as a sharemilker at Ngariki Road in Rahotu, he now calls New Zealand home. A keen

sportsman, he has played NPC rugby for Horowhenua and Thames Valley, and rugby league for the Central Falcons and Taranaki Sharks.

"I've always wanted to give boxing a go as a youngster. I have always trained with boxing for fitness, but never actually fought in anything

like this event. Training is awesome. I'm learning heaps about the sport. Not just the physical side, but also the mental toughness too."

He knows and respects his opponent.

"I think Saia will be tough. I have played rugby and league with him so I expect him to be fit and strong and ready when the night comes."



Kameron Warr

Kameron Warr (Kam Van Damm) is originally from Palmerston North, but now works on a dairy farm on the Arawhata Road, and is taking on Josh Giddy in the Battle of

the Speed Machines.

"He looks fit," he says of his opponent.

Kameron is 26 years old, 172cm tall and weighs 72kg. He says he is taking part in

the Coastal Rumble for the challenge.

"I've always loved boxing," he said.



James Crowskey

At 24, James Crowskey will take on Philip Drought in the Battle of the Ages.

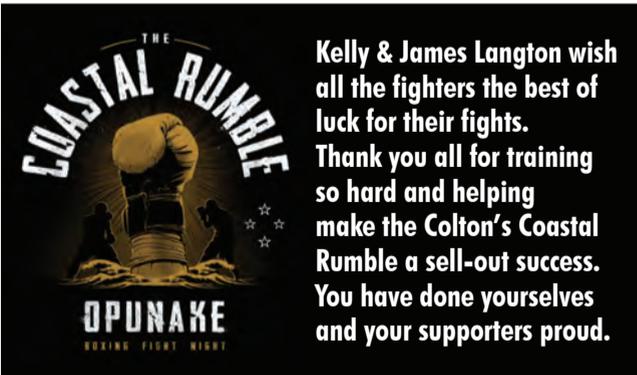
"I'm expecting that Phil will be a very experienced boxer. Good luck to him," James said.

James is 190cm tall and

weighs 95kg. Born and bred in Opunake, he works at Craig Corrigan Electrical and lists league, pool, surfing and poker among his interests. He was a member of the Coastal Cobras team which won the Development competition.

He says he is fighting to increase his fitness and experience in boxing, and for the fun of it.

"It's a bit of a thrill and an adrenaline rush," he said.



Kelly & James Langton wish all the fighters the best of luck for their fights.

Thank you all for training so hard and helping make the Colton's Coastal Rumble a sell-out success. You have done yourselves and your supporters proud.



SIMON

All the best Simon Julian for your debut.

We are all thinking of you.

From your clubbie family at Opunake SLSC.





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Fatality caps off rough holiday weekend on the mountain

On June 7, a 25 year-old French national died after attempting to summit Mt Taranaki. Victor Roucher had been in New Zealand for the last six months, and was 100-200 metres from the crater when he fell. A member of the public alerted the Taranaki Community Rescue Helicopter, but Roucher was dead when the rescue team got there. His 24 year-old French climbing partner was flown to the North Egmont Visitor Centre.

Police have said the two had full climbing gear and were equipped for the conditions.

This was the first death on the mountain since Nicole Sutton and Hiroki Ogawa died of hypothermia after being strabded overnight on the mountain in October 2013. It is believed Roucher was the 83rd person to die on the mountain since records were first kept in 1891.

It was also the third time the Taranaki Community Rescue Helicopter had been called to the mountain in five days.

That morning they were called to assist two trampers, one of whom had suffered injuries after falling 200 metres.

Mountain Safety Council plea for caution

'Plan and prepare' is the plea of the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council for outdoor activities, especially at this time of the year.

Recent severe weather events in the Taranaki region have served as warnings claims Chris Owens, Bushcraft Programme Manager for the Mountain Safety Council as "becoming compromised by inclement or a swift change in weather, your own physical limits or becoming injured could have serious consequences for you and your party". He added that "with longer trips comes the need to plan and prepare even more carefully as people may find themselves more than a few hours from the road end - and from help if it is required."

The New Zealand Mountain Safety Council (MSC) advises that before dusting off your pack and checking that the camp stove works, that you follow the five simple rules of the Outdoor Safety Code. "It could save your life," added Mr Owens.



On June 3 the Taranaki Community rescue Helicopter winched three trampers to safety on Fantham's Peak. The first of three rescue helicopter callouts to the mountain in five days.

On the previous Friday night, three male trampers called police for help after being lost just below Fantham's Peak. Using night vision goggles, the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter located the three well above the snow line. Rescue Helicopter crewman Andy Cronin said the crew made contact with the trampers who used torches to help guide the helicopter to where they were. Two volunteer members of the Rescue Helicopter Alpine Team were

winched to the group, who then brought them aboard the

helicopter and dropped them off at the Stratford Plateau

where police transferred them to their car.



The climber lost his footing and slid on the icy surface.

The New Zealand Outdoor Safety Code:

- 1 Plan your trip Seek local knowledge and plan the route you will take and the amount of time you can reasonably expect it to take.
- 2 Tell someone Tell someone your plans and leave a date to raise the alarm if you haven't returned. Use the Outdoors Intentions process on the adventuresmart.org.nz website before you leave your house.
- 3 Be aware of the weather New Zealand's weather can be highly unpredictable. Check the forecast and expect weather changes.
- 4 Know your limits Challenge yourself within your physical limits and experience.

Continues page 2

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EDITORIAL

Frank Bainimarama legitimate leader. Yeah right!

Doubtless Mr Key and the Government have to make the best of an unfortunate reality and deal with Josaia Voreqe 'Frank' Bainimarama, the 'elected' PM of Fiji. I doubt it was Mr Key's favourite leader he has met and he handled the situation as well as could be expected, although I found

their meeting hard to watch. However, although Frank Bainimarama is now the 'elected' leader of Fiji, I expect many voters ticked his name (or his party's name) on the ballot paper because they suspected if Bainimarama didn't end up on top he'd simply stage another coup.

But how democratic is Fiji really when an elected Fijian MP has been banned for making critical comments about the PM? Also, how much is free speech valued when respected journalists, such as Barbara Dreaver, are barred for simply speaking the truth (unpalatable as that may be to some).

Bairimarama staged a military coup to usurp a democratically elected Government and, by rights, should have faced judicial process for the crime of treason and be currently serving a lengthy term in prison.

Rolland McKellar

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The New Zealand Outdoor Safety Code:

Continued from page 1

5. Take sufficient supplies. Make sure you have enough food, clothing, equipment and emergency rations for the worst-case scenario. Take an appropriate means of communication, such as a Mountain Radio or a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and

know how to use them.

For information about a range of courses such as bushcraft; navigation with both a map and compass and GPS; river safety and outdoor first aid run by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council in your area, visit www.mountainsafety.org.nz

Send your your views to:
Letters to the Editor
 23 Napier Street, Opunake.
Fax: (06) 761 7016

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

Note to contributors

Please if sending photos to the Opunake & Coastal News by email do not reduce the size of the photo. A photo needs to be a minimum of 1-2 MB for it to reproduce clearly in the paper.

Ode to a Pill

Little pill here in my hand I wonder how you understand

Just what to do or where to go

To stop the ache that hurts me so

Within your covering lies relief

You sink in regions there below

As down my throat you quickly go

But what I wonder, little pill

Is how you know where I am ill?

And just how do you really know

Just where you are supposed to go?

I've got a headache, that is true,

My broken ribs need attention too.

But how can anything so

small

End all my aches in no time at all?

Do you work alone, or hire a crew,

To do the good things that you do?

I'm counting on you mighty strong

To get in there where you belong

Don't let me down, and

please don't shirk

But do your undercover work.

So, down my throat be on your way

And end my aches for another day

Don't make a wrong turn is my plea

Cause I can't take another 'til after three!

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 Pastor Richard Oliver
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BBC: Eternal

There is something about our modern view that is not consistent with the facts.

Time and time again we are told how the universe developed and how life evolved. Very rarely, if ever, are we asked to consider what came before the big bang, or what comes after the end of the universe.

If the world, atoms, chemicals and the universe only came into being at the big bang, then what was

before? And again, what will exist after our universe has run down or been destroyed?

These two questions are really only discussed in the Bible. Our science books tell us that the universe is about up to 13.5 billion years old. What they don't tell us is what was there 14 billion years ago. Science cannot tell us such things because, if the Big Bang theory is right (and it looks as if it is),

there was nothing physical to be scientific with at that time. Nothing that could be measured or weighed or used by science.

In the book of Job (Chapters 38-41) God asks Job where he was when the universe was created; when stars and planets were carefully measured and set in place, when scientific laws and principles were established. Where was he when life entered chemicals

to create living creatures? These are questions that have still to be answered today, but there is a secret hidden in these verses.

In chapter 38 verse 7, it asks where was Job when all the sons of God shouted for joy, and the morning stars sang together.

We know today that the stars do indeed make music, their own signature tunes in electro-magnetic waves. But that is not what I want to consider. Instead, what I want to ask is, "where were you when all, and note that it says all, the sons of God shouted for joy?"

Sons of God existed before 13.5 billion years ago.

They are not restricted by chemicals and laws of science. They live by faith in an eternal God. They operate by eternal laws, and they have an eternal view on life, God and history. And when they meet eternal truth in this life, they rejoice in it.

But most of all, when this physical universe or their bodies cease to be, they will still be.

Richard Oliver
 Pastor Eltham Message Church
 www.messagechurch.com

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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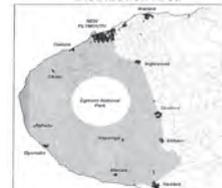
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A fence wanted to protect beach's younger visitors

Hoons speeding down the Kaipokonui beach road are a constant worry for the custodians of the i Beach Campground. On June 1, camp custodians Jim and Jocelyn Carter were at the Egmont Plains Community Board meeting, asking for funds to help build a fence to protect toddlers staying at the camp from getting on to the road, into the path of oncoming traffic.

The Community Board voted to grant the Kaipokonui Beach and Districts Society \$3508.22 towards putting a fence up at the campground entrance way. The money would come from the Waimate Plains Development Levy, a fund dedicated to community projects in the area which once comprised the Waimate West County. The Carters will also be looking for businesses, groups and individuals to sponsor the completion of the fence in the next month.

The fencing would extend for about 200 metres from the end of the fence which follows the road down to the camp. There would be an extra rail to make it harder for young children to get through.

"We are talking about two to three year-olds," Jocelyn said. "They run out on to the road because they don't



Jocelyn Carter and husband Jim want a fence along a stretch of road at Kaipokonui Beach fenced off.

know any different. Older kids know better, we hope. We don't want a big fence to make it look like a prison camp. We just want a small friendly fence to slow the children down and protect them."

Jocelyn says there has been a few "close shaves."

"The humps on the road aren't painted. We do have signs further up the road saying 15 kilometres per hour. Not that that makes

any difference, as these people haven't been to school and can't read. At 10 or 11 o'clock at night they think doing wheelies on the reserves out there is fun. The fact that it's sacred Maori ground is not an issue to them."

The camp site is full from the end of December through to the end of January. At the peak of the season, there can be 200 people camping there, not counting people

staying in the baches, Jocelyn said. There is also a large volume of traffic, with cars sometimes parked three deep along the cliff by the Kaipokonui Stream.

With the peak of the season over, the camp still attracts visitors through the year.

"Over the last couple of days we've had lots of surfers out here," she says. "It's a lovely spot and a safe place for kids to play and swim."

There's something in the water

An occasional acrid smell coming from a nearby creek has irked a Hughson Place resident.

For much of the year the creek which runs by the house where Lauren Bennett lives has little if any water in it. That all changes after periods of rain, like that

experienced last month, and with it comes an occasional foaming sludge with an associated smell of cow manure.

"It only happens at certain times of the day, like lunchtime, morning and evening," she said.

"The stuff coming down looks like detergent. like

somebody's had a bubble bath out there. It's all green and foams quite high."

With it comes the smell of cow manure,

"You can smell it hard out."

She also worries that whatever maybe happening upstream could be killing the creek.

"When we first came here seven years ago there were eels in this creek. There's no life in it now," she said.

The creek had flooded badly in the floods which deluged much of Opunake on August 6 last year, bringing assorted rubbish from further upstream with it before flooding out to sea across Dieffenbach Street.

The overflowing creek had taken out a fence at Laura's place, and reached right up to the garden box outside the house.

Taranaki Regional Council director of resource management Fred McLay said they have looked at the creek. The problems have been caused by a combination of pasture runoff, a high water table and heavy rainfall, he said.

"There's been fencing and riparian planting further upstream, but the benefits of this haven't kicked in yet."

The regional council and the South Taranaki District Council have been looking at flood control options for the town, he said.



A foaming smelly creek is raising hackles in Opunake.

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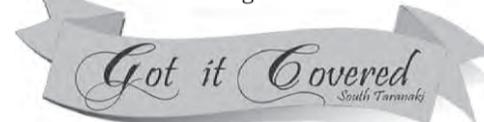


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COUNCILLORS COMMENT



Cr Ian Armstrong

The Local Body elections are to be held in early October. I will not be standing again so there will be at least one vacancy in the Egmont Plains ward. While from the outside, a position as councillor or community board member may not seem to be the most exciting, there are many rewards, even if not financial, and given the right approach, successful candidates can have a big influence in the direction and

success of council and how much we have to pay in rates. With this in mind, I really encourage readers to have a think as to who they believe would be good to represent them, and encourage people to stand. If anybody is interested and wants to have a talk to me about what the position involves, please do.

Currently a small group of council staff and councillors with the necessary qualification are working their way through a revision of the District Plan. This is definitely heavy going. The pile of papers I have received to date is just under 30 cm high. The District Plan contains all the rules that council and land users must adhere to in terms of land use, subdivisions, noise and the like. The council must revise the plan every 10 years.

Who do you want to represent you?

A huge amount of work has gone in to the preparation of the plan with the cost to date over \$970,000. The outcome of the revision will affect most of us sometime during the period of this plan, so it is really important we give it all the attention it needs.

With a strong push from the people of South Taranaki, considerable work is occurring on the building and planning of a number

of pathways for walking and cycling. Currently work is nearing completion on 1.2 km of new pathway in Manaia which will complete a loop around the Manaia kindergarten and school.

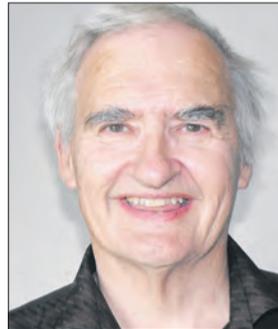
There are two more sections to complete which will finish a loop around the entire township. Other planned Pathway projects include improvements to the Opunake

Walkway, Denby Road to Waihi Beach in Hawera, a commuter cycleway between Hawera and Normanby, a 3 km off-road mountain bike trail off Puawai Street in Hawera, and a 35 km mountain bike trail linking Patea Dam to Lake Rotokare.

To celebrate National Volunteers' Week council is inviting South Taranaki Volunteers to a free workshop

on Sustainable Funding. This will be held in the TSB Hub in Hawera on Wednesday 22 June. Volunteers are being invited to either a morning or afternoon session which will be run by the founder of Exult Ltd, Kerri Tilby-Price. Exult are recognised as one of New Zealand's leading trainers for the non-profit sector. Those who are interested should contact Glen Hansen at the council.

Putting a Zing in Taranaki



Neil Walker

My wife Helen is amused by a sign at the New 'Z' refurbished petrol station in Inglewood which stands out boldly as Z Inglewood (Zinglewood), and this made me think of the 'Zing' that is found in Taranaki even in a time of economic slowdown in the oil and dairy industries. Yes, it is true three poor dairy payouts and below \$50/barrel oil prices have really hurt. Many people have not despaired but instead have shown real resilience and courage which will be useful for them when the 'Zing' as it inevitably will, returns to these Industries. The community, through its support mechanisms, and rediscovering caring about your neighbours and neighbourhood, are also learning that people are more important than profit. But there is still economic Zing around. As a Regional Councillor I have always been concerned about Back Country Taranaki, which has declined as the dairy and

oil industries have advanced, and I have promoted new industries like carbon and honey, particularly from Manuka plantations on steep and eroded (effectively uneconomic) land to bring new revenue streams to those areas. Carbon prices are literally flying today between \$16-\$17/unit as the Government and the world promote stronger climate change strategies, and I need not say anything about honey, where madness reigns, and back country farmers are receiving large cheques from beekeepers. We need to recognise that with an extra 100,000 hives in New Zealand in this year alone, there are some really serious problems too that need attention. Last week I attended a first meeting of commercial beekeepers of Taranaki to see what can be done. Recently I have chaired a national group which has resulted in the foundation of a new united industry body Apiculture (NZ), which will try to bring order from chaos. I am also looking to see a new national honey research institute established, and am making good progress with this too. But it is not just this kind of business 'Zing' we need, but also community 'zing' too. I was looking at the beautiful new Everybody's Theatre in Opunake, which was a wonderful community project. In Hawera, a new \$400,000 fully funded

NZCCS building has recently been opened, which will serve the public as well as the local disabilities community. NZCCS has decided to recommit themselves to South Taranaki. Another initiative is to spend \$100,000 on the educational needs of disabled kids in Patea and Waitara, and this is being rolled out in 2016. The local area has also attracted yearly funding for very disabled children of \$100,000 each, which shows that this is available even in rural areas like ours. There are also other 'Zing' projects around. In the area of conservation, there are an overflow number of people wanting to covenant areas of outstanding beauty to the QE2 Trust. In fact there are so many that there is a two year waiting list. The Taranaki Regional Council has also

been designating regularly a series of protected 'key native ecosystems'. By 2019 there will be a new land fill for Taranaki in the Eltham area, with state of the art processing and procedures, and capturing methane to protect the environment. This is the new Te Karaka Trust formed last week.

Charitable good works led by Hawera Lawyer Ken Horner of Halliwells and the TSB Bank have had record profits and dividends to return to our people in the new services. Building 'Z' is a nebulous thing. It's a state of mind. It's an attitude of being 'up to it' in difficult and in easier times. I am proud to be part of Taranaki, and proud to be part of our citizens' practical sensible and caring and full of spirit and Zing.

Tick given for lights

The new decorative lighting on Havelock Street is winning rave reviews but some concerns were raised at the latest Egmont Plains Community Board meeting about who should foot the cost for ongoing maintenance. "After seeing the lights for the first time after they have been fixed, it's been well worth the effort," board member

Andy Whitehead said. The board voted to grant \$2200 out of the \$4560.97 needed for the lights. The previous lights had decayed, and been taken down and replaced by Corkill Systems. While there was general satisfaction with the standard of work done, concerns were raised as to who would pay for any ongoing maintenance further down the track.

South Taranaki District councillor Bonita Bigham said she would be concerned if this remained an ongoing council and community board responsibility.

"I would prefer whoever was around would be part of the conversation as to who takes further responsibility," she said. "It's always been a dream of mine to have the coast beautifully lit from summer through to winter, but I would like to see other towns lit as well."

South Taranaki community development advisor Marcia Haigh said if the council assisted Opunake to maintain the lights they would have to do the same for other towns in the district. Nevertheless, the council would be prepared to help these communities look for funding, she said.

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A diamond celebration for the Otenees



The Otenees on their wedding day 60 years ago.

In 1955, Hec Otene and Marina (Niki) Otene met on the dance floor at the Opunake Drill Hall. Back then, Hec was working as a linesman for the Opunake Power Board and Niki was an office assistant for Harding's Furniture. On June 2 1956 they were married at the Opunake Methodist Church. Sixty years later they celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary. Along the way they had five children in their first seven years of marriage, Vera, Stephen, Adrienne, Geoffrey and Kathryn. They

now have 13 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. While Niki has always lived in Opunake, Hec was born in Hawke's Bay, where there is a road named after his family. His mother had originally come from Opunake, but his father Rangi was Ngati Kahungunu from Hawke's Bay, so Hec spent his early years in Napier. The family came to Opunake with his family when he was eight. He remembers being in the family car when the 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake struck. "I can remember looking

out of the car and seeing waves, and the car started to move and the ground opened up." His father, Rangi was a World War I veteran who had been awarded the Military Medal at Gallipoli.

"He saw a wounded soldier and brought him back," Hec said. Rangi had been gassed during the war, giving him health problems which would dog him until his death at the age of 60 in 1952. "He never said much about the war," Hec said. "In World War II, I was 16 and I said, Dad can I sign up? He said you can wait till you are 18, but I will never sign the paper." He remembers his father's skill as a handyman. "He always showed me how to fix things. He said never be afraid to ask anything." From his father, Hec inherited his love of golf and tennis, joining the Opunake

Tennis and Golf clubs when he was 14. Seventy six years later, he is patron of the Opunake Golf Club, of which he and Niki are life members. Hec is also a life member of the Opunake Tennis Club. Niki said she and Hec have always supported their children in whatever sports they have been interested in. Niki was a charter member of the Opunake Lakeside Lions Club when it was formed 29 years ago, and has been Club secretary five times. In 1961 Hec and Niki moved on to a farm at Turu Road in Oaonui, building up their herd by rearing calves they had acquired from friends

and neighbours. They sold the farm in 1989, moving to "semi-retirement" in Opunake. Hec drove for Pickering Motors and worked for Clive Morton fixing lawn mowers, while Niki worked at Shell Todd in Oaonui, and then at the Opunake Cottage Rest Home. Their diamond wedding anniversary begins a year of celebrations which will also see Hec turn 90, and their oldest child turn 60. "Life is what you make it," Hec said. "It's not hard if you have got good friends and good family. The foundation has been Niki being a good mother and a good wife." Niki says Hec has been "my life, my rock, my inspiration."



Hec and Niki Otene



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OKATO COPS

A welcome to new arrivals

Hi everyone and welcome to the new people that have moved around the coast since June 1. Hopefully those that have moved farms have had a smooth transition

A friendly reminder that if you have a new address and you have a current firearms licence you are obliged to let police know of your new address within 30 days of moving. This is a really easy

process of going on the police website www.police.govt.nz and on the home page will be a column that says, "do it online now," of which there is "change firearms address." Just click on that and follow the process. Really simple, chuck the jug on and we will then come and visit you to make sure your firearms security is up to scratch. I'd say that 95



Constable Rhys Connell

per cent of people are pretty good when it comes to their obligations with their licence requirements which makes our job easier.

People have been inundating me with calls in regards to the road works at Tataramaika, wanting to know what is going on there. As far as

I have been told what you see is the finished product. The bank has been cut away to improve the visibility of motorists coming both ways and getting in and out of Upper Timaru Road. Please don't see this as an invitation to pass vehicles here. It is still a very dangerous piece of road and still not suitable for passing another vehicle. It is very hard to judge the speed of another vehicle coming down the hill, and quite often people get it wrong. This would be the most common location of the driving complaints I get from motorists who are forced to move over to avoid a head on collision with some impatient clown.

On Wednesday June 8 at about 10.30pm, the Vertigo Surf Shop in Oakura was broken into. The alarm sounded and the thief or thieves got away with not much at all. If anyone saw people hanging around the back of the surf shop on Butlers Lane or around the front, can they let me know or alternatively, if they have knowledge of the actual burglary they can ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. It may be that you are not sure of the day you saw people or vehicles loitering around Vertigo. If that is the case I'd still like to hear from you. You can ring the Okato Police station on 06 7524111 or my

cell 021 1914920.

I have been noticing that in both the Okato and Oakura Villages people are not wearing their helmets while riding their bikes. I have to say that our kids are usually the most compliant, and it's their parents that are letting the side down. While it's great that you insist your children wear helmets, it kind of defeats the purpose and sends mixed messages if you ride alongside them without wearing one. Please chuck a helmet on your melon before you ride your bike unless you want to be embarrassed in front of your kids.

That's all for now – have a great week.

wwRhys Connell

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Opunake volunteer fire brigade news

We have now arrived at the third and final set of "hot tips for cold weather. I thought if The Lord of the Rings can have a trilogy, so can we. Firstly, when cooking up a winter treats on the stove top, always keep a pot lid handy. If the oil or fat catches alight you can slip the lid on the pan and smother the problem. You may have read about a house fire in Hawera a couple of weeks back where a person was cooking and forgot the saying "keep looking when you're cooking." The gentleman wandered off and forgot about the pan on the stove. As a result, three brigades arrived at the gate only to find a burnt out shell.

Secondly, candles and oil burners can be dangerous if placed near other flammable objects. Always keep them away from curtains and on a surface that is fire proof. The only other point I will remind you is please don't overload power points. Always use multi-boxes with circuit breakers because if something should go amiss, the circuit breaker will cut the power and you will have a happy outcome.

It was great to see two of our brigade members on the Seven Sharp program on

Thursday 2nd. It was a follow up on a program that was filmed a couple of years ago involving Jana and Jozien, relating to females in the Fire Service. The night the show was filmed, happened to coincide with visitors from the USA and Australia, who were also at the fire station catching up with the girls. The girls went on to safely climb the Auckland Sky Tower, along with about 850 other fire fighters, so it has been a few extremely busy weeks for them.

We have been quiet on the "action" front lately with only one call out to report. We were called to a lady experiencing breathing issues on Tuesday 8th. We are often called, along

with the Opunake St. Johns to situations involving breathing and heart problems. This way, whoever gets there first can give life-saving assistance. Time is always a critical factor in many situations, so with this "twin arrangement", we are able to have first aiders on the scene to render assistance quickly and look after our valuable locals. All of our members are highly trained in first aid so are competent in life saving situations requiring CPR, defibrillation and oxygen administration. On this occasion, we were able to administer oxygen, do various checks, settle the patient, and assist the St. Johns. As backup, the Hawera St. Johns

was dispatched in case a paramedic was required on the scene.

There wouldn't be too many towns around with a population of about 1500 people that have the medical cover that our town has. We have a brand new medical centre with a bunch of health services, two doctors, two dispensing pharmacies, a wonderful 24 hour St Johns service with about 12 skilfully trained volunteers, and the 25 highly trained first aider's in the Fire Brigade. If you think you would like to be part of a life-saving team please get in touch with Kieran Lawn (St. Johns) 0274681486, or Beau Le Prou 761 724.

The Happy Helmet

Manaia WI celebrate birthday

Members of the Manaia WI met at the Black and White Cafe for lunch to celebrate the Institutes 62nd Birthday.

President Phyllis Malcolm read some interesting items

from minutes over the years. Remits for the upcoming national AGM in Wellington were discussed.

The wondering coin was won by Freda Hill, and the Mary Hutton Trophy was

presented to Diane Wineera.

Members of the Grandmothers and Friends group had spent a morning at the Manaia School to cover books for the School Library

Rural women oppose firearms changes

Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ) say they are very concerned about the changes to firearms' licensing, training and testing, being proposed by the Mountain Safety Council (MSC). The MSC executive has been announcing these changes in a series of road shows around the country.

The current MSC Firearms

Safety Programme has about 480 volunteers with significant hunting and shooting experience. They are based in 150 locations in New Zealand. MSC propose to significantly reduce the number of trainers and the number of locations.

"The proposed changes will seriously impact rural communities," says Fiona Gower, RWNZ Vice President.

"Many rural people use firearms as a tool of the trade. The proposed reduction in firearms instructors and/or volunteers means that distances to travel to the nearest licensing centre will increase. There will also be less people available to do the educating, testing and related tasks, which means it is likely that it will take longer for these processes to happen."

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Steps in need of repair

It is hoped repair work on the Middleton Bay steps will be finished in time for summer.

The steps, which lead down from Halse Place to the bay, and are part of the Opunake Walkway have been closed for safety reasons.

They had originally been put in by members of the Lions Club, and the South Taranaki District Council has been working with them to see what can be done to restore the steps.

The project should be

finished by the summer season, the council's property and facilities manager John Sargeant said.

South Taranaki District deputy mayor Ian Armstrong who is also a member of the Opunake Lions said water scouring has been an ongoing issue, with there being a number of nearby springs, made worse in times of heavy rainfall.

Mr Sargeant said the council will install a drain at the top to divert stormwater away from the steps, and extend the fence.

Council officers are also considering what to do about replacing the centre steps. They could either replace the existing steps on the rock surface, or prefabricate steps and bolt them into place. Quotes for both these options are being looked at.

Meanwhile the Lions would repair the first section of the steps. Mr Armstrong said this would involve a lot of "donkey work."

"If there are any members of the public who would want to volunteer, I would say thank you," he said.



Steps leading to Middleton's Bay remain closed

Drinking water standards should be in district plan

Climate Justice Taranaki wants a focus on clean drinking water in the South Taranaki District Council's district plan. This was the message they took to the public hearings on the plan on June 7. "Under the proposed plan, the district council is not required to assess explicitly the potential adverse effects on drinking water sources when considering resource consents. This is just not good enough, when all water supplies, whether they're for rural or urban communities, should be protected," said Catherine Cheung of Climate Justice Taranaki.

The Taranaki District Health Board (TDHB) in

their submission has also recommended that Schedule 5 on significant water bodies be amended to ensure the provision and protection of human drinking water sources. Under the Health Act and the National Environment Standards on Sources of Human Drinking Water, council, being the district's main drinking-water supplier, has the responsibility to protect our drinking water sources, they argued.

"Our group fully supports the DHB's recommendations. We were shocked when we read that both recommendations were rejected in Council Officers' report," said Cheung.

Ronald Hugh Morrieson biography

An account of Ron Morrieson's life is being prepared – hopefully ending up as a small biography. At just over 20,000 words it is nearing completion – about 30 people who knew Ron personally have contributed and I am grateful to them. However, are there any other people who either knew the writer/musician or have some information to share about him? Perhaps someone has a photograph of Ron that could be used (The source would be acknowledged).

If you can help it would be greatly appreciated if you



Ronald Hugh Morrieson, the writer/musician.

could you either phone 06 752 4377 (evenings) or email rtdmckellar@xtra.co.nz



on the horizon above Muturoa – a perfect – but deadly – mushroom cloud.

Later Otago was replaced by another frigate the Canterbury.

RIGHT: Norman Kirk bids farewell to the Otago.
NZ Herald

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On this month in history

Navy frigate Otago sails for nuclear test zone.

On June 28, 1973 the NZ navy frigate Otago departed from Auckland to the area of French nuclear tests near Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia.

Prime Minister Norman Kirk wanted the boat to be a "silent accusing witness."

On board was Fraser Colman, a Cabinet minister. They witness the explosion

on the horizon above Muturoa – a perfect – but deadly – mushroom cloud.

Later Otago was replaced by another frigate the Canterbury.

RIGHT: Norman Kirk bids farewell to the Otago.
NZ Herald

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Whanganui electorate – the big cheese

Whanganui has so much good stuff going on around town and in the electorate, but we often don't hear much about those enterprises going on in towns beyond the centre of gravity, which is Whanganui city. But I have rediscovered another operation that once again makes us a legend in our own lunchbox.

Last week saw the opening of a new cheese line at the Fonterra plant in Eltham. The plant will make slice on slice cheese for such things as hamburgers, but the 'cheese single' has been part of kiwi culture for thirty years plus. It is big. The factory is now able to make 2.3 billion slices of cheese per year.

If you go into a McDonalds restaurant in the Middle East, Africa, China, South East Asia, and Australia you'll be eating cheese from Eltham. This is the first new investment Fonterra has made since its inception in 2000, and is a very welcome addition to



Hon Chester Borrows MP

capacity, and cost a whopping \$32million. The factory at Eltham produces 70,000 tonnes of processed, natural block and shredded cheese, Fonterra employs about 700 people, and so is a big employer in the South Taranaki corner of the Whanganui electorate.

Just around the corner from the plant is the ANZCO freezing works, and while one bunch of farmers were celebrating dairy, another bunch were touring the freezing works looking at beef

patties, also for the hamburger market. How's that for an industry cluster?

Eltham is one of those much understated towns. The first town to have a tar-sealed road in the New Zealand was Eltham. The conception of the one pound block of butter by Chinese entrepreneur Chew Chong was in Eltham. This founded the international dairy trade which is now the cornerstone of our economy. The rotary cowshed was invented in Eltham, and this revolutionised high volume milk recovery, and allowed hundreds of cows to be milked in the same time as much smaller numbers were being milked through the herringbone sheds.

So there you have it. If you go to Beijing or Shanghai, the massive electronic signs may well have been made on Somme Parade. Go to the finals of Wimbledon and the racquet string may be from Kaupokonui. Go to France or

the States, and your croissant may well be from Manaia. See a New York or German fire officer and they'll be wearing a helmet from Castlecliff. The honey on your toast in the hotel in Hong Kong is from Waverley. The newspaper you'll read in Singapore is made from trees from Upokongaro. The Coast Guard vessel in United Arab Emirates was built on Taupō Quay. The health products, masks and safety equipment used in some European countries are made in Pacific Place. The burger patties you eat anywhere in North America may well be made in any one of the five freezing companies in the electorate, and the cheese scone you order in the café in Harrods will come from Eltham.

Whanganui is famous for its river and so much more. Just magic.

Chester Borrows MP for Whanganui

Growing Maori economy will be good for New Zealand

In the last couple of months the Parliament has been dealing with three Treaty Settlement Bills for Taranaki Iwi. When they pass into Law, seven of the eight Taranaki Iwi will have completed their respective settlements, with the 8th not too far away.

Last year I wrote about the arduous journey that Iwi have had in dealing with the Settlement challenges. One thing that I know from my own experiences is that, when Iwi complete the Settlement process, there is a transition into a more development phase. A new beginning if you like. It is an opportunity to start to address all of the historical and intergenerational issues that have confronted our people.

The commercial redress



Adrian Rurawhe MP

that is part of the settlements, become a very important factor in addressing these issues. Growing the Iwi assets is the challenge to ensure that these issues can be addressed in a sustainable way.

Therefore, it is very important I believe, that Iwi and the Māori community need to be thinking about the New Zealand economy. If

the New Zealand economy is to be resilient in the face of technological and other changes, New Zealand needs to diversify our reliance on primary industries and move towards smart-economic growth models. An important part of this approach must include Māori in economic participation and development. The Māori economy is growing rapidly and is now worth more than \$39 billion. Growing the Māori economy will mean more decent jobs, higher wages, and greater security for Māori and all New Zealanders.

The Treaty Settlement process and the current emphasis on strengthening the collective Māori asset base are integral to continuing that growth trajectory. There are some unique aspects that

would support the wider economy. The collective Māori approach to investment is intergenerational, it places an emphasis on land, people and the environment. Māori also comprise 15 per cent of the total population and a large part of our population are very young. A new approach would require Government, the private sector and Iwi Māori working in partnership across industry, in particular the primary sector, to build high-value exports, greater productivity, and better skills and wages. My hope is that Iwi and the wider Māori community in dealing with the deficit issues confronting us will be able to do more to create more job opportunities for our young people.

*Adrian Rurawhe
MP for Te Tai Hauāuru*

Housing policy shambles means state houses must NOT be sold

The absolute shambles which is the government's housing policy means Social Housing Minister Paula Bennett must abandon plans to sell off state houses to overseas multinationals and local businesses, State Housing action Network (SHAN) convenor John Minto said.

"To sell state housing when there is a housing crisis for many thousands of low-income tenants and families would be heartless, reckless and irresponsible.

"Local community groups have recognised this and the likes of the Salvation Army, Methodist Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Pact

and Trust House Limited have left the government standing alone with foreign and local profiteers keen to make money from misery.

"The fact that 60 per cent of Housing New Zealand's tenants in Tauranga are Maori is not justification for iwi to provide cover for others to buy state housing.

"Meanwhile SHAN applauds local Auckland marae which have opened their doors to families living in cars and vans. They put the government's pathetic blundering to shame. SHAN is encouraging our supporters to assist these marae with practical help. In the meantime the sale of state houses must not go ahead.

"Just this week the government announced a

10 year plan to spend \$20 billion updating Defence equipment. But it has no such plans for more critical policies to reduce child poverty or provide decent housing for tenants and families who need them.

"SHAN is writing again to the government and the companies wanting to buy state houses demanding they abandon the policy. Only the government has the capacity and resources to meet the desperate housing needs of the tens of thousands of families on low incomes paying through the nose to live in cold, damp, precarious housing arrangements - or in garages, cars and vans.

"It's a responsibility we will not allow the government to turn its back on."

Chester Borrows
MP FOR WHANGANUI
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Archbishop Richardson visits Okato

On Sunday June 5 the Anglican Archbishop of New Zealand the Most Rev Philip Richardson conducted the service at St Paul's Church, Okato. Philip was introduced by church leader Rod Smith who concluded, "Thank you for all your support."

Philip compared and contrasted the prophet Elijah with Jesus, both of whom could perform healing miracles. However, he pointed out that, according to the Gospel according to Luke that "Jesus is the real deal – the one who can act on his own authority."

During the sermon Philip mentioned an earlier minister of the Okato parish Paul (Later Sir) Reeves, who also became Archbishop of New Zealand. The late Rev Reeves was minister in the mid 1960s. Philip explained how Paul had been a mentor to him and had influenced him in many ways. One lesson was the Christian message had to be closely intertwined with the community.

In his address, which was often humorous, Philip gave the congregation some idea of what being an Archbishop entails. "It is rich, varied with long days and long weeks," he explained. One requirement was much travel both within New Zealand and overseas.

Recently, he was in Myanmar (Burma) which has just emerged from years of iron-fisted military rule (1962-2011). Although there is a degree of democracy the military retain considerable power and the woman who would be leader if full democracy was in place Aung San Suu Kyi is barred from such a position because she is married to a foreigner. "I'm aware that it entails a balancing act" and there is still corruption. "The challenge is how to change after 65 years of military rule towards democracy."

In the near future he will be visiting Fiji, Australia and Vanuatu, as well as meeting with the Pope in Rome.



Anglican Archbishop of New Zealand, Philip Richardson.

Rate rise less than forecast

South Taranaki District ratepayers face a reduced rates increase of 1.89 per cent for the new 2016/17 financial year after councillors adopted their Annual Plan.

The Plan sees a reduced District Rate increase of less than 1 per cent and, once targeted rate increases for water and wastewater are included (these targeted rates are generally only paid by urban ratepayers), the average total rate increase is 1.89 per cent. The Long term Plan had forecast a 2.93 per cent increase.

South Taranaki Mayor Ross Dunlop says the Council was very pleased that it was able to reduce the rate increase from what was projected in the Long Term Plan to less than 2 per cent, particularly given the current challenging economic conditions.

"This reduction has been achieved as a result

of Council's ongoing commitment to contain costs wherever possible and savings made through lower inflation and borrowing costs," he says.

The Plan also provides for an increase in user fees for building and cemetery services to cover the cost of those services.

Mayor Dunlop says the impact of the low rate increase will be varied, largely due to the district property revaluation done at the end of last year.

"Every three years all properties within the District are independently valued by Quotable Value New Zealand to reflect market movements and capital improvements undertaken by property owners. These new capital values will be used for calculating the 2016/17 rates. Council has no control or influence on this revaluation process," he says.

"Last year the District had an average increase in property value of 19.9 per cent. However the increase was largely driven by the rural sector with dairy properties seeing an average 29 per cent increase in value, while the average residential property value increase was 1.2 per cent. The significant increase in rural property values reflects the long term confidence in the agricultural sector," says Mayor Dunlop.

"However, just because your property's value changed, doesn't mean that your rates will change proportionally. If your property's valuation increased more than the District average increase (19.9 per cent) then you will pay comparatively a bit more than the average (1.89 per cent) rate increase, but if your property's capital value didn't increase as much as the District's average movement, then your rates will increase

less than the average, and may even decrease," he says.

Key projects the Council will progress in 2016/17 include: the Hawera Town Centre redevelopment, District Pathways programme, earthquake strengthening public facilities, construction of a new water treatment plant for Inaha, improvements at Opunake Beach, Stage 2 Taumata Park Sports Facility in Eltham, Wai-inu Beach

Wastewater Treatment Plant, water pressure improvements in Patea/Eltham, upgrades to the Eltham Water Treatment Plant and initial development of the regional landfill.

As a result of the extensive storm damage in the Waitotara catchment and Opunake township last year, an extra \$258,000 has been budgeted to help build a stormwater diversion channel for Opunake, and \$1.6 million

to build a new access road to Waiinu Beach

Mayor Dunlop says other projects in the coming year include; progressing the Council's Digital Development Fund, adopting the new District Plan, approving a master plan for Opunake Beach and developing a new Trade Waste Bylaw and Local Alcohol Policy.

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MAYOR'S COLUMN

Rates rise lower than forecast

Hi everyone
Last week the Council made its decisions for the Annual Plan 2016/17. This is the second year of the Long-Term Plan 2015-2025, which forecast that for 2016/17 we'd have a rise in the general rates of 4.6 per cent. The good news is that we've cut one percentage point off that rise so the general rate-take will increase by 3.6 per cent.

However, for the average residential ratepayer the rise will be just 2.7 per cent – or about \$1 a week more. This Council has been focused on keeping rates rises down while still moving the district forward, and I'm really pleased that we're achieving these goals. Despite the lower than forecast rates increase, we'll still have \$37 million of capital projects in 2016/17. These will be across a

variety of Council activities, including wastewater treatment, roading, water supply, LED street lighting, digital customer services and stormwater drainage. We'll also be going ahead with three new items: (1). Providing funding for a study to redevelop the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre. (2). Providing an additional \$100,000 to the Council's events venues for enhanced business development.

(3). Bringing in an extended trial of free time-limited Saturday car parking in New Plymouth's CBD. The parking trial will run for 12 months from July 2016 to June 2017. The funding for the aquatic centre and event venues will enable them to achieve more of their potential for the benefit of the public. There are clear pressures on the aquatic centre, especially on the indoor

pools during winter, and we expect this study will show us how we can resolve this issue. As for the additional venues funding, that'll help our major events facilities be more competitive in a very competitive national market. Councillors also wanted a year-long trial of the free Saturday parking to get more information on any positive effects for central-city retailers. Thank you to everyone

who took the time to send in a submission on this Annual Plan. If you'd like to watch any of the hearing or the Council's debate, we have a recording available on our website at newplymouthnz.com.

Mayor Andrew Judd

New Plymouth District

Council looks at a year's free parking

The average residential ratepayer in New Plymouth District will have a 2.7 per cent rates rise in 2016/17 following the public hearing of submissions on the Draft Annual Plan. "That equates to about \$1 a week more for the average

residential ratepayer," says Mayor Andrew Judd. "This is part of the total general rate-take rising by 3.6 per cent, which is lower than the 4.6 per cent forecast in the Long-Term Plan for 2016/17." Following today's hearing,

the Council gave the go-ahead for three key proposals in the Draft Annual Plan 2016/17: providing funding for a study to redevelop the Todd Energy Aquatic Centre, providing an additional \$100,000 to the Council's events venues

for enhanced business development, and bringing in an extended trial of free time-limited Saturday car parking in New Plymouth's CBD. The parking trial will run for 12 months from July 2016 to June 2017.

Mayor Judd says the Council's focus is on enabling the aquatic centre and event venues to achieve more of their potential for the benefit of the public. "There are clear pressures on the aquatic centre, especially on the indoor pools during winter, and we expect this study will show us how we can resolve this issue," says the Mayor. "As for the additional venues funding, that'll help our major events facilities be more competitive in a very competitive national market." Councillors also wanted



Free parking a possibility in New Plymouth

a year-long trial of the free Saturday parking to get more information on any positive effects for retailers. "We received a lot of valuable feedback on these three key proposals – as well as other matters in the community and in the draft Annual Plan – and I want to thank everyone who took the time to have

their say," says the Mayor. The Annual Plan includes \$37 million of capital projects across Council activities including wastewater treatment, roading, water supply, LED street lighting, digital customer services and stormwater drainage. The Council will formally adopt the Annual Plan at its meeting on 28 June.

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Triple shortlisting for Massey's artist-in-residence

For Massey University's literary Artist-in-Residence, David Hill there is always a "sense of delighted disbelief" whenever he is nominated for an award, even though it has been a pleasing recurrence for the prolific author.

The Taranaki novelist, playwright, critic and journalist best known for his abundance of award-winning children's and young fiction books has been shortlisted listed in three categories of this year's New Zealand Children's Book Awards.

His novel *Enemy Camp*, which describes the shooting of Japanese prisoners at the Featherston POW Camp in World War II, is a finalist in the Junior Fiction Award, and in the Children's Choice Junior Fiction. His picture book on Sir Edmund Hillary, *First to the Top*, illustrated by Phoebe Morris, is short-listed for the Children's Choice Non-Fiction Award.

Mr Hill's novels for teenagers and children have been published in over a dozen countries. He is a past winner of the Esther

Continued pg 11



David Hill

Taranaki Arts trail: Lance Whiteman's surfboard art



Lance Whiteman with his most recently completed surfboard art creation.

Well worth a look on the recent Taranaki Arts Trail was the surfboard art of Lance Whiteman, who lives in Okato. Although the Arts Trail is now over his work can still be viewed by appointment. Lance recently returned to New Zealand from Perth and the Taranaki arts scene is all the better for his move. "It's interesting being part of such a creatively diverse and special event. It was something that I wanted to be part of and the feeling that I could add something to the mix," he comments. His art explores

surf culture, old and new and connects this with NZ themes, including kiwiana, the rich and unique Maori connection with the land and sea, - and the stunning natural coastal landscape.

Lance sees his art as a type of recycling. The surfboards have spent a long time in the water giving pleasure to their owners and then have a second life as objects of art. "The original art bring old surfboards back to life." Needless to say Lance is a keen 'standup' paddleboard surfer.

He spends a huge amount of artistic time on each surfboard and the intricate and colourful result is captivating. The most recent project (pictured below) took about 80 hours and its intriguing design is executed using acrylic paint and finished with a clear translucent film (Urbar art spray), which ensures it is waterproofed and protected from UV damage.

You can contact Lance by phoning 027 454 5088. Art can be commissioned to reflect special interests, celebrations or anniversaries.

Triple shortlisting for Massey's artist-in-residence

Continued from pg 10

Glen Medal and the New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards. In 2010, he was Writer-in-Residence at the University of Iowa in the United States. In 2005 he was the 15th recipient of the Margaret Mahy Award.

During his three-month residency, he has been working on his latest novel for teen readers. It follows five generations of one family, and is roughly based in the area of Hawke's Bay where his mother is from. The former school teacher likes to focus on historical topics in his children's books these days, saying he has realised he can no longer write convincing contemporary

fiction for young people. "I'm not a technophile and kids' lives today are thoroughly imbued with technology."

He's also been reading and critiquing fiction by creative writing undergraduate students, and the results have impressed him. "They are finding their own voices, and the diversity of voices is fascinating."

He's found the University's creative writing community "very energetic and very supportive too. I think its great to have a department in which so many of the teachers [lecturers] are also practising writers."

Being able to spend three months "in the company of

people where you don't have to explain or justify what you are doing" is especially rewarding, says the author whose favourite writers are New Zealand's Maurice Gee - "a brilliant storyteller and stylist" - and American novelist Cormac McCarthy, "who couldn't be more different to me as a writer".

As the current Artist-in-Residence, he is living in a self-contained flat at the Square Edge Community Arts Centre on the Square until mid-July.

Winners of the New Zealand Children's Book Awards will be announced on August 8 at Circa Theatre in Wellington.

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Remembering a pillar of the Opunake community

Longtime Opunake identity Barry Waterhouse was farewelled at the Sandfords Event Centre on May 20.

He grew up in Tasman Street, Opunake, and attended Opunake Primary School and Opunake High School.

His first job was after school in the grocery department at Farmers Co-Op in Opunake where he met his wife Bev, who lived four houses away from him on Tasman Street.



Barry Waterhouse

They later married and moved to New Plymouth, where he worked for Farmers Co-Op.

In 1959, Craig was born. They later moved to Pungarehu, where he worked at Farmers Co-op, becoming second in charge.

In 1961, Greg was born, followed by Nicole in 1963 and Karey in 1966. Meanwhile Barry had started work at the Rahotu toll exchange. When this closed down, he started work at the Opunake toll exchange.

A growing family meant they needed a bigger house, and hence a shift to a new home at 86 Ihaia Road, which Bill Butturini built, but which the family completed themselves and turned into a home. They did the garage,

all the concreting, gardens, fences and put in a vegetable garden. They were proud that it only cost them \$5000.

From his father Alan, Barry inherited a passion for woodworking. In 1977, he bought his first lathe, which was the starting point for many projects. He made 104 rocking chairs for the Opunake community and further afield. At one time he was a relief teacher in the woodworking department at Opunake High School, and high school students would come to Barry for work experience.

He did many projects in the community and worked and supported Opunake IHC for many years. The beach played a huge

part in the Waterhouse family's lives, and Lower Timaru beach was one of their favourites.

They holidayed there for 17 years, making the progression from a tent, to a pop up caravan, then an old country school bus, and then an ex South Island tour bus, which they dubbed Boris Le Bus, and drove all over the North Island. After his wife Bev died, Barry converted the wash house to a brewery, and bought a piano.

Barry loved his music and going to the Jazz Club in New Plymouth. There are rumours of him stopping at the traffic lights in his car, winding down the car windows and turning up

the jazz. People would stare, and he would drag them off at the lights.

Another love was the Taranaki Woodwork Club, carpooling with John Poole and Dudley Morris.

He loved creating things in his workshop and locals would bring him things for him to fix.

He loved baking, golf, Happy Hour with his mates, and spending time with family.

Barry loved reading. As well as the dictionary, his tastes ranged from science fiction to philosophy and psychology.

He was a fan of Dr Who and Monty Python, with the tune Always look on the bright side of life being one of his favourites.



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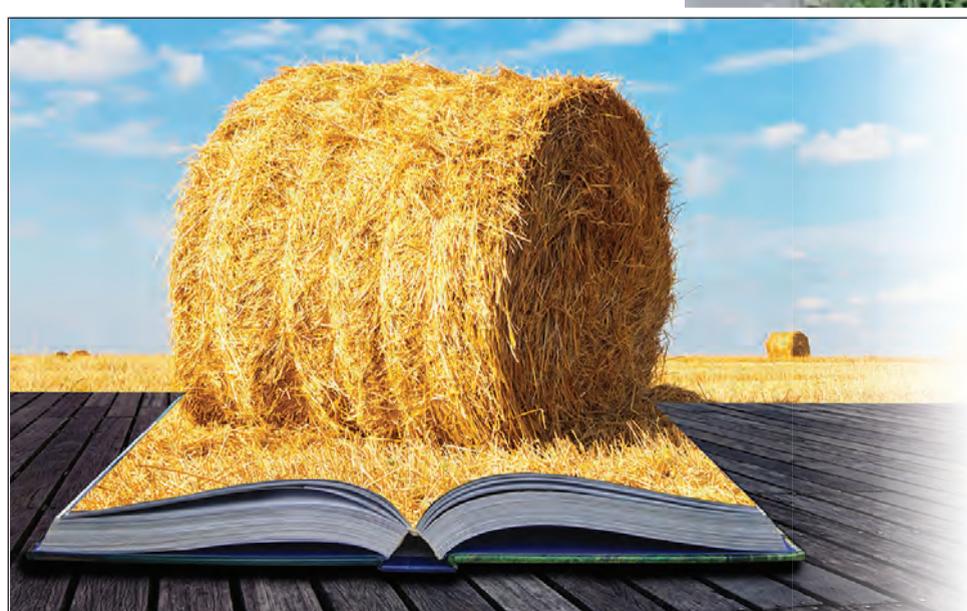








Opunake Community Kindergarten mural

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Kiwi connection in significant discovery

The fossilised remains of a small-bodied human ancestor found on the Indonesian island of Flores confirms the tiny species lived 700,000 years ago and was a distinct species rather than a deformed or diseased version of a modern human.

An international research team published its findings in the journal Nature on a new discovery in eastern Indonesia that sheds further light on our ancestral past.

The team includes volcanologist Associate Professor Brent Alloway, formerly of Victoria University now at the University of Auckland's School of Environment.

Two hominin fossil discoveries have been made on Flores, one in 2004 and this latest find, in 2014. The earlier discovery caused debate over whether the fossils represented an early ancestor of Homo floresiensis, a tiny species of human immediately dubbed "the Hobbit" because of its 1-metre height and its disproportionately large feet.

Scientists say this second discovery, at a site called Mata Menge, 75km away from the original site at Liang Bua, is much older, but has strong skeletal affinity with that of Homo floresiensis - most likely a dwarfed descendant of Homo erectus, an ancestor to modern humans.

Fossils found at Mata Menge included teeth, skull

and jaw fragments. These fossil remains were dated by a variety of techniques which indicate the newly discovered material predates the H. floresiensis fossils found in 2004 by as much as 650,000 years.

Homo floresiensis are thought to have evolved from Homo erectus once they reached the island of Flores where the isolation and harsh environment caused them to reduce in size, a phenomenon called island dwarfism.

Associate Professor Alloway says the evidence uncovered at Mata Menge provides compelling evidence that Homo floresiensis were a distinct species living and evolving in complete isolation. Simple stone tools excavated at both sites are strikingly similar, indicating very little technological innovation over such a large time span. It appears that Homo floresiensis became extinct on Flores prior to the expansion of modern humans through SE Asia around 50,000 years ago. The reason for their disappearance isn't known.

Dr Alloway's contribution to the project involved the description and dating of volcanic deposits present at the Mata Menge site which are associated with the hominin remains, and more importantly, identifying volcanic deposits at other sites that might preserve new hominin remains and artifacts that could



Homo floresiensis potentially be targeted for future excavations. "It is a dream come true to be part of this project and very humbling to be part of this ongoing research started by New Zealander Professor Mike Morwood who made the initial Homo floresiensis discovery

back in 2004," he says. "To be able to look into our past, understand our origins and evaluate the ways that humans have navigated complex obstacles as they've dispersed through SE Asia is a true privilege," he says.

Pictured left is Trish Kelly from Te Kiri with the mural she created for the Opunake Community Kindergarten. Trish said feedback had been great. Staff said the children loved it, especially the pirate ship and treasure chest. It really gets their role play happening and enhances the area where the boat already was. Trish also had a workshop with the kids where they contributed to the mural by painting their feet or hands, and did prints around the border, which was fun for all involved. The mural also includes seagulls, people fishing, a mermaid, windsurfer, water skier, lighthouse, hot air balloon and more. Trish said she is pleased with the finished work, and wanted to thank Creative Communities for their part in funding the mural.

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MP congratulates Fonterra on Eltham cheese plant expansion

MP for Whanganui Chester Borrows has congratulated Fonterra on the opening of its Eltham cheese plant expansion.

'The whole region welcomes this major investment into the dairying sector. Fonterra is meeting the changing global demand in food preferences with this \$32 million input. As a result of this work on expanding the plant over the last twelve months or

so, this facility can now produce a mind-boggling 2.3 billion slices of cheese every year,' he says. 'I heartily congratulate Fonterra on the development that has gone on in moving with the global trend towards individually-wrapped cheese slices, as tastes become more westernised.'

He says this expansion in the north of his electorate puts more certainty into the region's economy against the more positive economic

environment which TPP will deliver. When TPP is fully implemented, New Zealand will enjoy an estimated annual tariff saving of \$96m million.'

What we have here is involvement with major recognised successful brands Mainland and Anchor, and with annual production of 70,000 tonnes of processed, natural block, natural shred and individually quick frozen cheeses, the largest consumer and foodservice

cheese manufacturing plant in Australasia'.

'The quality cheese produced here by one of our region's biggest employers will be enjoyed in hamburgers and sandwiches right around the world quite exciting to know that in China, the Middle East or in Africa you could visit a restaurant or fast food outlet and be biting into a little morsel of Eltham's premium product.'

FARM CONSULTANT What constitutes efficiency?

I had coffee with a bloke the other day who was a former dairy company director and a director of several corporate dairy farms. I tugged on his coat about the acceptance of production diseases. He called it "balance sheet farming". Rampant pay outs and easy credit meant that in the board room you didn't really have to worry about the cows themselves. But things have changed.

Historically, corporates never survived the down turns, whereas the family farm just pulled the belt in another couple of notches. But tightening the belt is not



Pat Pole

the only reason. The farming family was interested in their cows. Really interested. Why? Simply because the cows were also a part of the family. Intuitively, the family farmer considered their cows as individuals and knew how to get the best out of them. They anticipated and limited the effects of production diseases, and as such avoided the significant costs of these diseases. This allowed them to achieve a greater degree of production efficiency – the key to profitability.

What constitutes efficiency? And, how do we get it? Measures of efficiency include conversion of

feed to milk solids, reproductive efficiency (not only empty rate but also a compact calving), feed utilisation, number of heifer replacements, minimization of disease rates, and herd weight management. There are others. Each of these elements are complicated in themselves, but there are fundamental factors that tie all these issues together.

The only way to achieve efficiency is to identify and assess the risk factors which accrue on each farm individually that impact on a cow's desire and ability to eat and utilise the energy most efficiently from that feed. The foundation (surprise surprise) is the mineral profile of the diet. For example, subclinical effects of milk fever (not only down cows) reduce cow appetite, not just in spring but throughout the lactation. This complex disease is 90 per cent a mineral problem and involves the interaction of every single one of the nine essential macro elements. Effective management of negative energy balance and weight control are inextricably tied to the four trace elements

that are most often deficient; copper, cobalt, selenium and iodine. Mineral excesses such as sulphur, potassium and phosphorus are all too common, and will directly reduce intakes and limit production. What's your profile?

Manipulation of feed mineral profiles in order to remove barriers to intake and efficiency creates the basis of a strategic approach to fertiliser use, and a rational approach to both macro and trace mineral supplement selection and dose rate. No intervention to reduce the impact of production disease will be effective until some control is exerted over the mineral profile. This is the key to efficiency.

Balance sheet farming does not do justice to the cows largely because losses from inefficiency and disease don't appear on the balance sheet. However, the costs are enormous. Now is the time for a fundamental reassessment of the drivers of profit in animal production. These are turbulent times but as F D Roosevelt said, "A smooth sea never made a skillful sailor."

Pat Pole

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Taranaki attitude advances riparian scheme

Nearly 400,000 plants are being distributed to riparian planholders in the Taranaki region this season.

“The commitment is really good to see, and it’s reflecting in the improving water quality results we’re getting and in the reputation our farmers have of leading the country,” Taranaki Regional Council chairman David MacLeod said.

“Their proactive approach has meant that we’ve been able to keep regulations to a minimum in Taranaki – and that’s always been the objective – do it ourselves rather than wrap it up in bureaucracy.”

Taranaki Regional Council land services manager Don Shearman says the main despatch of plants has finished, but the Council will keep selling plants throughout winter until they’re gone.

Those who buy now and also order for 2017 are still eligible for the 10 per cent discount on the latter order, although that offer will soon end.

Mr Shearman gives credit to farmers for their committed efforts and contributions during a difficult financial

climate. “We’re holding our own in a tough time. It’s encouraging to see.”

To date, 84 per cent of Taranaki’s waterways on the ringplain and coastal terraces are fenced and 70 per cent are protected by stream-side planting.

“The fencing is on a steady rate to be completed on time, but we do need a higher planting rate to meet our 2020 target,” he says.

“It’s something that farmers need to budget for and do every year. It’s about planning to finish their planting by 2020 with a staged approach, for example, if you’ve got 4km of waterways, do 1km a year.

“It’s about protecting the environment and future-proofing farmers’ businesses – and we’ll work with you to get the job done.”

The Council tenders annually for the bulk supply of suitable native plants, and passes them on to farmers at cost. Ongoing one-on-one advice and support are also provided.

Taranaki’s freshwater quality has generally been maintained or improved since the Riparian Management Programme’s inception in



Plants being distributed to riparian planholders in the Taranaki region.



Plants being distributed.

the mid-1990s, and this trend can be expected to continue as the programme nears completion.

Planting and fencing benefits include preventing stock from fouling waterways and destabilising stream banks, and trapping and filtering silt and nutrients from pasture run-off.

It also provides shade to help reduce water temperatures, and improves stream and streambank habitat.

There are also long-term savings as farmers spread their costs and receive discounts by planting each year and ordering well in advance.

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Farm with greater certainty

Slow and steady key to fodder beet transition

Taranaki dairy farmers are encouraged to take it slow and steady when transitioning dairy cows to fodder beet crops this season.

DairyNZ regional leader for Taranaki, Katrina Knowles, says use of fodder beet is growing in the region, as some farmers test out the high yielding crop.

“More farmers are dabbling in fodder beet across Taranaki, and so it’s important that the transition process is managed closely, particularly if relatively new to it,” says Katrina.

“Cows need to be eased gradually onto fodder beet, and farmers need to keep a close eye on their cows during the process, which can take up to three weeks.”

Cows must be very slowly introduced to fodder beet by gradually decreasing the pasture/silage allocation and increasing the crop over 14-21 days.

Too much of the high

sugar crop in a cow’s daily feed intake, or not having sufficient time to adapt to fodder beet as part of the winter diet can lead to lactic acid production in the cow’s rumen, causing acidosis.

Farmers need to look for cows that separate themselves from the mob, are not eating, are dehydrated, scouring, bloating, have milk fever-like symptoms, are down, or die suddenly. The vet should be contacted immediately.

DairyNZ senior scientist Dawn Dalley says cows vary in how quickly they adapt to a new feed and the amount they can eat.

“We recommend farmers start mature cows with 1-2kg DM fodder beet per cow per day, and only increase by 1kg DM every second day to the required allocation,” says Dawn.

“During transition, do not increase the allocation if all cows are not eating beet,



Careful transitioning onto fodder beet is recommended.

or bulbs are being left on previous days’ breaks.”

Heifers and rising yearlings should be started on 1kg DM fodder beet per cow per day, and only increase by 0.5kg DM every second or third day, once all animals are eating.

Dawn says cows should also be offered silage, hay or straw at least three hours before feeding fodder beet,

to slow their crop intake.

“It’s also valuable to accurately measure the crop yield, which includes knowing the percentage of dry matter of the crop being offered, and remembering it can vary between paddocks.”

Having good electricity on fences and a very close second fence in case of break out is also vital.

“Check your cows frequently – individual cows transition differently, so even with well-planned transitioning, acidosis can occur. Even for cows eating fodder beet during late

lactation, careful transition up to their winter feed allocation is required.”

Careful transitioning onto fodder beet

Cows should be introduced to fodder beet by gradually decreasing the pasture/silage, and increasing the crop over 14-21 days.

Mature cows should be started on 1-2kg DM fodder beet per cow per day, and this should only be increased by 1kg DM every second day to the required allocation.

During transition, do not increase allocation if all cows are not eating beet

or bulbs are being left on previous days’ breaks.

Heifers and rising yearlings should start on 1kg DM fodder beet per cow per day and should only be increased by 0.5kg DM every second or third day, once all animals are eating.

Offer silage, hay or straw at least three hours before feeding fodder beet.

Measure the crop yield, which includes knowing the percentage of dry matter of the crop being offered.

If you think cows aren’t looking well, call a vet to check them.

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Fertiliser prices continue to fall as farmers plan for spring

For the fourth time in six months, Ravensdown is taking the initiative by reducing prices across a range of nitrogen, phosphate,

potash and sulphur (NPKS) products.

Superphosphate is being cut by \$18 to \$312 per tonne, potash by \$40 to \$625 per tonne, DAP by \$55 to \$785 per tonne and urea by a further \$20 to \$475 per tonne.

“We’re able to take this market-leading position because of our strong global supply relationships and because our long-term strategy of delivering all-year value is working,” said Bryan Inch, General Manager, Customer Relationships.

“In May we announced an interim rebate payment of \$21 per tonne in cash. The money started hitting customers’ bank accounts in early June. It might be the start of a new financial year for us, but we are sticking to our long-term strategy of passing on savings where we can,” added Bryan.



Mike Davey
Ravensdown
Regional Manager

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May rainfall puts year total back on track

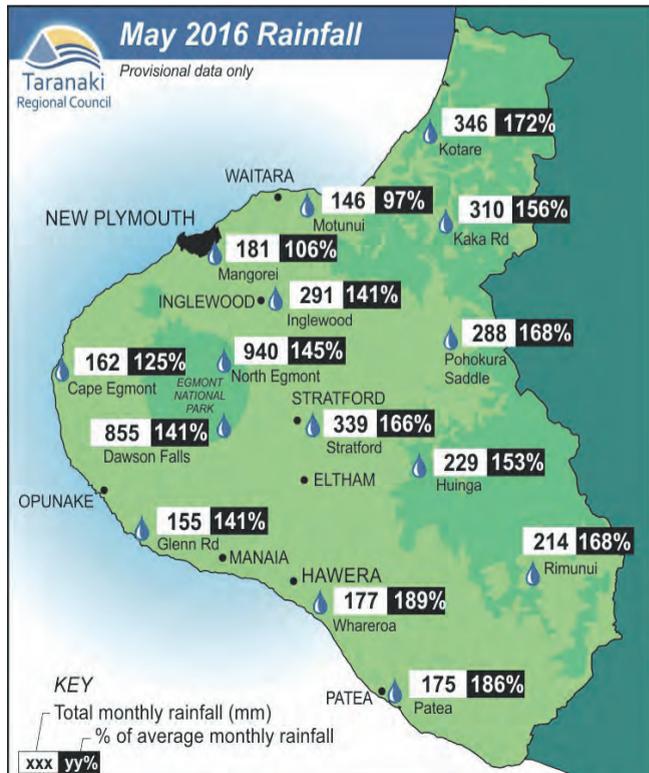
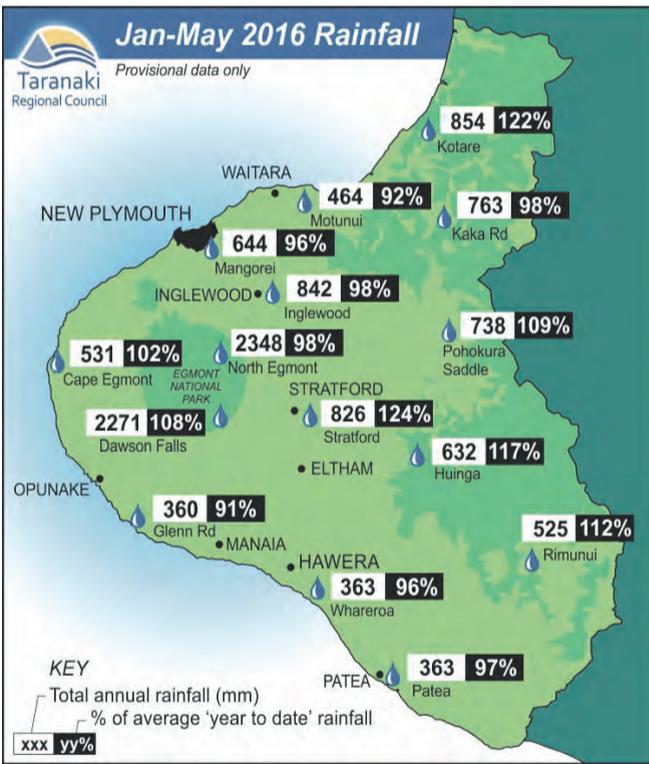
For the first two weeks of May, the region continued to experience the nice settled weather which had been present for all of April. However, the tide quickly turned and in the last two weeks of May there was a lot of excitement in the weather, with the MetService issuing numerous rain, wind and thunderstorm watches and warnings. The large amount of rain that fell in the second half of May resulted in rainfall for the month ranging between 97 and 189 per cent of normal, with the Motunui rainfall site being the only site to record below normal rainfall, according to Taranaki Regional Council figures.

Duffy's Farm near Whareroa recorded 176.5mm of rain, 189 per cent of normal for May, the highest total (relative to normal) of all the sites. The Ngutuweru rainfall site in the Moumahaki Valley was not far behind recording

206.5 mm or 187 per cent of normal for the month. Rainfall was recorded on 19-24 days for the month, and that was mainly due to the final two weeks having rain on almost every day.

The Stratford rainfall site recorded 78.5 mm on May 28 with 38.0 mm of that falling in the space of three hours, and 60.0 mm falling from midnight to 9am.

Year to date rainfall is now getting back on track largely due to the high rainfall recorded at the end of May. The rainfall sites have now received between 88 per cent and 124 per cent of normal to date, with 12 of the sites having received less than normal, and 13 having received more than normal rainfall. The Stratford rainfall site has so far received 826.0 mm, which is 124 per cent of normal, while the Te Kiri rainfall sites has only recorded 538.0 mm or 88 per cent of normal to date.



Golfing win for Opunake

The Taranaki Women's Golf mid week Pennant Finals were played between Opunake and Pungarehu on May 30 at Manaia. Opunake beat Pungarehu 4-2. Pungarehu had won against Patea on count back, and Opunake had beaten Waverley to take them into the final round.

Ann Marie Siciliano lost to Sharon Adamson 1up, Carol Hill beat Bev Robinson 1up, Jo Cathie lost to Susan Crowley 3-2, Wendy Vickers beat Robyn Barrett 1up, Lois Simpson beat Sharon Fisher 4-3, Marg Wellington beat Diane Sharpe 6-4..



The winning Opunake team and their caddies

Two indoor bowls titles for Midgley

The Taranaki Indoor Bowls Centre played their Champion of Champion Fours and Singles recently at Normanby. Two clubs qualified for playoffs in the Fours with the Otakeho Club team of Paul Midgley (Skip) Jenny Hamley, Ronnie Young and Lesley Landers dominating and taking out the title 10 - 3

from the Cardiff Club team of Arthur Podjursky (Skip) Bari Oliver, Simeon Cook and Janet McKeown.

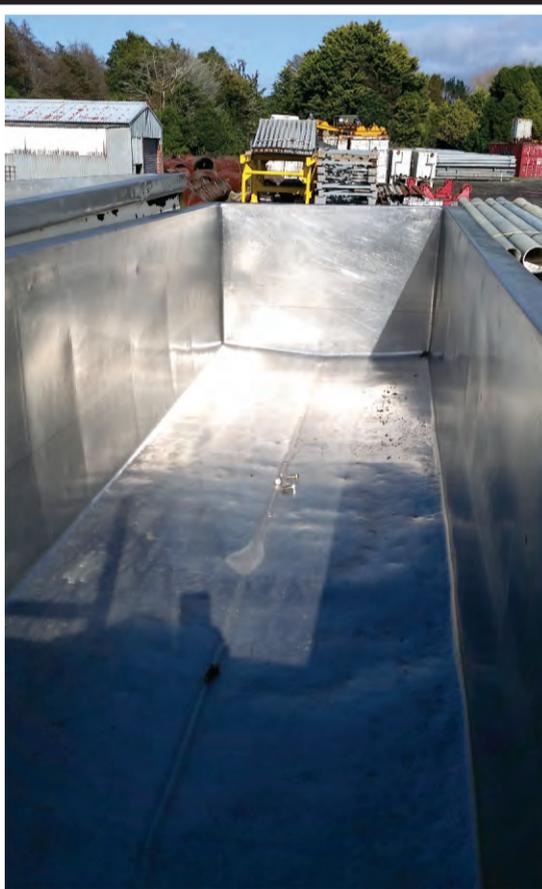
This win gave Paul Midgley 25 centre titles and his fourth bar to his Gold Star.

A top performance from Midgley also saw him take out the Singles title defeating Marlene Clement (Pihama) 12 - 5 in the playoff

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These people were successful in gaining their basketball referee certificate. From left. Bryan Roach, Kerry Ludlow, Daniel Sefton, Simone Cook, Sharon Quinnell, Scott Quinnell, Cath Cook & Carl Kowalewski. Absent. Michelle Hill Kathryn Ludlow & Phillip Anderson

Getting on the referee ladder

The Opunake Basketball Association recently ran a Referees course for people wanting to become a community referee.

The course was for entry level referees who will begin their refereeing at

a secondary school or at adult level. It is also for those referees who have completed the Kiwi Hoops Referee course and would like to progress to officiating beyond a junior community level. It aims to

equip participants with an understanding of the rules and the role of a referee in community level games.

The course was run by Kerry Ludlow who is a BBNZ (Basketball NZ) recognised trainer, one

of only two in Taranaki, whose role is to run clinics, develop and mentor referees in Taranaki, and to attend national tournaments throughout New Zealand as an official referee assessor and trainer.

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Hawera shooting results

In an exercise to improve their shooting, 10 double cards were shot by club members at the Hawera Hub target shooting on June 8. The best of these was a 199.11 by Jason Cameron. Jason also shot the only two hundreds of the night. All the juniors continue to improve, the best of which would have been Alex Munro with 95.3, 96.4 Scores were: Tenneile Crump Conchie grouping cards 98gr,98gr single and double cards, Jackson Jennings 93.4,92.1, Alex Munro 95.3, 96.4, Dwayne Rangil75.3,92.2, Clayton Robinson 75.0, 145.1, Christina Starr 86.2, 162.5, Rico Symes Patterson



The two Camerons shooting. Bruce (left) and Jason.

83.1,90.2, Hayden Andreoli 96.3, 189.4, Jason Cameron 100.3, 199.11, 99.7, Frank Eustace 96.4, 194.8, 194.8 Sam Gooding 195.13, Mathew Peters 187.5, 95.1. A week earlier, Jason Cameron was right on target at the Hawera Club's weekly shoot with a 100.9, followed up by two 98.4s Christina Starr had a personal best with a double 90.3,90.1. Dwayne Rangil is also coming right with 94.2, as did Dylan Farr.

Scores were: Llewellyn Farr 81.0, Dylan Farr 84.1, 94.2, Jackson Jennings 86.1,92.1, Alex Munro 90.0, 90.0, Dwayne Rangil 163.1, 94.2, Clayton Robinson 79.0, 166.2, Christina Starr 87.0, 180.4, Rico Symes Patterson 86.2, Tenneile Crump Conchie 96gr, 97gr, Joe De Costa 89.2, Hayden Andreoli 96.3,96.2, Jason Cameron 198.13, 98.4, Mathew Peters 96.6, 93.1, Frank Eustace

Fewer shooters but standard stays high

The Queen's Birthday Holiday meant fewer shooters taking part in the weekly shoot at the Eltham Smallbore Rifle Club. However scores remained high, and senior members continued their practising for future competitions. Top score was from Paul Tidswell who shot 99.5 and 99.6. Garry Rowlands was next best with 99.5 and 98.1. Other scores were Alan Drake 95.3, 90.2; Murray Chinery 93.5, 91.1, 91.0; Clare Bramley 96.4, 95.3; Bob Bramley 96.3, 93.1, 94.4; Frank Eustace 96.6, 98.6, 97.5; Paul Longstaff

97.4, 90.2; Don Litchfield 94.2, 93.3; Adrian Clark 96.4, 95.3; Brian Hicks 85.0, 94.2. Later that week, Midhirst Scouts attended the club as part of their Firearms Safety programme. Top score for three targets was Luke Heine with 291. Other scores were: Kobi Simmons 285; Joel Dodunski 285; Daniel Drummond 283; Richard Drummond 282; Kevin Van Loo 281; Bailey Robinson 275. Both Kevin and Bailey were shooting for the first time, so were pleased with their results. Parent helpers were brave enough to shoot

a card each with Lance Simmons scoring 100, Adrian Drummond 99, Dean Dodunski 98; and Marianne Drummond 97. A week earlier Matthew Sulzberger took his shooting to a new level with the highest scores he's achieved in many months. Matt is a Junior shooter and has been making steady progress to maintain a high average for his grade. His scores of 100.3 and 99.9 were the highlight of the weekly shoot. Garry Rowlands, a senior shooter, managed 100.7 and 98.4 to lead the chasers.

Other scores were: Paul Tidswell 99.6, 99.8, 195 9; Garry Rowlands 196.13; Clare Bramley 94.1, 93.3; Bob Bramley 94.1, 91.1, 91.2; Adrian Clark 92.1, 98.6, 99.4; Alan Drake 95.3, 92.4; Paul Longstaff 90.1; Heather Symonds 91.2, 97.5, 94.1; Murray Chinery 88.1, 90.1; Don Litchfield 92.2, 95.2; Brian Hicks 94.4, 95.4. Keira McLeish scored 95 and 99 on the grouping cards, but couldn't quite catch her father, Matt who scored 100 and 100.

Alan Drake

Bad result for Taranaki could mean relegation threat

The Taranaki Tigers came up against The Plainsmen from the South Island and put mildly it wasn't a good night in the Target Shooting National District championships. The

Plainsmen beat the Tigers 15-0. On June 9, the Taranaki Tigers team shot well below what could have been expected. The question now is can the Tigers regain the

lost form, because if not, second division relegation beckons. Two shooters that performed well for Taranaki would have to be Adrian Clark and Hayley Jupp both with scores of 292. Scores were: Bruce Cameron 297.17, Paul Tidswell 295.14, Brent Moratti 294.16, Doug Gibson 294.14, Kevin Bockock 294.11, Jason Cameron 293.17, Sam Gooding 293.15, Gary Rowlands 291.14, Frank Eustace 289.10, Trevor

Jupp 288.5, Adrian Clark 292.16, Hayley Jupp 292.14, Graham Moratti 286.9, Hayden Andreoli 284.8, Phobe Lye 282.10, Mathew Peters 187.5, Elish Magnus 181.3, Xander Campbell 177.3.

Frank Eustace

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Rahotu Bowling Club Inc

Notice of AGM
Sunday 26th June 2016
10 am at the Clubrooms
All members and intending members welcome
Peter Charteris - President

OPUNAKE PONY CLUB

A.G.M.
Tuesday 21st June
7.30pm at 3955
Main Sth Rd, Opunake
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AGM
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Applications close Friday 1 July 2016.
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Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES

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

Opunake Catholic Church

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

Other areas

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

ALL WELCOME

THE WAVE

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Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday
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Sunday Services 10.00am
Communion 1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday
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Every 5th Sunday all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service

He Pānui

2016 Trustee Election



Later this year, Daniel Harrison, Leanne Horo, John Niwa and Aroaro Tamati must retire by rotation as existing trustees of the Taranaki Iwi Trust and as establishment trustees of Te Kāhui o Taranaki (the Taranaki Iwi Post Settlement Governance Entity).

The Taranaki Iwi Trust now invites nominations to fill these four positions. For clarity, the successful candidates will act as trustees on the Taranaki Iwi Trust and also as establishment trustees on Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust.

The retiring trustees are eligible to stand for re-election.

Nominations must be made on an official nomination form and close at 5pm on Thursday 14 July 2016. If more than four nominations are received, an election will be held by postal and internet voting with the voting period closing at 5pm on Friday 9 September 2016.

Membership Registration

The Taranaki Iwi Trust invites all adults of Taranaki Iwi descent who have not already registered, to do so by completing a registration form. Registration forms and nomination papers can be sourced from the following:

Taranaki Iwi Trust office
Cnr Bayly Road and Oceanview Parade
New Plymouth
Ph 06 751 4285
www.taranakiwi.org.nz

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members and the general public are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Oakura Bowling and Social Club, which will take place in the Clubrooms at 1160 South Road Oakura at 2pm on Sunday 26 June 2016.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the 2015-2016 season; to elect a Committee for the 2016-2017 season, to debate Notices of Motion and to receive and deal with notices from the floor.

M J Burr, Secretary.

The next issue of the Opunake & Coastal News is on June 30/July 1
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7pm every Thursday night. Contact 761 8654

ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS

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

EOLC (End of Life Choices)

Group meets at 11am on Tuesday, 21 June at Cobb & Co Restaurant, Courtenay Street, New Plymouth. All welcome. Ph Jan Randle 756 8836.

OPUNAKE HIGH SCHOOL HOME AND SCHOOL CLOTHES SWAP

Thursday 23 May at 7pm in the Koru Lounge (by the gym). Refer advert for full details.

TARANAKI ARTS TRAIL EXHIBITION

27 May - 22 June, Percy Thomson Gallery.

THE VILLAGE GALLERY ELTHAM

6 June to 1 July 2016 - The Arts' Crew an exhibition of new work in a wide range of media and styles by Gallery Members.

BUTLERS REEF - OAKURA

Friday 17 June - 'Slam' at 8.30pm

Saturday 18 June - All Blacks vs Wales at 7.30pm followed by band 'Quadrasonic'.

OPUNAKE PONY CLUB AGM

Tuesday 21st June 7.30pm at 3955 Main South Road, Opunake

All welcome - Enquiries to 06 761 8308

HOLLARD GARDENS WOODCRAFT EXPO

Sunday 26 June, 10am - 3pm. Refer advert for full details.

RAHOTU BOWLING CLUB

Notice of AGM, Sunday 26th June 2016, 10 am at the Clubrooms.

All members and intending members welcome.

FREE FARMSAFE WORKSHOP

Monday 27th June, 11.00am - 2pm at CoastalCare, 26 Napier Street, Opunake. Refer advert for further details.

COLTON'S COASTAL RUMBLE

Thursday June 30 at Sandfords Event Centre. Doors open at 6.30pm.

OPUNAKE SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

FUNDRAISER DINNER

Food – Entertainment – Quick fire raffles

Sunday 10th July from 6pm at the Sandfords Event Centre

For tickets and enquiries please visit our facebook page, or email us opunakesurflifesaving@gmail.com

AGM

Sunday 10th July 1pm at the Surf Club

All members and intending members welcome. Any questions or nominations to Michael De Bique 0275826224



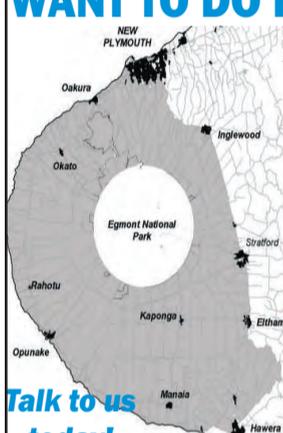
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We want to be involved with your business. Call today and discuss your marketing options with us.

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Ph/Fax: 06 761 7016 - 23 Napier Street, Opunake
or e-mail us: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

Publication Dates for 2016

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
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DEADLINES:

EDITORIAL - 5pm Friday prior to publication email: editorial@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

DISPLAY ADVERTS - 5pm Friday prior to publication email: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

CLASSIFIEDS - 3pm Monday prior to publication.

Adverts and readers' contributions may be emailed, faxed, posted or dropped into the Opunake & Coastal News: Phone and Fax (06) 761-7016 or a/h (06) 761-8206, 23 Napier Street, PO Box 74, Opunake. www.opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

Pukeiti makes the A-list in London

The Chelsea Garden Show is to gardeners what Formula One is to petrolheads, so when one of the judges lists Pukeiti in the world's top 10 gardens, it's a big deal.

Christopher Bailes has ranked Pukeiti at Number 2 in a column in London newspaper The Telegraph, giving high praise to the 334-hectare rainforest.

"Gosh, it's exciting," says Taranaki Regional Council Regional Gardens Manager Greg Rine. "Taranaki should be proud to be included with such prestigious gardens

from around the world."

Mr Bailes says choosing just 10 gardens was difficult, but all of them richly deserve a visit.

"Nestling in lush temperate rain forest on the slopes of New Zealand's Mount Egmont, Pukeiti hosts a fabulous collection of rhododendrons, camellias, magnolias, and other woodland treasures," he says.

"A mild climate with three to four metres of rain a year provides ideal conditions for luxuriant growth of plants from the Himalayas, China

and Japan.

"It has rightly been described as 'the ultimate rhododendron experience,' but aside from the remarkable plant collection, the special magic of Pukeiti for me lies in its unique blend of exotic and native plants."

Council Chief Executive Basil Chamberlain says Pukeiti's presence on the list is a credit to those who have developed the garden, and a reminder, both to the Council and Taranaki people, of its worth.

"We get this unsolicited reminder every now and then of the special taonga we have that is Pukeiti. It reinforces that there's a big world out there of people who are interested in these sorts of things.

"When you look at Taranaki's economy, I think



Pukeiti makes judges 'top 10' gardens list.

you'd agree that one area we need to lift our performance in is our visitor numbers, and part of that is having our assets polished up and promoted. We're in the business of polishing Pukeiti at the moment."

Mr Rine says Pukeiti's inclusion validates the

Council's work in growing its collection by sourcing new plants and increasingly vulnerable heritage plants.

"The cultivated plantings are totally focused on the genus rhododendron. Nowhere else in the world do you have such a unique combination of lush temperate rainforest setting

off these beautiful flowering plants," he says.

"We look forward to hosting discerning garden visitors from around the world."

Other "Top 10" gardens are in Singapore, France, the United States, South Africa, Isles of Scilly and England.

OPUNAKE HIGH SCHOOL HOME & SCHOOL

Thursday 23 June at 7pm in the Koru Lounge beside the School Gym.

SWAP! NOT SHOP

Wine and nibbles provided \$10 each or \$5 student. Come and fill a bag of new to you clothes.

You can also support our school by donating your preloved clothing at the School Office

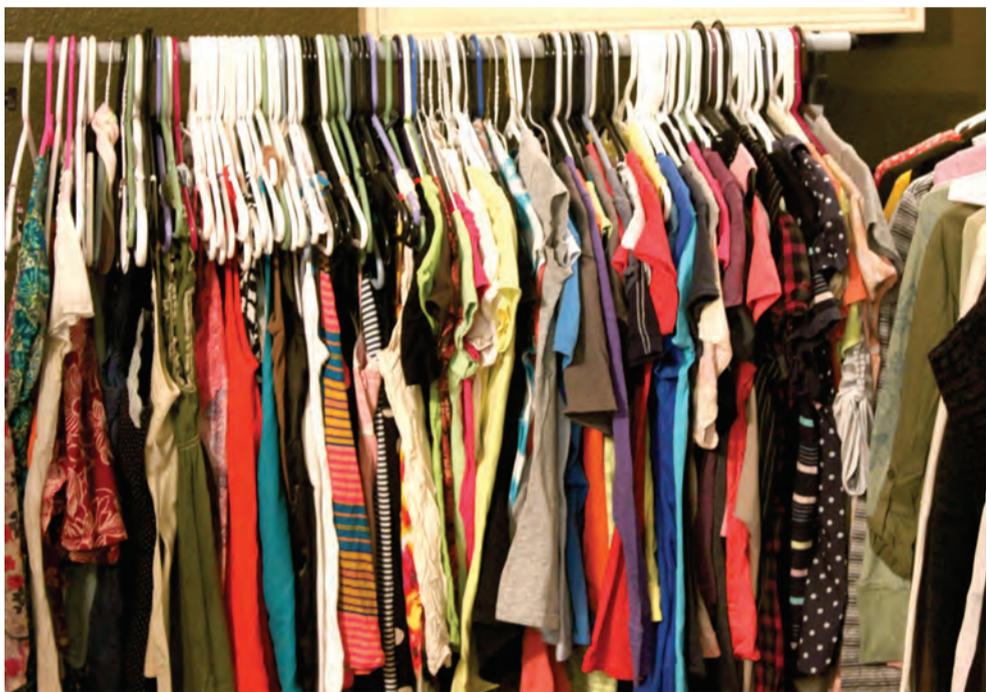
Back by popular demand

The Opunake High School Home and School Association are again holding their Swap not Shop evening. For the cost of \$10, or \$5 for students, you can come along to the Koru Lounge beside the High School Gym at 7pm on Thursday May 23 and fill up a bag of new-to-you clothes. Wine and nibbles are provided.

Donations of pre-loved clothing can be left at the High School office.

This is the third year the Home and School association have been running this get together-come-fundraising event. Last year around forty people turned up to see what was on offer. Organisers are hoping at least as many, if not more, will be there this time round.

The High School's biggest fund raising projects are the



Get along to the Opunake High School Home and School clothing swap.

school gala and the bobby calf collection. With calving about to get underway,

supporters of the school are reminded that any donations would be greatly appreciated. In the past, money raised has gone towards a number of projects including computer equipment, school uniforms,

and assisting students to compete at representative level. Funding has also recently been approved for a new glass house for the school's Agriculture department.

OPUNAKE SURF INN TUI OVER 60'S POOL COMP

Tuesday 5th July Doubles Tournament

\$30 per team - 9.30am start
Min. Individual age 55 years
Min. Team age 120 year

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SCALLY WELLS TROPHY
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5 x \$75 DRAWS - BOTH PLAYERS MUST BE THERE TO COLLECT

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MINIMUM PRIZE TO TEAMS \$40
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Catholic Church, 33 Whitcombe Road, Opunake..
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What's On

Friday 17 June
Band - 'Slam' 8.30pm

Saturday 18 June
All Blacks vs Wales 7.30pm
then followed by the Band 'Quadraphonic'
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OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

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Jamming with friends gives Mike a buzz

A chilly winter's evening in Opunake added new life with the musical talents of singer/songwriter and guitarist Mike Anderson from Okato, who entertained us with his unique blend of country, folk, and rock styles. With dynamic vocals, and a competent guitarist to boot, he set the crowd on their feet.

The father of two confided his main focus is on originals, having begun his song writing career at the tender age of 19, when he wrote his first number, "Ballad of Rocky Point," which was influenced by the impending exploding

of rocks at Rocky Point, south of Okato, near his local surfing spot.

"Sometimes I have lyrics floating around in my drawer for years," said Mike. "It starts with the lyrics, then I put the music to it, then the music and lyrics all come at me in a big rush." On Tuesday June 7 he sang, "All It Means", "Water," "28 About," and "Let's Ride," apparently only a portion of his total repertoire of 60 to 70 originals.

Mike admits these artistic creations all come out of places where he's had time

to reflect. His occupation has also provided the perfect environment, being on isolated drilling rigs all around the world as a commercial electrician.

"I have worked in the jungle, in the desert, and on water 400kms out to sea, in places including Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Alberta, and the Australian and Middle Eastern deserts," continues Mike.

It's obvious from talking to him that jamming with friends gives him a buzz, and he really enjoys being back in New Zealand playing with his

musical mates. In fact he told me, "the biggest influence are my friends whom I've played with since 1999".

He rattled off some crazy ex-band names like: 'The Stomping Moths,' 'The Decktators,' and 'Out Of Round'.

"We mainly gigged at private functions," he said. He believes the best songs he's ever written are those he's sung and performed to his wife, like 'My Valentine.' When asked where he finds his inspiration, he responded, "Between every breath that I take."



Mike Anderson at Opunake Music Workshop on Tuesday June 7.

of 59. Mike has previously recorded an EP of four songs and played these when he decided to pursue a solo career between 1994 and 1996, while touring the South Island playing solo gigs.

Fourteen year-old guitarist, Sam McNeil from Opunake High School benefited from Mike's professionalism and musical guidance, as I saw him briefly explain the chord structure of his songs before Sam played along.

Anyone who would like to develop their talents further with expertise, mentoring and training from regular professional musicians and singers, please join us at 7:30PM on Tuesday June 21 at the Catholic Church lounge, 33 Whitcombe Rd, Opunake. *Anne Montgomery*

Woodworkers chip away at expo

It may be hard to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, but woodworkers have an uncanny ability to see beyond the veneer of a dull block of wood to the polished piece within.

Through carving, turning, sanding, polishing and more, they coax out shapely and intricate designs – a process that you can see for yourself at the Hollar Gardens Woodcraft Expo on Sunday, June 26 from 10am to 3pm.

The expo, at 1686 Upper Manaia Rd, Kaponga, will feature displays of fine

woodcraft from Taranaki craftsmen and women, and there will be lathework, carving, scroll saw, pyrography and intarsia demonstrations throughout the day.

Exhibitors include members of the New Plymouth Woodworkers Guild and Stratford Woodturners. There will be woodcraft for sale, but take cash because there won't be eftpos; and an onsite raffle will give people the chance to win some of the pieces on show.





INVITATION - LEARN TO PLAY TEXAS HOLDEM POKER

Starting Friday 17th June from 7pm
at the Club Hotel - Opunake 761 8213

FREE FarmSafe Workshop

CoastalCare and funding partners **Wood Group Training** are hosting a **FREE FarmSafe Workshop!** FarmSafe is targeted at individuals and organisations operating within the farming and agriculture sectors. This three hour workshop will cover the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, focusing particularly on the impact and responsibilities of farmers.

When: Monday 27th of June 2016

Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm

Where: CoastalCare 26 Napier St, Opunake.
Refreshments will be provided.

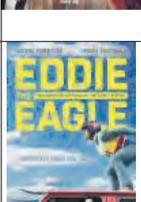
Book now as we expect these spaces to fill up fast!
Contact Aretha on 06 761 8488.



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A Wood Group business

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Lollies, Popcorn, Ice-creams, Chocolate bars, Coffee & Tea For Sale		Adults \$10, Students 4-16yrs \$8, Under 4 free Senior Citizens \$8. No Eft-Pos	
	<p>The Great Maiden's Blush 108min M Offensive Language & adult From the makers of Hook, Line & Sinker and Taking the Waewae Express comes a story of friendship, forgiveness and the redemptive power of truth. Friday 17 June 7pm Wednesday 22 June 1pm</p>		<p>Florence Foster Jenkins 110min Biography, Comedy, Drama The story of Florence Foster Jenkins, a New York heiress who dreamed of becoming an opera singer, despite having a terrible singing voice. Saturday 18 June 7pm</p>
	<p>Angry Birds Movie PG 97min Animation, Action, Comedy When an island populated by happy, flightless birds is visited by mysterious green piggies, its up to three unlikely outcasts – Red, Chuck and Bomb – to figure out what the pigs are up to. Saturday 25 June 1pm</p>		<p>The Boss R13 99min comedy A titan of industry is sent to prison after she's caught insider trading. When she emerges ready to rebrand herself as America's latest sweetheart, not everyone she screwed over is so quick to forgive and forget. Saturday 25 June 7pm Wednesday 29 June 7pm</p>
	<p>Bad Neighbours 2 R16 92min Sex scenes, violence, drug use and offensive language After a sorority moves in next door which is even more debaucherous than the fraternity before it, Mac and Kelly have to ask for help from their former enemy, Teddy. Friday 24 June 7pm Sunday 26 June 7pm</p>		<p>Hunt for the Wilderpeople Comedy 93mins PG13 A national manhunt is ordered for a rebellious kid and his foster uncle who go missing in the wild New Zealand bush. Wednesday 22 June 7pm</p>
	<p>Eddie the Eagle Comedy, Drama 106 mins PG13 The notoriously tenacious British underdog ski jumper who charmed the world at the 1988 Winter Olympics. Sunday 19 June 7pm</p>		<p>Me before You **Boutique** Romance 1hr 49mins PG Coarse language & sexual references Sunday 3 July 7pm</p>

Boutique \$25 Tickets available at Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration

Wednesday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	17 The Great Maiden's Blush 7pm	18 The Jungle Book 1pm Florence Foster Jenkins 7pm	19 Eddie the Eagle 7pm
22 The Great Maiden's Blush 1pm Hunt for the Wilderpeople 7pm	24 Bad Neighbours 2 7pm	25 Angry Birds 1pm The Boss 7pm	26 Bad Neighbours 2 7pm
29 Captain America: Civil War 1pm The Boss 7pm	1 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle 7pm	2 Alice through the Looking Glass 1pm Bad Neighbours 2 7pm	3 **Boutique** Me Before You 7pm



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in Sandfords Event Centre

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THE COASTAL RUMBLE

The big fighters are backing the little fighters

Little Fighters Trust commits to supporting all families who are nurtured under our wing. James and Kelly Langton and their families are right behind the Little Fighters, as is the Coastal Rumble.

James is one of their ambassadors and one of their big fighters supporting families in need. Sadly we have had a huge influx of very small children

come into our care, which has made it so very hard to select our beneficiaries for this Coastal Rumble event. So we thought, why not help them all?

Each little face looks to us for support and kindness, and at the Coastal Rumble this year we ask you to get right behind us in making these little fighters happier with some community support. Our past events have had a huge

impact on the families we supported. We are delighted to know we Ariana is doing great and preparing those legs for some serious dancing.

Thank you Taranaki for your support in getting Ariana to America. Young Alexis is doing well, and saving hard for her surgery too. Making life easier for our young ones who struggle is our absolute pleasure. We have

some awesome auction items again so bring you bidding hand, your deep pockets, and your positive energy to send to these littlies. Milan Brooks is confirmed as one of our special miniature beneficiaries

If you are a business who would care to support Little Fighter in Taranaki with an item to auction please call Sarah on 027 836 4198.



James is keen to win back his title and look out for his Little Fighters



Sarah Silver Little Fighters trustee with Ariana Lawn and the cheque from last years Coastal Rumble



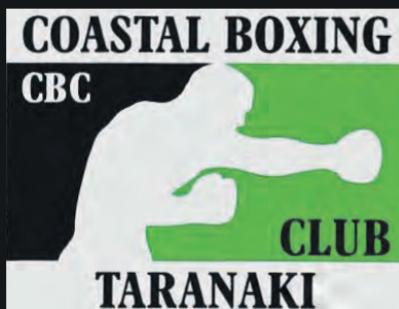
Donations from The Hawera Rumble helped Alexis



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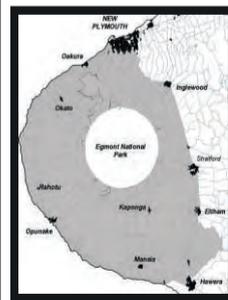
Coastal Boxing



Monday & Wednesday
6.00pm at the
Pungarehu Hall
Welcoming new Members!
Contact: Terry 06 763 8785
027 815 0713

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today!



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or e-mail us: ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

THE COASTAL RUMBLE



Monty Betham Jr

Monty Betham Jr says he is looking forward to the Rumble.

"I am really looking forward to coming down to Opunake, and I am grateful for the opportunity to experience real New Zealand grassroots boxing, without the hype of television.

"James is a very tough guy with a big heart and he

showed that with our first fight. I'm sure that on home soil that will be even more so on display. Training has been really good. I know that it needs to be as James will be training really hard."

Monty is 38 years old, 180cm tall and weighs 91 kg. He has made a name for himself with his rugby league and boxing exploits, most

notably winning the NZNBF cruiserweight title last year. He also has a number of television appearances to his name, but for his choice of greatest achievement, he looks elsewhere.

"My kids are the achievement of which I am the most proud," he said. "They are more important than anything."

Major sponsor of the NZNBF Cruiserweight Title and IBO Asia Pacific Cruiserweight Title

I would like to wish the fighters all the best

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Craig Turner

Craig Turner was born in Auckland, but has spent most of his life in Wainuiomata. A qualified automotive engineer, he now builds and services coffee machines.

He is 27 years old, 178cm tall and weighs 178kg. He has had one pro fight, against Adrian "the Terror" Tania,

seven amateur fights and eight Muay Thai fights.

He has fought for the NZWKA kick boxing title

He is looking forward to taking on Sam Rapira.

"I feel this is a very good test for me competing against one of New Zealand's top fighters," he said. "I think

he is a tough, durable, well rounded fighter, and I'm looking forward to having a dance and putting on a good show.

"Training is going well and I'm feeling real confident for this fight and really looking forward to it."



Believe in yourself and you will be unstoppable!

SHARLEE

All our love from the Get Fit 45 ladies

Jody Allen

Forty eight year-old Jody Dreadsta Allen began his pro career when he was 42. He has had 21 pro and eight amateur fights. He has been at Mundine's Boxing Gym in Sydney, which he represented in 10 fights over

three years, and has fought in five divisions, welter, light middle, middle, super middle and light heavyweight. He says the highlight of his boxing career was fighting the son of Inga Tuigamala on a Joseph parker undercard.

"I enjoy boxing," he said.

"It keeps me focussed and in shape while teaching me inner strength. I enjoy it for the adrenaline rush, the honour, the respect, and for the love of the punch. Whether you're giving it or getting it, somebody's loving it."



Best wishes - Go Hard

SHAVAUGHN

Mum, Dad, Jordan, Shania, Zion, Aiyana and Niko

Saia Aholelei

Saia Aholelei is 26 years old, 183cm tall, and weighs in at 126kg. Born in Tonga, he came to New Zealand when he was six years old and works at Johnny Neil Building Ltd. He lists his interests as boxing, tattooing, rugby and spending time with

the family.

He took part in the Hawera Rumble last year, losing to Kevin Mulligan-Green.

He says he is enjoying the training environment.

"I enjoy being physical and keeping fit, and I enjoy the Coastal Rumble. It will be

a good opportunity for my boxing career."

He also respects his opponent.

"He's a good, humble guy. I'm looking forward to having a beer with him after the fight."



Good Luck

SIMON

All our love Christine, Ara, Keira Mum & Dad, Kate, Andrew and Dani, John, Sheree & Jock

Josh Giddy

Australian-born Josh Giddy is 22 years-old and weighs 75 kg. He works at Hirepool as a mechanic, and says he loves motorbikes, cars and "anything adrenaline

pumping."

"I'm fighting to further develop my skills in boxing. Training is going good. Losing weight isn't as fun, but I'm getting there."

He is going into the ring without any pre conceptions.

"I haven't met my opponent, and I'm not really concerned, He said."



Go Girl!

SHARLEE

From your ARAHI TEAM MATES

Philip Drought

Philip Drought says he is looking forward to taking part in the Coastal Rumble.

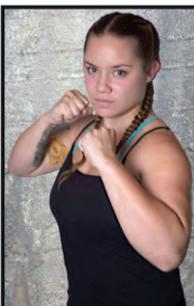
"I am fighting because I can," he said. "I have always admired the way boxers train.

It's a big night for Opunake, and a great chance to be part of it."

The 54 year-old is 180cm tall and weighs in at 92kg. This will be his second Coast-

al Rumble. Last year he defeated Brent Davies. He will not be taking this fight lightly.

"I have lots of respect for James," he said.



Good Luck

SHAVAUGHN

Go hard from Nan & Pop, Whaea Ange, Nita and Uncle Gary & Whanau

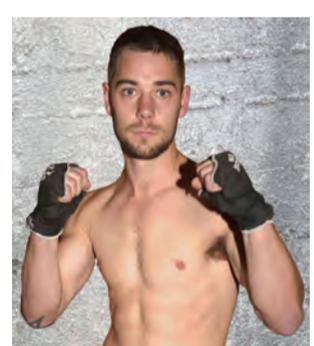
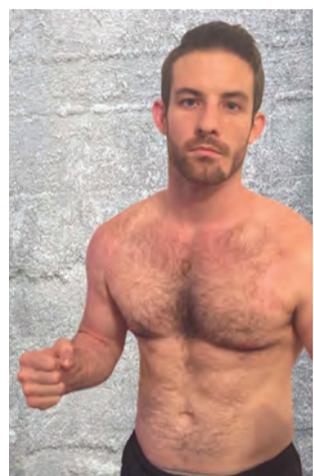


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THE COASTAL RUMBLE



Good Luck Geri & Phil

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Lyn Smith

Twenty four year-old Lyn Smith was born and bred in Hawera, and has been dairy-farming for the last five years. She is 164cm tall and weighs in at 62kg.

Last year she made the Mid Central Vipers rugby league team. Further back in her high school days, she played rugby union, making the Taranaki and Hurricanes teams.

She is looking forward to her rematch with Shi-han Ngarewa, after losing to her in the Hawera Rumble back in Decemehr.

"I couldn't ask for a tougher opponent," Lyn said.



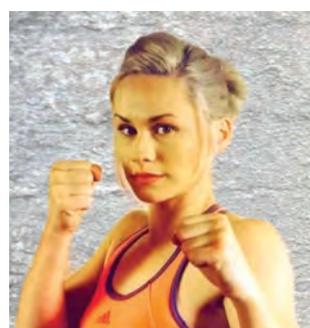
"I enjoy boxing a lot. My main reason for fighting is for my Aunty Mamafee who is no longer with us, but I know she would be behind me all the way, as she has always been there for me through the good and the bad."

Shi-Han Ngarewa

Twenty eight year old Shi-han Ngarewa is looking forward to being at the Coastal Rumble.

"I boxed at the Hawera Rumble in December last year, so soon I can say I've been lucky to fight in Hawera, New Plymouth, and now the Coast."

She is 160cm tall and weighs in at 58kg. The oldest of five children, she was raised in Patea, completing her secondary school education at Hawera High School. Apart from her time studying for a law degree in Hamilton, she has lived in Taranaki all



her life. She has been training in various styles of martial arts for a number of years, which she began under the instruction of her father Sensei Darren Ngarewa.

Valda Brooks

Valda Brooks describes herself as "a Pungarehu girl from a well-known Coastal family and the youngest of five."

Aged 43, 175cm tall, and weighing 78kg, she now lives in Ohawe. She says boxing has been her way of life for the past six years through boxfit and supporting her husband Ali Brooks in preparing fighters for events such as this.

"This year, I thought why not?" she said.

From her teens through to 38, she has represented Taranaki in netball and swimming.



She is looking forward to the challenge.

"My training has been intense, powerful and strong. I'm glad to be suitably matched."

Geri Paul

Geri Paul says she sees the Coastal Rumble as a challenge she could possibly lose.

"I'm not scared of losing, but I would hate to not try something just because it's going to be tough. Although I love the training and physicality of boxing, I would in no way call myself a boxer, which is why I love events like these, as it gives people a taste of what it could be like. This event appealed to me, not just because it's going to be a tough hard fight, but because some of the proceeds are going to the Little Fighters Trust, and I think that's awesome."

"I have nothing but respect



for my opponent. I believe she will be a formidable force."

Aged 50, she is 163cm tall and weighs 78kg. Geri currently works as assistant manager at Tegel. She has represented Taranaki in touch rugby, rugby league and softball. She represented New Zealand in rugby for a number of years, and has been named in the New Zealand Maori rugby league team.

Ryan Cox

Ryan Cox is a self confessed "bike addict," whether it be mountain bike, road, track or BMX.

"I've been lucky enough to hold titles in each of those codes of cycling," he said. "My whole family has been involved in New Zealand cycling for years. My father Peter Cox is something of a legend."

Ryan works for NPSS at the port, operating heavy plant. He is 37 years old, 185cm tall and weighs 91kg.



"I love boxing. I think it's the perfect training for base for any sport. I was over the moon to get another shot at getting in the ring," he said.

"I know little about my opponent Burt, but being a coastal boy I'm expecting a good hard bugger."

Burt Mclean

Burt McLean was born in what is now the Opunake Cottage Rest Home 45 years ago, and describes himself as a "huge sports fan," having played rugby league, basketball, touch, indoor bowls, darts and surfers.

Now he is adding boxing to that list.

"At first it was a fitness challenge, but the opportunity to fight at home is a plus. I also wanted to support Batman," he said.

He is 185cm tall, weighs 95kg, and works at Silver Farms as well as doing farmwork.



He is pleased with how training has been going.

"I've learned heaps, and had great trainers with Terry and Maloni and Vince," he said.

As for his opponent? "I don't really know so can't really comment, but I wish him good luck for the night. I'm focussed on being focussed and calm."

Sharlee Mareikura

Thirty-nine year old Sharlee Mareikura is well-known in Opunake through her involvement with Get Fit 45, and as a member of the Egmont Plains Community Board, and teacher at Kohanga Reo o Te Namu. She is 180cm tall and weighs in at 80kg.

"I'm passionate about training and helping others achieve their goals," she said. "I enjoy pushing people through their paces, whether it be the Coastal Cobras rugby league boys, the Get Fit 45 ladies, or junior kids."

"Kelly and James put a lot of time and effort into this event and it's awesome to have something like this here in Opunake. I signed up to step



out of my training comfort zone and do something a little bit different to represent my whanau and see what boxing is all about."

She said she has been enjoying the training.

"The intensity and fundamentals of the sport are fantastic. I'm always learning something, which is awesome, because I'm a sponge, and I love soaking up new things."

Shavaughn Towers

Shavaughn Towers says she always wanted to get into boxing or kickboxing.

"This opportunity arose, and because it's for a good cause, I put myself out there," she said.

Aged 22, she is 157cm tall and weighs in at 80kg.

She currently lives in New Plymouth.

"I lived most of my life in Patea where my family is from," she said. "Basically everyone there is family and we probably made up half the population. I don't know where I would be without them. They truly are my



backbone.

"Training has been good, and I've improved a lot physically and mentally."

She is reluctant to give an assessment of her opponent.

"I don't know her well enough to say anything other than she looks tough."

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