



Inside

When a bible stopped a bullet

Eltham has long been known for commemorating ANZAC Day in its own unique way. They usually have two services, the Civic ceremony at the Eltham School gates, followed by the Eltham RSA's own service at the Services Cemetery on Anderson Road a few kilometres out of town.

Nestled in a tranquil country setting, the Eltham Services Cemetery has been used as a model by other centres around the country says Eltham RSA padre Lindsay Maindonald.

This year, because of logistical uncertainty with changes to the traffic light system it was decided to dispense with the civic service, while the service at the Services Cemetery went ahead. In previous years the Services Cemetery service has proved to be as popular



Eltham's ANZAC service in the tranquil setting of the country cemetery, far removed from the battlefields of the world.

as the Civic service, and it proved to be as popular this year with a large crowd turning up.

Eltham RSA president

Llew Eynon said this year marks the centenary of the RSA Poppy Appeal. The first poppies had been ordered for Armistice Day in 1921, but had not arrived in time, so they were held over until ANZAC Day the following year. The Street Appeal which raises money for the families of veterans has been held in all but one year since then. The exception was 2020 when the country was locked down because of COVID, and even then the appeal was held online. This makes it the longest running appeal in the country says Llew.

Lindsay Maindonald said he had with him the bible which his grandfather Richard Perring, a stretcher bearer with the Kings Royal Rifle Brigade carried with him into World War I. It was the bible which saved Richard's life when it deflected a German bullet. The indent caused by the bullet can still be seen. After

World War I he immigrated to New Zealand where he farmed near New Plymouth. Lindsay was wearing his medals, as well as those of his other grandfather Sergeant Francis William Henry Maindonald who was awarded the Military Medal and Bar for bravery.

"We are gathered here in this beautiful grove of trees so far removed from the battlefields of the world," said Lindsay. "We're still holding our breath today praying that we are not witnessing the beginning of World War III in Ukraine. The world definitely needs our prayers this ANZAC Day."

The Services Cemetery commemoration always includes opportunities for members of the public to lay crosses at the headstones of family members who have served overseas. Among those doing so was Eltham RSA vice-president Ray Willy, who was there with

members of his family from around the country, including his sister Lorraine Crooks from Auckland who says she makes the trip back for ANZAC Day every two years. Their father and their father's brother from the First World War as well as two uncles from their mother's (Tipler) side who served in the Second World War are buried at the Services Cemetery.

"ANZAC Day is a big occasion for my family," says Ray. Family members get together for a special meal in Stratford the day before ANZAC Day. Earlier in the service Ray's grandchildren laid a wreath on behalf of their family.

Ray and Lorraine's father Leslie Henry Willy was a gunner in the Field Artillery on the Western Front during World War I. Ray says the local district put on a big farewell for him before he left to serve overseas.

"He was smacked around a bit and stopped a bullet at Passchendaele," says Ray. "My family's been over there to see that." says his father was about 40 when he got married, and Ray was only 13 when he died.

Investigation continues

In a follow-up from the Okato accident which featured on the front page of the April 21 issue of the Opunake and Coastal News, police say they are not in a position to comment, and an investigation into the incident and subsequent events is currently underway.



New Zealand's top Lion. See page 5



Veteran journalist recounts Inglewood murder. See page 9.



Opunake's 40 hour Theatre Challenge. See page 11.



ANZAC Day around the mountain. See pages 12-14.



Mountain to Sea. See page 18.



From left: Padre Lindsay who spoke at the ANZAC Day service held at Eltham's Military Cemetery with Llew Eynon, President of the Eltham RSA.

Lindsay is wearing medals belonging to both his grandparents - one of whom was commended for bravery. He is also holding a bible belonging to his other grandfather - who was also a lay preacher - which was in his top left pocket when it deflected a German bullet saving his life.

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

Car thieving on America's Cup the rise

Look it really doesn't surprise me at all that over the last three years the AMI Insurance Company has had 12,000 insurance claims over stolen vehicles, while our police have told us countless times about locking one's vehicle away in one's locked garages or park it down a driveway and have a steering wheel lock and also some kind of alarm system.

In our province it's believed that the most popular stolen vehicle is the Mazda Demio, while some of our farmers are still having heavy machinery stolen.

So come on everyone don't take things for granted. Not only should you lock away your valuable vehicles and machinery but make sure your homes are also locked and remember this, that today's thieves are getting more and more clever every day and every year, and always be that one step ahead of them by thinking safety, so don't become a victim

Tom Stephens
New Plymouth

In the far off days of my youth I used to sail the Hauraki Gulf in boats like these. We cobbled together the rig from dunnage found on the fisherman's wharf roughly where the America's Cup was sailed from last year. The vessel was recycled at the cost of \$30.00 from the Milford Sea Scouts who no longer desired her. The cotton sails bought cheaply from Remuera yachtsmen who fancied synthetic materials in the 1970s. She still sails and gives joy to young people further north of Auckland. Our point is to reinforce Rolland McKellar's scorn of the America's Cup. It makes a fine TV event. We have long thought that New Zealand should promote and honour The Lipton Cup, sailed for over 100 years by crews of Mullet boat men as an admirable replacement for said America's Cup, but it probably would not make as good TV.....

Dave Hancock
Eltham



Dave Hancock in earlier days. Photo: Dave Hancock.

Radical Liberal Left vs. The Conservative Far Right

Labels are unavoidable and are often very convenient, especially at the grocery store. The label "liberal" sounds very generous and open-minded. But this isn't always the case. Currently America

is leading from the extreme far left liberal position, now called "progressive." The conservative right, typically Republicans, have limited power in the two houses of Congress and are media lambasted as racist, undemocratic, fascist, homophobic, transphobic, Trumpian, white male

Continued page 3

ADELPHOS

Have you noticed how many orange cones there are on the roads these days? A recent trip north really brought home to me that we are overrun with them. It seemed like we would no sooner pass through one lot of cone-shaped inanimate orange road marshals, when we were accosted by more! None of them could speak (of course) and yet they seemed to communicate clear instructions: go here, don't

Orange cones

go there! Perhaps it was my imagination, but I got the impression that the primary objective of the orange cones was to delay our arrival at our distant destination. Am I the only person with such a paranoia?

Kids and teenagers probably think orange cones have always been on the roads. Not so! I can vividly remember those halcyon days when they were not. Although, come to think of it, I am a

bit sketchy on the details of how we knew where to drive with the roadworks of yesteryear. New Zealand was a bit later than some other western countries to begin using orange cones. Charles D. Scanlon, a painter from Los Angeles, first invented a wooden - and sometimes concrete - barrier to keep cars away from wet paint on the roads. He went on to patent the rubber version of the cone in 1943. By 1947 rubber cones began mass production: 75 years ago.

It is estimated that there are over one million orange road cones out on our streets here in New Zealand at any given time; each year somewhere between 150,000 and 250,000 are sold. Little wonder that I felt overrun by them. Worldwide there are thought to be

140 million cones in use Each cone weighs 5 kilograms and has an estimated life span of 5 years. What happens when they have worn out? Well, the good news is that they are recycled.

Direction is required in many aspects of our life at times. We have those irksome, but necessary, orange cones for our roadway guidance in times of alteration and repair and we have the words of Jesus to help us with our personal spiritual direction. He told His disciples, "I Am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." That is clear direction and guidance given when Jesus walked the earth, that is as valid today as it was then.

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Letters to the Editor

supremacists, a nuclear threat. Both sides have resorted to divisive and vilifying bogus scandals. One side says it's raining, the other says it's fine and sunny. Private leftist tech media giants like Facebook and Twitter clearly collude with the American Democratic Party's far left and liberal "woke" ideology meaning "please don't offend my feelings or differ with me." Why? "Because I have a higher morality and I'll accuse you of disinformation or hate speech." Tech giants use this virtue signaling narrative to

an increase in blocking, online shadow banning and the government's quiet rushing of significant legislation. Well done to The Opunake and Coastal News for publishing radically different editorial/political viewpoints. An American president once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." *A concerned Kiwi Inglewood*

Dairy Women's Network chair

From Dairy Woman of the Year, Trish Rankin is now the New Zealand Dairy Women's Network chair, as she has taken over from Karen Forlong who has stepped

down after two and a half years. It seems this farming network has 10,000 members including farmers and rural professionals. Among her prizes for winning Dairy Woman of the Year was a \$20,000 scholarship to undertake a personal development programme. I know over the years our farming industry has changed considerably to what it used to be, as it's now not only developing the industry itself, but to me I feel that there are some farmers who sometimes cannot deal with farming stress, as we've all heard of some farmers who have just walked away, not just from his farm, but from his community never to be seen again, so the whole farm has to be sold, then the

grieving families are to begin their life in our huge towns and cities. To me, today's farmers should also be looking out for their farming neighbours otherwise we could have and see more farmers going off the walls and we don't want to see this happening all the time, so networking among all farmers is really needed which is my main concern. *Tom Stephens New Plymouth*

An ANZAC Day thank you

I am writing to thank the Okato community, the NPDC, the Okato Community Trust Board the Okato Lions Club, Coastal Taranaki School principal, head boys Alex

Gibson and Cain Longstaff, the Sea Rescue team, the Fire Brigade of Okato/Oakura, the Blue Wave, Steve Bone, Mike Gordon, Sarah Foreman, pianist, Kathy Sutton, Craig Taylor Vintage Army Vehicles Club, Matt the Policeman, Stony River House, all those behind the scenes, the Defence Wellington flypast of the P3 K Orion -4 engine submarine hunter and guardian of our fishing zones plane, for participation and your attendance at the ANZAC Day Parade and service on 25 April 2022 at Okato. The event raised \$270 for Ukraine Doctors Without Borders. Blessings to you all *Lesley Dowding Okato*

EDITORIAL

Winston Peters trespassed from parliament for two years

Former Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters has been trespassed from Parliament by Speaker Trevor Mallard for two years. The penalty for a breach of this trespass order can be three years in prison. The Rt Hon Winston Peter spent just part of one day in February, at the protest site in the vicinity of

Parliament, at the request of some protesters. There is no suggestion he broke the law in any way and was surely just exercising his right to be present at a protest. Mr Peters is understandably outraged. "There is a difference between protesters who were legally, peacefully and rightfully there, as opposed to those we saw, in the end,

being violent and displaying clearly criminal behaviour," he commented. The minority of protesters throwing bricks and the like were likely being photographed by the police (who were being pelted) for eventual prosecution and hopefully they will be made accountable. Protest should always be peaceful.

Protest has been an important part of New Zealand's democratic past with such causes as halting our military involvement in the Vietnam War, opposition to the Springbok Tour as well as the Maori land marches, regardless of anyone's personal view. It would be interesting to ask our best known protester

Sir Tim Shadbolt, currently Mayor of Invercargill, how he sees the situation (See OCN issue March 24). Sir Tim took part in all three of the examples mentioned (above) and was arrested 33 times for his moral courage. Mr Peters had described the edict as "a dictatorial, unreasonable and unlawful decision." He is seeking legal

advice on the decision. Democracy is too important - and fragile - to be left up to the Speaker, who has in the past been criticized by some (including the police leadership) in his handling of protests, with such actions as showering anti vax protesters with water. *Rolland McKellar*



Correction

LEFT:

The photo in the story of the upgrade of the Lakeside Playhouse in the last issue was incorrectly captioned for which we apologise.

Editor

The people in the photo are: From left, the reno team Heather Jensen, Lynelle Kuriger, Wendy Smith, and on the building side Mike Smith and John Baldie and Chair of the Renovation Committee Diane Baldie.

A word on COVID

Quoted: *Newsroom, Science Media*
 "The more I read, the more bad things I find that this virus can do to your body, particularly your brain. You hear people say 'might as well get it over with'. Well I wouldn't want to voluntarily risk taking on a bit of brain damage for any reason."
 Cromwell GP Dr Greg White on not being blasé about Covid-19

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Scenic trains to resume with new tourism offering

KiwiRail's Northern Explorer and Coastal Pacific scenic trains will resume later this year, with the addition of exciting new travel packages and tours which will encourage travellers to explore regional New Zealand, KiwiRail General Manager Scenic Journeys Tracey Goodall says.

The Northern Explorer (Auckland - Wellington) will resume from September 25 and the Coastal Pacific (Picton - Christchurch) from September 29. The two services were hibernated in December 2021, when the ongoing impacts of Covid-19 saw passenger numbers dwindle.

The best known of KiwiRail's three tourism trains, TranzAlpine, (Christchurch - Greymouth) re-started in January and will also offer package and tour options from early October.

"Our three services will cater for a range of travellers, both domestic and international. People will be able to book tickets between Auckland and Wellington, Picton and Christchurch, and Christchurch and Greymouth

as they previously have, but we will also be offering new products on all three trains to appeal to more people and different travel styles," Ms Goodall says.

"We'll be providing new visitor experiences on the Northern Explorer, Coastal Pacific and TranzAlpine - with the addition of self-guided tours and set and customized packages, which will allow people to get off the trains for a day or two to experience more of what the regions have to offer.

"We are also going a step further by adding a range of high-quality, multi-day guided tours, built around our scenic trains. There is a growing international market for this kind of high-quality, rail-cruising experience and this will be a first for KiwiRail.

"The diversity of the new visitor offering allows KiwiRail to appeal to different parts of the international tourism market, while also offering something new for Kiwis.

"Our new products will give visitors a greater choice and convenient new ways to see

New Zealand. Our guests will be able to both travel by train and get off the beaten track, immersing themselves in local tourism experiences, including getting out into nature; experiencing local food and wine; meeting the locals and hearing the stories - all the while knowing their accommodation and activities are taken care of for them.

"Importantly, the packages and tours will see an increase in spending in the regions along our routes, supporting local jobs and businesses.

"Our scenic trains, like tourism operators across New Zealand, have been hit hard by border closures and the impacts of Covid-19. Not only will our new approach enable our scenic services to be more financially sustainable, it will also play a role in helping other tourism operators recover."

Bookings for standard travel on all three train services are open from April 26. The new package and tour products will be launched in the coming months.

"Given that pre-Covid 65 per cent of our passengers were international tourists,

the restart will allow time for New Zealand's borders to progressively re-open and we'll be fully up and running in time for the summer tourism peak," Ms Goodall says.

"We appreciate the disappointment some people felt when our scenic trains were hibernated. It means a lot to us that New Zealanders care about travelling by rail. However, our tourism services are self-funding, and do not receive the local council and Waka Kotahi subsidies that commuter and inter-regional passenger trains receive, so we had to make the right decision to get through Covid.

"KiwiRail wants to see more people move by train. We are proud to run Te Huia and the Capital Connection as local commuter services and we continue to work with councils and government to explore more opportunities for passenger rail.

"Right now, we're proud to be re-starting the Northern Explorer and Coastal Pacific with an improved visitor offering that will benefit New Zealand's wider tourism sector."



A winery wedding

Josh Harrop and Sheena Collis were married at the Okurukuru Winery on February 19. Sheena says she and Josh met when they were 10 years old at the Opunake Primary School Pet Day when she attended with a friend who went to school there. They got together 10 years later when Josh was farming in Opunake and Sheena was in her last year at Massey University in Palmerston North studying for a Bachelor of Nursing. They have been together for seven years. Sheena works as a surgical nurse and Josh is still farming. They have one daughter Sofia who is almost two.

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Top New Zealand job for Eltham Lion

A member of the Eltham Lions Club is taking on the top Lions job in New Zealand.

For the last year Megan England who is principal of the 155 student Ngaere School near Eltham has been District Governor of Lions District 202D. Stretching from Uruti to Foxton, this is one of seven districts making up Multiple District 202 covering New Zealand. At the Multiple District Convention held in Lower Hutt last month she was elected Council chair for 2022-2023 by the seven incoming district governors to take over from Murray Pringle.

She is the first Lion from Taranaki to hold this position since Toko Lion Basil Dodunski in 2004-5.

The Lions are the world's largest service organisation with 1.4 million Lions and 185,000 Leos or Junior Lions around the world. In New Zealand, including the Pacific Islands, there are about 9000 Lions in 320 clubs.

Megan says she has enjoyed her year as District Governor.

"Surprisingly enough it's been a good year despite COVID and a few interruptions. I have enjoyed my years on the District Cabinet and through learning more of the work of Lions, both nationally and internationally my desire to use my skills of leadership to further promote the great work of Lions globally has been developed."

She is looking forward to being Council chair from July 1.

"I am sure there will be many challenges along the



From left. Outgoing council chair Murray Pringle, Robert England, incoming council chair Megan England, District 202M district governor Simon Williams.

way as clubs look to rebuild and reinvigorate after the last couple of years of COVID," she says.

Her theme for the coming year is He Waka eke noa, we're all in this together. COVID is the big challenge facing her in her new role as there has been a huge drop in membership nationwide, she says.

"It's about rebuilding Lions post COVID, so Lions can rediscover their passion for Lions and their passion for service."

She says she has had a lot of support from past Council chairs and has a good team coming up behind her, which will ensure continuity.

She says being able to hold meetings by Zoom will make it possible for her to work in with being a school principal and not having to travel. She can keep in touch with the Lions head office in Warkworth, working in closely with the executive officer and treasurer, as well as the Advisory Board chair who lives in Invercargill.

Megan has spent most of her life around Eltham. She has lived at Rawhitiroa for the past 30 years, and been principal at Ngaere School for the last nine years. She is married to Robert, a partner at law firm Thomson O'Neil & Co. They have four adult children. When

she first joined the Eltham Lions 16 years ago, they had originally eyed up Robert for membership, says Megan.

"He's a Rotarian at heart, but I was quite keen. I had been brought up with Lions. My father (Jim Best) had been a Lion and joined the Eltham Club shortly after the club chartered."

And after she finishes her term?

"From here I don't know. There are other positions at the corporate level for Lions. Whether I pursue that or not I don't know."

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Shining the light on Oakura Water Treatment Plant

NPDC is calling on the power of the sun to help operate a water treatment plant.

Twenty-eight solar panels have been installed at the Oakura Water Treatment Plant – the first time that panels have been installed at any NPDC installation.

Over their 25-year life the panels will reduce the plant's CO₂ emissions by about 33,000kg – and will have paid for themselves after 15 years, says NPDC Three Waters Manager Mark Hall.

"We expect the panels to

provide about 10% of the treatment plant's energy needs every year – that's a saving of about \$3,000 annually," says Mark.

"This site is well-suited for solar power as it's flat and north-facing. We'll assess other Council facilities, as they need upgrading, to see which of them would also benefit from having solar panels installed."

NPDC's efforts over the years to reduce its energy use has twice resulted in national awards from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation

Agency (EECA).

The largest project to date has been the replacement of all streetlights in the district with LEDs. That work finished in 2019 and will reduce carbon emissions by 6,000 tonnes, as well as saving more than \$6.5 million in electricity over the next 20 years.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), installing solar at commercial sites has become more feasible with costs dropping about 80% during the last 10 years.



Oakura Water Treatment Plant solar panels.

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CONSTABLE KYLIE BROPHY everywhere all the time but with your help we can make those dishonest individuals out there believe we are.

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

If you live rurally and need to leave the property to investigate something

untoward ensure someone knows where you are going. Please provide in as much detail, what you're checking and how long you expect to take.

We have attended numerous vehicle accidents recently as a result of the weather and drivers inattention. Be mindful of the weather and road conditions.

We have also been busy of late attending numerous family harm incidents. We continue to stress that

any behaviour that makes someone else feel controlled and fearful is never OK. Everyone in a family or in a relationship should feel safe and nurtured. No one should be frightened of their partner or someone in their family. If you are frightened and fear for your safety, call 111 for immediate help.

Police would like to thank the public in regards to the reports they received involving a number of local males ripping around the

streets on motor bikes. As a result motor bikes have been impounded and court appearances await for those involved.

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

*Constable Kylie Brophy
Opunake*

OKATO COPS

Thieves like targeting credit cards

Kia Ora everyone, Firstly, I would thank everyone who assisted with

a crash on Carthew Street, Okato from a couple of weeks ago. It was certainly

noticed that a number of people were on the scene quickly to offer any help, if needed, so thank you. We are very lucky that no one was injured.

I want to carry on from my last article around dishonesty offending with some tips that may help. Credit cards are becoming more of a target than just online bank accounts. The reason offenders use credit cards is because the money from your card can be transferred to an overseas



CONSTABLE MATT STONE

account straight away. This means there is no chance of stopping the payment, whereas there is about a 24 hour delay in transfer from your everyday bank account. The money can then be frozen and intercepted.

Tip 1: Reduce the limit of

your credit card so if you become a victim of a scam, then the value of loss is reduced. Tip 2: You can have alerts set up on your phone to advise you that money is coming out of your account. Yes, it may be annoying but could save you thousands of dollars in the long run. Consult your bank regarding this.

I also have a tip for farmers in relation to burglaries. Currently, quad bikes are being stolen regularly. I was speaking to Cory Rooney from Honda Hub in New Plymouth. He has a GPS device that can be placed on anything and the

whereabouts of it can be tracked instantly. The cost for the device is \$300 and then \$70 a year to register the device onto a platform or similar. You get alerts to your phone also. This will allow us to find the burglars in the act. Whereas cameras assist, there is often a delay in identifying the offenders.

I note that there is also some graffiti in the bowl at the Okato Skate Park. If you have any information on that, please contact me.

Nga Mihi.

Matt

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Challenges facing freight movement

Major challenges facing New Zealand's freight and supply chain system are laid out in a paper released for public consultation.

The government paper says we're unlikely to return to a pre-pandemic working environment, and suggests various solutions such as a low-emissions freight transport system. Meanwhile, the nation's current supply chain problems are predicted to worsen, given lockdowns in China and their effect on Shanghai's supply systems in particular.

Dr John de Pont, Director, TERNZ Transport Research Ltd, comments:

"The table showing "How goods are moved into, out of, and around New Zealand" is somewhat misleading. The percentages by transport mode are based on tonnes of freight moved and do not take into account the distances travelled. If, instead, we consider tonne-kms of freight, the figures for 2017-18 show 75.1% by road, 13.4% by coastal shipping and 11.5% by

rail. The reason for the large differences is that road freight movements include large numbers of local deliveries with short travel distances while rail and coastal shipping are primarily used for longer distance trips.

"If we are concerned with reducing the environmental impact of freight movements, then tonne kms is more relevant than tonnes. With current technologies both rail and coastal shipping are less carbon-intensive than road. For long-distance freight, decarbonising rail through electrification is already partially in place and is widely-used internationally. "Electrification of the long-distance road vehicle fleet is challenging. Batteries are heavy and therefore reduce payload capacity, i.e., more trips will be required, while green hydrogen is only about 30% efficient. For short trips such as local deliveries, road transport is usually the only option, but electrification of these vehicles is achievable because their daily travel distances are modest.

"Currently road transport

has the largest market share even though it has the worst emissions performance. This is primarily because of its efficiency, reliability, and relatively low cost. For most freight tasks, using the other modes (rail or coastal shipping) requires a road transport connection at one or both ends of the trip. The costs of these modal transfers means that only quite long rail or coastal shipping legs are economically viable. Exceptions do occur when no truck trip is required, such as container movements by rail from the Port of Auckland to their inland port facility in Wiri.

"Improving the efficiency and reducing the cost of modal transfers would make shorter distance freight movements by rail and coastal shipping more economically viable. The Ministry of Transport proposal in part 4 of the issues paper does talk about improving modal options including rail and coastal shipping but does not explicitly consider inter-modal transfers."

Work underway to protect bridge and loop trail

Work is underway to reinstate part of the Opunake Loop Trail and protect the bridge crossing the Waiau River.

Two successive weather events in as many weeks had taken out part of the walking track along the Waiau River and exposed the abutments to the bridge along the Surf Highway leading into Opunake.

Waka Kotahi (The New Zealand Transit Authority) along with local contractors began work early last week. The scour protection work involves placing 1600 tons, or 135 truckloads of locally sourced one ton rock to protect the bridge abutments and reinstate the walking track. Although there had been issues, including those caused by COVID, the project was expected to last about three weeks, project manager Robin Smith said.

He says this is emergency work which had been made necessary by two recent



Part of the Opunake Loop Trail remains closed while repair work takes place.

weather events which had pounded Coastal Taranaki. If the work was not done

there would be no access to the Walking Track which would be of detriment to

the Opunake community, as well as the possibility of a risk to the bridge itself.

Robin says the work is similar to that carried out at the Heimama Stream bridge north of Opunake after heavy rains during Waitangi weekend had led to erosion around the bridge.

“This one’s easier to work with, as it’s off the road and there’s very limited traffic management,” says Robin. So far he says things are “working fantastically” at

the Heimama Stream. “Winter will be the true test.”

Part of the Opunake Loop Trail is closed for the four weeks, and Waka Kotahi has said people travelling past this area should stay alert and keep their eyes on the road, and not on the excavators under the bridge to help keep everyone safe.

New retaining wall for Ōpunakē Beach



The Opunake Beach retaining wall is being replaced.

Work is underway to replace the retaining wall at Opunakē Beach says South Taranaki District Council (STDC) group manager of infrastructure and community services, Fiona Aitken.

Aitken says the existing retaining wall, which runs alongside the picnic area at Opunakē Beach, is deteriorating and is no longer safe. “We’re replacing the old wall with a new “Stonebloc”

interlocking gravity retaining wall. Local contractors Excavat will be doing the installation which is planned to be completed by mid-June. weather dependent,” says Aitken. “The new wall costs

approximately \$130,000 and will be a great asset for the community,” she says.

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Numb to the numbers

Every day, for the past two years, our daily lives have been driven by numbers. We're at the point where we are numb to them.

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Because we're missing the important ones.

We are governed by a party with complete rule and its members not answerable to anyone but their leaders.

That indifference to the people they represent is showing ... in the numbers.

So it's vital to be taking note.

The OCR (Official Cash Rate) moved from 1% to 1.5% — up 50 basis points (bps) — on April 13. It was the first double bps in almost 22 years!

Major banks lifted their mortgage rates the following day.



BARBARA KURIGER MP
TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY

For more important numbers, you only have to look at our party's press release webpage. It shows what we send to out media before they are edited — www.national.org.nz/media Using figures we obtain from various ministries, departments and sources, depending on our portfolios, here is a random sample of

what we know:

Gang membership has doubled since 2017 while police response times have doubled, up to two hours in some regions.

We have a \$350 million hole in the national transport; \$21 million worth of vaccines for measles, shingles and meningitis have been allowed to expire; retailers are expecting prices to rise 7.5% in the next three months and, as taxpayers, we are now spending \$151,000 per prisoner, per year — up more than \$30,000 per prisoner since 2018/19. There are many, many more. Meanwhile, inflation now sits at 5.9% but is expected rise to more than 7%, sometime soon.

But the most eye-watering numbers for Kiwis apart from mortgage, rent and fuel

increases, have to be the cost of food.

Food prices were 7.6% higher in March than 2021. Fruit and vegetables rose 18%, meat, poultry and fish 8.7%, grocery food prices 6.7%, while milk went up 8.2% (as of February 28).

When the average price of a cabbage goes up by 28% from \$3.92 to \$5.03, you know people have to be hurting.

The people I represent have wide ranging concerns and most involve numbers.

Recent examples include:

“I really need your help as an MP. A month ago I found out I have lung cancer and need a mass removed. My surgeon has advised they cannot provide a surgery date at the moment due to staff shortages. I don't have

private insurance so don't have the option of going private. Please help me get this referred to a private facility so I can have it done immediately.” This issue has since been resolved and this person will now have surgery through the public health system.

“I have been a permanent resident of New Zealand for 14 years and wish to travel in May for three months, to see family for the first time in three years. I am unvaccinated and am aware I will not be allowed back into New Zealand due to my unvaccinated status. The thought that we aren't even allowed entry at all, not even MIQ is absolutely discriminatory and preposterous.”

Others include people

relying on caregivers who are getting no care at all due to vaccine mandates resulting in staff shortages; and an elderly resident unable to move to another DHB region, near family, as there are no beds.

Helping ease these real issues for people is not easy under the current government.

The only bright light is the latest poll results showing Labour would lose sole control if an election was held tomorrow.

Now that's a number which might offer people some hope.

Barbara Kuriger
MP Taranaki-King Country

Authorised by B Kuriger,
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington.

Welcoming back visitors with open arms

New Zealand is open for business and is opening back up to the world. The past two years have been tough for us all and I'm grateful to our Taranaki community for doing your bit to save lives. Our government has made

hard decisions throughout this time. Hard decisions to protect the health of our people, as well as local business and our economy. This week we've seen another milestone in our reconnecting with the rest



GLEN BENNETT
MP FOR NEW PLYMOUTH

of the world. At 11.59pm on Sunday, our borders opened to vaccinated travellers from visa waiver countries, as well as others holding valid visitor visas. This follows on from the opening of our border last month

to vaccinated Australians. These travellers won't have to self-isolate, as long as they test negative on arrival and again on day 5 or 6.

Our economic recovery is gaining momentum, and this is the next big step. I know people in Taranaki will be looking forward to reconnecting with friends and whānau — and its great news for our local businesses, too.

Closing our borders to keep COVID out helped save thousands of lives. Now, we're well-positioned to safely reopen. Our strong pandemic response has made us a highly desirable destination and this

reopening will be a welcome boost for our tourism operators — many of whom have done it incredibly tough over the last two years.

Welcoming tourists back will help accelerate our economic recovery, which is already gathering pace. Unemployment is at a record low, exports are up, and GDP is growing. With tourism back up and running, our export capacity will also increase, providing a boost to the primary sector. Supply chain issues and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have had an impact on countries worldwide — and I know the resulting cost-of-living pressures

are hitting some families around Taranaki hard. Over the past two months we've taken action to make petrol affordable for Kiwis, implemented Working for Families and Superannuation increases, and the Winter Energy Payment has kicked in this week.

Reopening our borders to tourists will strengthen our economy and give us the opportunity to extend our manaakitanga once more. Here in Taranaki we're proud of all we have to offer, and I know our community will welcome back visitors with open arms.

Glen Bennett
MP New Plymouth

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Peter Reidy returns to KiwiRail as CEO

Former KiwiRail Chief Executive Peter Reidy will return to the role to take the company forward after nearly four years as CEO at Fletcher Construction, KiwiRail Chairman David McLean says.

“The KiwiRail Board was impressed by the number

and calibre of applicants for the CEO vacancy,” Mr McLean says.

“Peter stands out for his strong, demonstrated leadership ability, including at KiwiRail itself where he was a highly respected CEO from 2014 until he left in 2018 and took up the opportunity to lead New Zealand's biggest infrastructure group. I'm delighted that he will be returning to KiwiRail where his mana, experience and commercial acumen will be invaluable in leading KiwiRail's transition to financial sustainability.

“KiwiRail is busy delivering a vital programme of \$8 billion of Government investment, redressing years of decline. Alongside a Government commitment to invest in the national rail network on an ongoing basis, the company is pursuing a strategy which will see it run its 'above rail' freight and passenger operations and Interislander ferries in a commercially

successful way.

“We require a leader who can hit the ground running for the benefit of our customers, our people and the New Zealand public, and the Board is confident that Peter Reidy is that leader,”

Mr McLean says.

Mr Reidy said he was excited to be returning to KiwiRail and his focus was on looking forward, not back.

“Much has changed since I was last at the company, especially with the level of Government investment which is enabling the purchase of two new state-of-the-art Interislander ferries, new locomotives for the South Island and infrastructure projects that are enhancing the network across the country and especially in Auckland.

“I am sure that what has not changed is the commitment of a dedicated KiwiRail team who want to deliver on the potential rail has to help New Zealand achieve greenhouse gas emission

targets and take pressure off roads by shifting more freight and people on to rail.

“The enormous infrastructure programme happening right now is exciting and my task will be to lead a diverse and inclusive KiwiRail team in delivering these projects, while meeting the needs of customers and seeking an enhanced financial performance for shareholders and all New Zealanders. KiwiRail's strong presence in many communities and in many generations of New Zealand families is a great foundation to build on for the future and I feel privileged to have a second opportunity to lead this unique company.”

Mr McLean thanked KiwiRail's Acting Chief Executive David Gordon and Acting Deputy Chief Executive Helen Rogers for their stable, dedicated and purposeful leadership over the past few months, which has included many milestones being achieved on a number of projects.

Steph Lewis

MP for Whanganui

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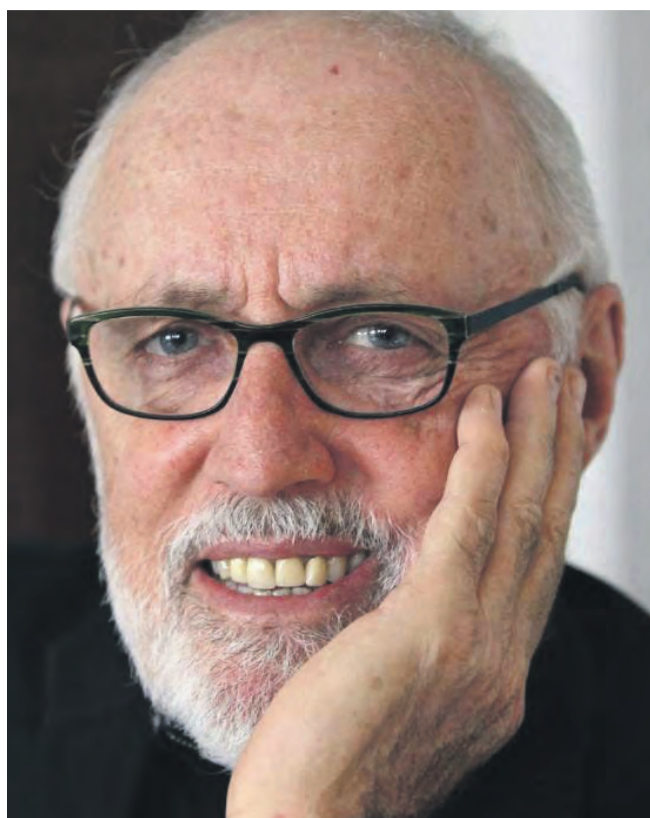
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Authorised by Steph Lewis MP,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Flair and Loathing on the Front Page

This is an excerpt from a newly published e-book, *Flair and Loathing on the Front Page*, the first part of New Plymouth journalist Jim Tucker's memoirs. Chapter 1 is the first of 10 that cover his years from arriving in Taranaki as a one-year-old in 1948 and subsequent time as a reporter and then chief reporter of the Taranaki Herald. Another 10 chapters are about his 11 years at New Zealand's second biggest daily newspaper, the Auckland Star (1976-1987). He became Star editor in the mid-1980s, then quit in 1987 to teach journalism for the next 25 years, which are covered in Part 2 due later this year.



Jim Tucker.

Chapter 1 - What murder?

IT WAS probably the most shocking murder I ever reported. The most bizarre, for sure. But it made a single paragraph on the front page of the Taranaki Herald. That same day, some people on a ferry boat were drowned in Wellington Harbour. Yes, you remember the Wahine disaster. It dominated the front page of "my" newspaper, the Taranaki Herald. At the age of 21, I was still so lacking in maturity, common decency, whatever, that I felt little for the families of the 53 people who lost their lives when the Wahine turned turtle in a big storm. I was aggrieved at their timing, which meant almost no space on page one for "my" first murder. On an average news day, it would have been the front-page lead, that meth hit we journo's crave every day of our lives. Career progress was judged on how often your story was singled out for lead treatment - in those days, a gigantic, 72-point Bodoni

Black headline and a longer-than-usual article that we figured would be the first thing people read when they pulled our paper out of their letterbox. In fact, often it wasn't, I learned much later. But we'll come to that. On April 10, 1968, nearly all the front page went to the Wahine. The shooting of Inglewood High School principal Alexander Stuart Black got a couple of sentences in a single column brief at the bottom. That was even though the poor man was killed by one of his own pupils - 15-year-old Roger John Bennett - who used a home-modified .22 rifle brought to school to avenge some grievance or other. I don't recall what. At his trial in the Supreme Court in New Plymouth, Bennett was found guilty of murder by the jury in spite of evidence from a psychiatrist the teenager suffered temporal lobe epilepsy that confused his judgement between fantasy and reality. Maybe we've grown accustomed to that sort of senseless incident these days, given the appalling murders that happen around the world.

But in those days it was an unusual crime, as I related in a video interview to Taranaki Daily News reporter Mike Watson for a 50th anniversary story in 2018. In 1968, it was all the more extraordinary for me, a young reporter who'd started at the paper in the middle of 1965 after a brief, failed attempt at getting a degree from Massey University. I'd got to know Mr Black. One of my early duties was to drive out to Inglewood on Tuesday afternoons to visit businesses, borough and county councils, and schools to see if they had any news. In a whole year of making the calls, nobody ever had a news story for me, possibly because, as instructed, I asked each person if they had any news. "No news today," they'd say cheerily. Thank god, I'd think to myself, and head off to the next call. It was all futile because, like my interview subjects, I had only a vague idea there was more than one kind of news. Like them, I knew about bank robberies and car accidents...and murders. But community news was a mystery. The principal was one of the friendliest on the list. He'd offer a cup of tea if I timed it right. We'd chat about education, which I figured I knew a bit about, having only just left high school and a short stint at university. He would traverse the issues facing high schools and educators, and hint at the incompetence of education department bureaucrats in Wellington and how their lack of concern for small rural high schools stymied some of his efforts to provide students with what they needed. I listened with interest but never took notes. I was keen to empathise with him, look him in the eye rather than down at my notebook, share my own anecdotes about school. There was no realisation on my part that I should explore the news relevance of the issues we discussed. The principal probably saw

my incompetence, but he was too decent to mention it or offer suggestions on how I should do my job. We just enjoyed one other's company, and then after a while some teacher or kid would knock on his door and I would be politely sent on my way back to the Herald office in New Plymouth. There, each week without fail, chief reporter Dick Long would inquire how it went, and I would shrug and say nothing was happening in Inglewood. He'd been brought up there, so must have had his suspicions. But he didn't mention them. If he talked to the editor, Rash Avery, about my shortcomings, Avery never said anything either. You can imagine my excitement when, new to the police round and keen to demonstrate my supposed skills, I rushed the 13km to Inglewood after we heard something serious was up. There was a lot of chat on our police radio, urgent exchanges between cops and their stations in New Plymouth and the town, only some of it in their strange code words and numbers.

Lance Girling-Butcher, my counterpart on rival morning paper The Daily News (later its editor) was just as keen as I was to get the story. Even though I had first crack because the Herald was next to publish, he knew I'd be lucky to get much information in the first hours, given the usually friendly cops clammed up when there was anything big happening. With a deadline as late as 1am next day, he would have more time to get the police to relent, while they would have more time to investigate and carry out one particular duty they always cited as a barrier to the early release of information, the informing of close relatives. How would my knowledge of news - now fully developed but undoubtedly skewed by age - have helped back in 1968 when Mr Black was murdered? For a start, I would have known about the "ferry disaster effect", which is predicated on distance from home. If the Wahine had sunk in a country remote from New Zealand it would have been the one paragraph,

and probably not on the front page. There's a rider, though, one that probably hasn't changed as much as we'd like to think. It's the "kit and kin" effect, relating to a derided but regrettably incisive comment made by the Muldoon government in relation to its immigration policies and to the racist regimes of South Africa and Zimbabwe (then called Rhodesia). Applied broadly to news decisions in the 1960s and 70s, it meant that reports of British, North American or Northern European ferries sinking with significant loss of life got more prominence than those in the so-called Third World. The Wahine sinking was in New Zealand and many lives were lost. That trumped a local murder any day of the week, no matter how bizarre. It still would.

Abridged.

First published as an e-book in 2022 by Jim Tucker NZ. Written and designed by Jim Tucker

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Hipp Accounting expanding into new territory

After several years managing farms, for various dairy companies, Matthias Hipp (27) has joined forces (since June 2021) with his mother Susanne, Director of Hipp Accounting, 365 Ketemarae Road, Hawera.

Matt is now a Director with the respected firm, as well as having a financial stake. Matt, who graduated from Massey University with a Bachelor of Agribusiness (B. Agribus) in 2015, is currently completing a Bachelor of Business Studies (BBS), from the same university, majoring in Accountancy. He expects to graduate later on this year.

Matt's interest in farming goes back to his teenage years when he was busy milking cows from the age of 15.



Taya Clement and Matt Hipp of Hipp Accounting Ltd.

that the move hasn't been without its challenges: "It's been a steep learning curve," he concedes.

As to the future, Matt intends to develop the business advice aspect of his profession, with farming being the main emphasis. "That's what I've always been passionate about. It's not exactly milking, but it's still involvement, but from a different angle."

Despite his busy professional life Matt still finds time for playing basketball and tennis, although says his social life has been "a bit stilted between working full time and studying." Last Christmas, however, Matt and his wife Felicity had an enjoyable trip to the Hawkes Bay, where she spent her formative years. This would not have been possible before making the switch to accountancy.

There is a big family development in August when Felicity and Matt become parents for the first time.

Taya Clement (20) started her time with Hipp Accounting in April of this year as a trainee accountant. She is currently studying for

a Bachelor of Accounting with Massey University (B Acc). She's thoroughly enjoying working with the firm: "It's really good. I feel quite relaxed working here." With reference to her studies she added, "It just made sense to be working at an accountancy firm." She is kept busy dealing with GST returns, and on boarding new customers as well as information gathering. Her first achievement when she started was gaining her Xero certification.

Before her current position Taya was working for the Hawera Aquatic Centre as a life guard, as well as working for Kautu-Ki-Te-Rangi Kohanga Reo as an administrator.

Her ultimate professional goal is to become a chartered accountant, which will involve further study (about three years) with the Institute of Chartered Accountancy.

In her spare time she enjoys sporting activities including badminton, netball and volleyball. Pub quizzes is another interest as well as enjoying family life.

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After graduating from university, the next several years were involved in managing farms and his expertise was recognised by the Financial Management and Planning Award in the 2019 Taranaki Dairy Industry Awards. "It was brilliant and cemented my passion for the industry." Maybe the writing on the wall was apparent when one of the judges commented,

"I'd be surprised if you were still on a farm in two years time."

A couple of years ago Matt helped out in the Hipp Accounting office for a couple of months and found that he greatly enjoyed the experience. Fast forward to the following year and his positive experience meshed with Susanne wanting to "grow the business." However, Matt admits

Infrastructure strategy overlooks energy fundamentals

Energy Resources Aotearoa has cautiously welcomed the release of the New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy, but says that it overlooks the important role that the Emissions Trading Scheme and natural gas will play through and beyond the transition to a lower emissions world.

If you want affordable energy that will electrify and decarbonise the economy,

you need abundant and affordable natural gas. It is the ideal partner for renewables," says Energy Resources Aotearoa Chief Executive John Carnegie.

"The strategy highlights that New Zealand has abundant potential sources of renewable energy, but these will only be realised if they are economic to produce and use."

"The report is silent on who

would pay for these energy sources to be developed, or how our major exporters will retain their international competitiveness when we are not using the cheapest low carbon sources of energy. This is why we strongly support the Commission's commitment to a least-cost approach."

"New Zealand's world-leading Emissions Trading Scheme sets a cap on emissions. If fuel sources are uneconomic after paying for their emissions, they simply will not be used."

"Improved regulatory and decision-making processes are critical, but as we have already seen, regulatory and planning frameworks that discourage or favour particular sources of energy stifle investment and lead to

perverse outcomes."

"The result of planners rather than consumers picking energy sources will be higher prices and reduced energy security for consumers," says John Carnegie.

Energy Resources Aotearoa agrees with the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission that the country needs to maintain our skilled oil and gas workers as we transition to lower carbon alternatives.

"Preservation of this highly skilled workforce will be key for New Zealand's gradual transition to lower carbon energy sources. Regulatory uncertainty that jeopardises this sector and its workforce will undoubtedly make New Zealand's net-zero goals harder to achieve."

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Opunake's 40 hour Theatre Challenge a hoot

Theatre goers were packed in for a treat on Monday May 2 at the newly renovated Lakeside Playhouse. There were six teams (4-7 per team) were given just 48 hours from page to stage. That's costumes, props, and importantly, learning lines! The plays were sourced from Playmarket and Drama Notebook.

Each play lasted about 10 minutes or a bit longer.

The evening was introduced by Opunake Players president Lynelle Kuriger, who came up with the idea.

She introduced the judges including Mike Smith (vice president), Suzi Stanley and Jen Trollove.

The unique event was organised by Lynelle and Michelle Julian with able assistance by Stage Manager Bert Treffers, Lighting Frank Eustace, Sound Paul Andersen-Gardiner and Costumes Chloe Danz and Susie Stanley.

All performances were excellent and very funny - aided by spectacular costumes in many cases. In the Academy Awards at the end The Bunker (Team: The



Arms aloft, Mary Barron, winner of the Best Actor Award, Michelle Julian (middle) and Lynelle Kuriger (right).

Harlequins) was judged the Best Overall Performance, with Mary Barron also winning the Best Actor Award.

The winning team's players included Jor-el Shaman (as Hermann), Mary Barron (as Iris), Shona Edwards (as David) and Catrin Noack (as Sarah).

We all were given a vote and this time Monsters Anonymous (Team Wino's on the Waves) emerged

winning the Audience Choice Award.

This team included Lisa Beynon (as Therapist), Sam Allison (as Witch), Alex Lawn (as Zombie), John McCarty (as Werewolf), Chrissy Ryan (as Vampire), Blair MacBeth (as Ghost), and Donna McCarty (as Prompt).

The Best Direction Award was won by Little Hood Riding Brat (Team: Fat Sam's Gang)

Included in the team were Connor Meyburg (as Narrator), Catherine Rielly-Leadbetter (as Mother), Sienna Dobson (as Little Red) and Jake Dobson (as Random Hunter).

This was my personal favourite performance. Sienna Dobson was (equal) Runner Up Best Actor. I thought Sienna's comic acting was brilliant (once again my favourite actor).

Olena Williams was judged Runner Up Best Actor for her great acting as Edith in Five Fingered Discount (Team 3 Girls and

a Guy). The team included Katherine Paul (as Carol), Briar Tucker (as Margaret) and Carey Williams (as Team Supervisor).

I'll always remember the Fisherman and His Wife, which was extremely funny (Team: Seven Extraordinaires). This team won the award for Best Costume/Props/Makeup.

The players included Paul Kuriger (Fisherman), Andy Whitehead (Fish), Wendy Smith (as Wife), John Baldie (as Narrator 1), Anne Gibson (as Narrator 2), Diane Baldie (Props/Sound) and Heather Jensen (Prompt/Director).

The sixth excellent play was A Golden Peace of Mind (Team: The Incredibles). This play won the Runner Up award for Best Costume/Props/Makeup, as well as Runner up for Best Performance. The players included Christine Cameron (Wife), Melissa Kuriger (Husband), Eleesha Fernando (Traveller), Shemaya Fernando (Thief) and Ethan Smith (Director). Congratulations to everyone involved for a great show. Let's hope we see another one in the future.

Rolland McKellar



Sienna Dobson performing.

New owners promise relaxing atmosphere and delicious

Don Barshana and Chanika Galwaduge are the new owners of Café Bottanix at Palmers Garden Centre in New Plymouth.

Don had worked in Countdown for 10 years as a bakery manager and baker. Before then he had worked in Auckland for seven years and in New Plymouth for three years. They have a three and half a year-old daughter, Clara Okithma.

Originally from Sri Lanka, they have between them 20 years' experience as a chef and 10 years' experience as a barista.

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Chanika Galwaduge and Don Barshana with daughter Clara Okithma.

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Manaiia remembers the fallen

Private Leslie Scott Ricketts of Kapuni was killed in Northern France on 11 October 1918, one month before Armistice Day ended World War I. He is buried 11km from Le Quesnoy, the walled town liberated by New Zealand troops three weeks after his death.

Private Ricketts was one of the names on the wooden crosses placed at the Manaiia band rotunda on ANZAC Day commemorating those from Manaiia who did not return from the First World War. A nephew of his, Gordon Chisnall is the Manaiia RSA secretary.

With the change in COVID settings, the Manaiia RSA decided to go ahead with their usual march from the Manaiia Bowling Club to the band rotunda, and then return to the bowling club for refreshments after the ceremony had finished.

Local identity John Graham, who for many years was the face of the Manaiia RSA greeted everybody, and



Dawn service at the band rotunda.

wreaths were laid.

“War is not a state that any of us want to return to,” district councillor Chris Young told the gathering. “We know of Ukraine

and many regions of the world which seem to be in a constant state of terror. I think we can feel proud to live in New Zealand.”

The Rev Phillip Woodmas

noted that ANZAC Day follows Easter.

At Easter, we remember the Son of God who sacrificed his life for humanity while on ANZAC

Day we remember those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom, he said.

“With shock and disbelief we’ve watched what’s been inflicted on Ukraine. It’s almost a rerun of World War I and World War II, as hundreds of thousands of innocent people have been displaced. Where to from here? You would have thought that after two world wars the human race would have learned something, but we didn’t and we haven’t. There is only one constant in this world and in this thing we call life. God is someone who we can trust and he has promised never to forget us or fail us.”

John Graham recited the Ode in English, and Denis McLean recited the Ode in Te Reo. Andy Davy piped the lament.

The service concluded with the Nga Ruahine singers singing the national anthem and Maori Battalion. There was also a reminder of the fallen in battles closer

to home, including the Taranaki Land Wars of the 1860s, back to the 1834 attack by HMS Alligator near Manaiia, the first time British troops had been used in this country.

The previous day at dusk about 50 people attended an ANZAC ceremony at Otakeho. The Otakeho ANZAC service has been a popular one in recent years, since the memorial plaques bearing the names of those from Otakeho who did not return from service in the two world wars were transferred from the former school buildings to a new memorial at the Otakeho Hall

South Taranaki District mayor Phil Nixon said that although there had been times in the past when ANZAC commemorations had been a source of division, they are now seen as something which brings communities together.

ANZAC Day at Te Kiri

The ANZAC Day service at TeKiri is run by Opunake RSA with the TeKiri Hall Committee (legal name TeKiri Sports & Recreation Society Inc).

We had a great turnout with local Auroa primary school boy Finn Mullin reading to the gathering along with

the RSA members. Many children placed tributes and wreaths they had made, with the wreath from South Taranaki District Council laid by Councillor Bryan Roach.

Judith Armstrong



South Taranaki District councillor Bryan Roach laying the wreath.



Merchant Navy remembered

Merv Martin, a long time advocate for the recognition of the wartime service by members of the Merchant Navy.

Regrettably laid low with pneumonia and therefore unable to attend any of the New Plymouth Anzac Day commemorations, Merv still commemorated ANZAC Day at home in New Plymouth.

Several of “my lovely neighbours enjoyed the moments of remembrance with me,” said Merv.

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Turkish flag joins New Zealand and Australian flags in ANZAC ceremony

Turkish flag joins New Zealand and Australian flags in ANZAC ceremony

Opunake's Dawn Parade attracted slightly fewer numbers than usual this year, the sombre procession leaving the Town Hall at 6am and doing their usual pilgrimage to the cenotaph. This year however for the first time the Turkish flag was also raised along with the Australian and New Zealand flags at the commemorative service which followed, in recognition of the toll the Turks also suffered in the Great War. The always moving Last Post, minute's silence and the laying of wreaths also took place.

The procession then returned to Opunake's Town Hall where there were various speeches followed by an early morning cuppa and other refreshments.

Among those who spoke was Member of Parliament for New Plymouth Glen Bennett who said that this year he wanted to attend a dawn service at a place "other than New Plymouth". He grew up in the Salvation Army and said the Dawn parade was a tradition in

his family. He also had a poignant story about his great uncle whose photo in full military uniform had pride of place in their home.

His great uncle who fought in the Battle of El Alamein had written to his parents on the eve of their advancing the next day, "Tomorrow we go over to the top. I'm not sure how it will go but I suspect it won't go well. But fear not because all is well within my soul and God."

Sadly he was killed the next day. His parents received the letter several weeks after being informed of his death. "His final words to them was like he was speaking from the grave and, in a way, reassuring them."

"It's always stuck with me," said Glen adding the photo went to him as the youngest son and the one who had been the most intrigued by it.

The war in Ukraine was referred to in several of the speeches.

Geoff Williams, who has been secretary of the Opunake RSA for 26 years and commented "This I think will be my last."

Geoff has also been



At the Opunake Dawn commemorations from left Geoff Williams, Glen Bennett, Bev Henderson from Opunake wearing medals belonging to her grandfather in law Billy Bey, Allan Wallbutton, Brian Vincent President of the Opunake RSA, Dave Clark and Cobus Blom.

Treasurer of the Opunake RSA for 17 years and spent 12 years as the Support of the Elderly in the RSA. He has also been the Flag Officer and referred to the addition of the Turkish flag for the first time in the formal Anzac service. Geoff served in Korea.

Among those at the ANZAC Day commemorations were Allan Wallbutton who served in Vietnam in the regular army for 12 months, one of 3500 from New Zealand who served "on rotation".

Said Allan, "We were stationed in Malaysia. It

was a two year posting with one of the years spent in Vietnam." Later they moved from Malaysia to Singapore and finally came home in 1989.

He commented he was pleased he came to the Dawn Service. It was "a good turnout, a good year.

I always think that small towns do it very well."

Originally from Eltham and now living in Whanganui, Allan was next off to the Eltham ANZAC service where members of his family were

Rawhitiroa remembers the Anzacs

The Rawhitiroa District remembered their Anzac's with a service being held at the Rawhitiroa Memorial Pool Gates this year.

The Rawhitiroa Womens Institute has embarked on an Anzac Resurgence Project which saw a donation of a plaque by a local family being attached to the pool road gates last year.

This year Angela Kiser who is the Project Manager for the Institute said they had now also reinstated the field of crosses and erected a new flag pole in time for this year's service.

The Rawhitiroa Memorial Pool was officially opened in January 1960.

It was built by the returned soldiers of World War II and the Rawhitiroa community to honour the 10 soldiers who served in World War I and World War II who had made the supreme sacrifice.



Rawhitiroa reinstates its ANZAC Day service.

An honour board at the pool reads "Lest we forget. This memorial pool was erected in honour of those men of this district who served in the world wars. 1914-18 1939-45"

Forty two names appear on the WWI - WWII Honour Plaque and we also now

remember one more soldier who made the supreme Sacrifice in the Vietnam War.

There has not been a service at the Memorial Pool for decades but now with the passing of all our Anzacs it had become a timely reminder to reinstate our

Anzac Service again.

The Service was well attended and saw many descendants of the Anzacs return to Rawhitiroa to pay their respects.

Angela Kiser on behalf of the Rawhitiroa Womens Institute would like to acknowledge and thank

the South Taranaki District Council Eltham-Kaponga Community Board for their funding which allowed the Resurgence Project to proceed and also to Maureen Drylie and her team at the

Eltham & District Historical Society for their assistance in researching all the Anzacs' details.

Angela Kiser



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Nurses played an important part in wartime

Denise Wood, a retired nurse, has urged people to acknowledge the crucial part played by nurses during wartime, as well as women in general who took on many jobs usually done by men. She feels that the role of nurses and women is downplayed with almost sole focus on returned soldiers.

Denise, who was Secretary of the New Plymouth Merchant Navy Association for five years, until she retired last year, received recognition for her outstanding contribution with a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for her services to the community in 2019 (The Queen's Birthday Honours List). "I'm very proud it happened. It has given me the opportunities and happiness to continue. It was very exciting that Her Majesty recognised me with her seal of approval."

She has had more recent contact with Queen Elizabeth, after posting a congratulatory letter to the monarch upon her Platinum Jubilee and ninety-sixth birthday and was delighted to receive a reply – a greeting card with a picture.

Denise's own nursing career began as a seventeen-year-old and she quickly learnt the importance of obeying the strict rules and



Denise Wood QSM with a card from Queen Elizabeth. Also pictured is an ANZAC commemorative floral display, as well as a book highlighting the wartime service of nurses.

regulations, underpinning the Nurses Oath Others recall several outstanding matrons during her time as a nurse, which unfortunately ended after a serious assault by an aggressive patient in the 1990s as well as her husband at the time, such were her injuries. However, Denise has continued to make a worthwhile contribution with excellent voluntary work in different ways including with the New Zealand Red Cross and as an Advocate Against Domestic Violence.

She fondly recalled one former matron, who was now retired and in a rest home, who somewhat sternly asked, "Now what have you achieved in your life?"

"She was still the matron." Denise comments with a smile.

Denise remembers many outstanding nurses who have served New Zealand with distinction. One was Jean Sinclair, from New Plymouth, who survived the Marquette, which was sunk by a German submarine in 1915, with the loss of many lives including ten New Zealand nurses.

Matron Eva Brooke, was a nurse during World War 1, was another noteworthy

personality. Her niece Pam Lunjevich died just last week aged 89.

At an ANZAC service at Jean Sandal Retirement Village Denise was the special guest, asked to deliver the service. "It is an honour to share this occasion on one of the most important days of the year. We do not glorify war, but rather remember the men and women who served their country and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice."

She made particular mention of the Merchant Navy and the importance of their contribution. "We reflect on the Merchant Navy and how important their role was. Under constant and challenging circumstances they were under attack from the enemy. Their work was especially important because they provided food, medical supplies, ammunition and, of course, the ANZACs."

Denise concluded her service, by mentioning two significant people. "Special mention to Ken Donald QSM and Carla for organising this special ANZAC service. We salute you and your team on this remembrance day. Let us not forget those who served and gave their lives for our country."

ANZAC Day in Okato

At 10am sharp the ANZAC parade headed north up Carthew Street, Okato on ANZAC Day, April 25. Upon reaching the Cenotaph a large crowd watched the continuation of commemoration including the laying of wreaths.

The parade was led by a piper, Steve Cochrane, adorned by four medals, closely followed by members of the Okato Volunteer Fire Brigade and Oakura Volunteer Fire Brigade, students from Coastal Taranaki School, including Head Boy Alex Gibson and Deputy Head Boy Cain Longstaff, as well as Principal Scott Walden. Trailing the assembled people were three military vehicles.

A brief but memorable highlight was the flyover of the Defence Wellington flypast P3 K Orion -4 engine submarine hunter and guardian of our fishing zones aeroplane at 10.15am.

The New Zealand flag was ceremoniously lowered by Alex Gibson, as the bugle played The Last Post. After the wreaths were laid the flag was raised to its usual elevation.

Next, a service was held in the nearby Hempton Hall. Lesley Dowding, who delivered the welcome,



The parade making its way up Carthew Street towards the Centotaph.

was the main organiser and must be commended for the orderly nature of the service. "On this day we recall those who, in the great tragedy of war, gave their lives for the freedom of mankind and those who sleep in unknown resting places in many lands and in every sea." She continued with an opening prayer and a prologue, as well as a prayer for the Defence Force.

The assembled people sang the much-loved hymn Abide

with me, which concludes Through cloud and sunshine, Lord. Abide with me. Sarah Foreman played the keyboard for this hymn and for other musical sections of the service, with her usual excellence.

Scott Walden delivered a brief address in which he mentioned conflicts in the distant past, such as the World Wars, as well as more recent ones.

Servicemen were asked to read a passage together,

which concluded Your sacrifice shall not be in vain. Lesley read a series of facts associated with ANZAC including numbers of Maori and Pacifica who served.

A definite highlight was the address by Kathy Sutton RN QARANC. She shared, "I always wanted to be nurse." She spoke of her service in a British military hospital situated in Germany. She was mostly dealing with patients who had sustained broken bones (orthopaedic

wards). Kathy regretted Man's inhumanity to man in military conflicts.

She also sang the anti-war song Where have All the Flowers Gone (written by Peter Seeger) with melodic finesse, to her own guitar accompaniment.

Well-known vocalist Mike Gordon sang Amazing Grace in his own soulful interpretation, and ably accompanied himself on keyboard.

Alex Gibson recited the iconic poem In Flanders Fields, which was written by lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD of the Canadian Army on May 1915.

Later, Cain Longstaff

read the Roll of Honour acknowledging those who have died in military conflicts.

The Ode of Remembrance was read with everyone standing, followed by a minutes silence. We were asked to think of Ukraine, which is under continued unprovoked attack by Russia at this time.

The service concluded by singing the National Anthem in English and Maori and concluded by a blessing by Lesley.

The service was followed with morning tea where people donated \$270 to Doctors Without Borders Ukraine.



Kathy Sutton RN QARANC singing to her own guitar accompaniment, while organiser Lesley Dowding holds the music.

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May 14	NPOB at Rahotu1	NPOB at Rahotu1	Kaitake at Rahotu3	NPOB at Rahotu2	Clifton at Rahotu1
May 21	Tukapa at Rahotu1	Tukapa at Rahotu2	Tukapa at Rahotu3	Tukapa at Rahotu1	Inglewood at TET1
May 28	Spotswood at Rahotu1	Spotswood at Rahotu3	Toko at Rahotu2	Spotswood at Rahotu1	Southern at Hicks1
June 4	NPOB at Vogeltown1	NPOB at Vogeltown2	Okaiawa at Okaiawa	NPOB at Vogeltown1	Clifton at Tikorangi1
June 11	Tukapa at Rahotu1	Tukapa at Rahotu2	Patea at Rahotu3	Tukapa at Rahotu1	Inglewood
June 18	Inglewood at TET1	Inglewood at TET2	Clifton at Tikorangi3	Inglewood at TET1	-
June 24	Stratford/Eltham at Vic1	Stratford/Eltham at Vic2	Stratford/Eltham at Vic3	Stratford/Eltham at Vic1	-
July 2	Southern at Rahotu1	Southern at Rahotu2	Southern at Rahotu3	Southern at Rahotu1	-
July 9	Clifton at Tikorangi1	Clifton at Tikorangi2	-	Clifton at Tikorangi1	-

Semi-final/Final dates and venues are not yet available



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Mountain to Sea Fun Bike Ride successful under challenging conditions



The first part of the trail.

About 180 riders turned up at the top end of Arawhata Road on Sunday April 24 for the Mountain to Sea Fun Bike Ride. With the last minute registrations being taken under a canopy by Ian Armstrong and Terry Mullin, there was a sudden downpour to go with the wind and cold temperatures. However, there was no hint of a postponement for the impeccably Opunake Lions organised event, which placed great emphasis on Health & Safety. The team, including Nigel Robinson (Safety Officer), Rowan

Huckstep, Terry Mullin, Saeseanka Gunatunga and many other Lions (and supporters) positioned as marshals (about 30) ensured that any cyclist who came to any harm (or lost the trail) would be looked after. There were, inevitably, a few tumbles in the muddy terrain over ten farms and several kilometres of roading. "One or two came off and everyone got wet," commented one participant.

At 10am sharp there was a Le Mons style start for the serious racers who, as the starting gun sounded,

sprinted to their bikes and took off. Five minutes later the other participants, numbering about 170, set off at a more leisurely pace towards the marked trail, which concluded with the final destination of Opunake beach and the rewards of a barbecue and spot prizes, generously donated by sponsors.

There were several E-bikes taking part, but they were probably not too surprised (or disappointed) when Nigel announced, "The E-bikes cannot win the first man or woman



Melissa Simpkins Fastest Woman and Ernie Blom Fastest Man.

prize – it just would not be fair."

Just ninety minutes later there was a three way sprint down the hill leading to Opunake Beach and the finishing line with Ernie Blom (Midhurst, Stratford) narrowly winning the men's race. He also won last year's event. Aged 44, responding to the comment that he'd beaten many younger riders

he remarked, with a smile, "It's getting harder and harder." He added, "It was very windy, muddy and cold." He found the river crossings something of a challenge, he added.

Winning the women's race was Melissa Simpkin (32) of Stratford, whose time was one hour and 53 minutes. She also won in 2021. "It was good, but very

windy," she said.

Times were not as fast as last time. "It was a bit slower this year, due to a headwind," commented Ian Armstrong.

One of the younger riders was Blair Hoskin. Despite his age at just 15, he has taken part in this event three other years. "It was windy but good riding, quite enjoyable."

At 12.30 Owen King, President of Opunake Lions, delivered a brief speech and thanked the many sponsors, as well as the farmers who had allowed the trail to traverse their land. "Without them there would be no event," he acknowledged. He also announced the two overall winners Ernie Blom and Melissa Simpkins.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to making this well-organised event so memorable, including the sponsors, participants, as well and the Opunake Lions.



Nadia Winks and Natalie Tatham all prepared to take on the gruelling course.

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Chairman's chat

Taking positive steps towards a better Taranaki

Ka mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, greetings to you all.

As a Council we have been working hard to strengthen our relationships with iwi and while there is still a long way to go, I would like to acknowledge a significant step forward. The Council and eight Iwi Authorities recently put in place an agreement for the next three years that supports tangata whenua to respond to and participate in freshwater and other Council planning processes. I look forward to seeing the positive impact



this will have on the work we need to do as a region.

Meanwhile, the Local Government Commission has confirmed the representation arrangements for October's election, retaining 11 councillors including one from a new Taranaki Māori Constituency. It's

good to have that certainty and I encourage anyone who believes they can contribute to think about standing.

As rural readers will be aware, the annual riparian plant distribution is fast approaching. You may have heard the Council has commissioned an

independent review of the Riparian Management Programme and how it takes into account the effects of adverse weather events. This programme has achieved what it set out to and farmers can rightly be proud. It is good practice to periodically review the work we do and whether anything could be improved.

Finally, with the peak of the Omicron outbreak seemingly behind us and New Zealand at Orange, it feels as if life is edging ever closer to a new normal. I would like to thank the Council staff who went the extra mile to ensure Council services remained largely unaffected throughout.

David MacLeod, Chair

Around & about the region



Pest Bulletin a must-read

A heads-up for rural landowners that the next Pest Bulletin will arrive in your inbox in June. This quarterly email contains important updates on the self-help possum programme, Towards Predator-Free Taranaki and pest plants. Please take the time to read it as it replaces reminder letters. View the March edition at tinyurl.com/pest-bulletin

Bargain bus travel

Taranaki bus fares are half price until the end of June, as part of the Government's three-month reduction of public transport fares. The discount is automatically applied on the Citylink, Connector, Southlink and school bus services. That means travel from Hāwera to New Plymouth is just \$2.50 with a Bee Card, or \$3 cash. Trips within New Plymouth are \$1 with a Bee Card or \$1.50 cash. More at www.trc.govt.nz/busfares/.



Improving lifestyles

Have your say: What's important about freshwater?

As the Council develops the region's new Natural Resources Plan, the community is being invited to have a say.

The Council is working with the community, iwi and industry to find out what's important about how the region's freshwater is protected, managed and used, says Director Resource Management, Fred McLay.

"The Natural Resource Plan includes rules and limits on how freshwater is used, and it's really important that we hear from the community so that the rules give effect to what the community wants.

"Through workshops, hui and online forums, we'll be asking people to tell us about their vision for our rivers, lakes and streams. We'll also be asking for feedback on other things like what the targets and

limits should be to deliver on the community's vision."

In early April around 50 people representing the primary sector and commerce and industry attended workshops to share their views on what's important about freshwater.

In 2021, a group of enthusiastic people also attended a community meeting about their vision for freshwater, explains Mr McLay.

"What people care about is coming through loud and clear.

"Swimmability is important, as is freshwater that is clean, clear and fresh. People also want our freshwater to support biodiversity not only now, but for future generations."

The Council has generally positive relationships with community members, iwi

and industry through its existing environmental programmes and receives regular feedback on a range of issues.

"The freshwater engagement process aims to build on that as well as encouraging input from others who may not already interact with the Council."

Mr McLay encourages anyone interested in contributing to the conversation to register their interest at www.trc.govt.nz/have-your-say/.

Engagement with the community is a key feature of the Council's approach and part of the Government's 'Essential Freshwater' package, which introduces new rules and regulations aimed to stop further degradation of New Zealand's freshwater resources and improve water quality.

Taking Taranaki forward

Taranaki students connect with environment, each other

It was a busy first term for the Council's Education team, with one of many highlights being a collaboration between two schools. Working with Education Officer Dr Emily Roberts, Ōmata School students potted up seedlings from their school bush and gifted them to Lepperton School. The Lepperton tamariki cleared patches of tradescantia from the Tegal QEII Bush before planting the gifted seedlings (right).

Emily also worked with Waitara High School on this year's seagrass survey. Orapa Reef is home to Taranaki's largest seagrass meadow. Kārepo/seagrass provides valuable habitat to coastal birds, fish and invertebrates. It was awesome to have Nioka Behan-Kitto (Otaraua Hapu) and Vicky Dombroski (Te Ara Taiao O Whai-Tara) along to provide local cultural and historical perspective.

To find out more about our education programme email education@trc.govt.nz.



Your Councillors

New Plymouth Constituency

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Ōpunakē High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Ōpunakē

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GROWING GOOD PEOPLE FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD | HE WAIHANGATANGA O TE TANGATA PAI I ROTO I TÉNEI AO HURIHURI

ANZAC DAY

Head Girl, Lexi McQuaig was given the opportunity to speak at the Opunake community ANZAC Day breakfast. Below is the transcript of her speech:

Tena koutou katoa tena tatou

Ko Taranaki te maunga
 Kei Hawera toku kainga
 E te taha matua ko Alex McQuaig raua ko Michelle Barford oku kaumatua
 te taha Whaea ko Richard Knowles raua ko Brenda Baylis oku kaumatua
 Ko Chris McQuaig toku matua
 Ko Ali Knowles toku whaea
 Ko te kura tuarua o Ōpunake toku kura
 Ko Lexi McQuaig au te kaiarahi ko tiro rua mano rua tekau ma rua

No reira tena koutou, tena ra tatou katoa

Good Morning....

I am Lexi McQuaig and I have the honour of addressing you as Head Girl of Ōpunake High School for 2022 this morning. It is lovely to see such a respectable turn out despite the impact of these unprecedented times. In our togetherness, castles are built and today we pay tribute to those who built our nation, with nothing more than a bit of hope, grit, bravery and immense sacrifice. As youth we are a part of the second generation of New Zealand people that have not had to experience the immediate impact of war. During an open conversation with my year 13 cohort in recent weeks, we discussed the impact of war between Ukraine and Russia on our own nation and how our generation may be more hesitant to support based on the moral principle of fighting.

There is a controversial argument that states we are more peaceful or more so, less violent than we were over 100 years ago. Some may argue that we are softies, wimps, or maybe society has changed so much it is incomparable to war times. There has been a shift away from large-scale violent deaths and heavy militarisation and a move towards democracy. It is today, we fight with the power of education, by investing in physical infrastructures, business and essential resources that improve our stability. My generation is the generation, we are the ones to make that change, to stand up for what we believe in and face adversity head on, for this I am both proud to be a part of and equally terrified.

These conversations generated an inset fear of the unknown, a fear that one day we may have to commit crimes against our moral compass but then I remember - the soldiers we are here to commemorate today had no choice, they left their families under the impression they would be back for christmas, it was an adventure, until it wasn't. This is a day of unity. No matter the differing politics, beliefs or personal aspirations, we as people can all share the genuine sorrow at the loss of life in war. As we stand united as the descendent generations, our utmost thanks and gratitude is owed to all who fought those many years ago. Although they may not be here in body, they are living their success through their descendants, experiencing the life they fought for in spirit. Through their bloodshed, they gave us this future, and we will be eternally grateful for that.

So today, I encourage you to not sit in sadness for the ones laid at rest, but to give thanks, look forward to the future with the knowledge that we are a part of something greater than our being and continue to live everyday with purpose, with pride, integrity and kindness. Today we publicly commemorate the service, but it is everyday we acknowledge that

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
 At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
 We will remember them.*



(Back) Cameron Quinnell, Josh Kruger, Liam Kidd
 (Front) Miriama Roach, Saffron Kerr Slater, Lexi McQuaig, Lia Sefton-Zachan



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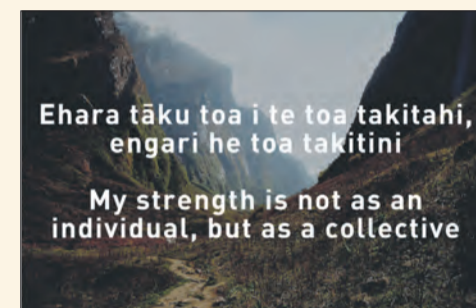
Go to the App Store or Google Play on your Apple or Android device and Search 'SchoolAppsNZ' to download the app onto your device.

Search 'Opunakē High School' to find us.

Principal's Address



Ko Taranaki tōku maunga
 (My mountain is Taranaki)
 Ko Waiaua tōku awa
 (My river is the Waiaua)
 No Wales ahau
 (I am from Wales)
 Kei Ōpunake tōku kāinga ināiane
 (I live in Ōpunake)
 Ko te tura kura Ōpunake tōku kura
 (My school is Ōpunake High School)
 Ko Tony tōku tane
 (Tony is my husband)
 Ko Charlie tōku tamahine
 (Charlie is my daughter)
 Ko Cade tōku tama
 (Cade is my son)
 Ko Andrea Hooper Carr tōku ingoa
 (My name is Andrea Hooper Carr)



This is my pepeha. The pepeha is a way of introducing ourselves. When we know a little about each other we start making connections, building positive relationships, and ultimately strengthening community. To 'grow good people' for Aotearoa we need to support our tamariki to walk in all cultural settings, and be able to have the confidence to share their whakapapa in both informal and formal spaces. To this end all of our students will be writing their pepeha this term.

Another focus has been diligence, the first of our DREAMS values. Over the holidays, in the spirit of hapori/community, our prefects and Year 13s have been diligently working hard at the residential home gardens. The prefects were also wonderful ambassadors of our kura at the ANZAC Day commemorations.

We have another action packed term coming up, with our prefects organising a leadership conference for the young leaders from our feeder primary schools, a bingo night and a Relay for Life fundraiser. Other events include: Outdoor Education Camps, adventure racing, winter sports codes, parent-teacher interview night, individual development plan day, Puanga celebrations, Aotearoa Histories trips and work experience week (Year 12s).

So, with aroha in our hearts and curiosity in our minds we look forward to another term of learning, laughter and realising our DREAMS.

E nga mana e nga reo e nga hau e wha tena koutou tena koutou tena tatou katoa
 "If you think you don't make a difference, remember one rain drop raises the ocean" - Author Unknown

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui

Andrea Hooper Carr
 Principal



GOOD SPORTS

Congratulations Cameron Quinnell!! (left)
 Cameron made his debut for the Taranaki Steelformers Airs in the Sals National Basketball League (NBL) recently. His first game came off the bench against the Manawatu Jets down in Palmerston North, May 1st. This is an awesome achievement, and to top it off, Cameron also managed to register his first bucket for the Airs.

In another success over the school holidays, Camron Horo (right) picked up his first Taranaki Bowls title. Paired up with ex-student Nathan Goodin the boys were all over the opposition and were deserved winners!

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT US - GOOD (mostly) and BAD

I just want to congratulate you on your Christmas issue and tell you how very much I've enjoyed reading this. I've caught up with more news from Taranaki than I have in years. I wanted to congratulate you on doing such an excellent job and hope you all have an excellent year."

Hello!! Hope you're having a good new year! I was wondering if there was any way that we could subscribe to the Coastal News from out of Opunake? We're an old Opunake family (Duffy) but our branch is now living in Wellington. It would be great if we could keep up with local news. The Christmas issue was so interesting. Thank you for any information you can provide.

Bryan is really good to deal with. Caller was pleased with response he got to a classified advertisement.

I've just rung to say what a great paper you put out. Bryan does a great job in his reporting. You really do a great job. It always has something really worthwhile in it.

Your paper is so far ahead of (publication named), which I call the 5 minute read.

You're better than the (publication named).

I've just browsed through the latest edition. I must say, what a great publication. Compared to our weekly paper, it is way superior. It covers a wide area of the district with interesting articles. Keep up the good work.

I congratulate you on your paper.

You've got the best community newspaper in Taranaki.

Sorry, but I don't like the way the article has been written. I think the article needs to be more positive towards the things I am currently doing.

Love your paper. Tried to do your recipe but how many eggs go in?

I love it. Newsj. It's just a great paper.

I have been reading the issue of Coastal News dated 18th. What a wonderful newspaper. Congratulations to you and your team. Your newspaper is fabulous.

It's a wonderful magazine (sic). You do a wonderful job.

Your paper is amazing. It leaves the (publication mentioned) for dead.

We like reading all the local news in your paper. The coloured photos and write ups are great. It is the best paper for local news in our region. Well done, keep it up.

(Your paper is) better than the (publication mentioned) and better than the (another publication mentioned). It has a very very good cross section.

The story on the (ancient) Bible was unbelievable. I want to congratulate your team on it. (The story on) my family tree was right on the mark,

Opunake and Coastal News is good for the Coastal people. Better than the damn (publication mentioned).

The Opunake and Coastal News has a pizzazz that (two publications mentioned) often lacks. And you never know what's gonna show up in an editorial.

I just wanted to say a huge thanks to you and your crew for the wonderful garden stories and coverage you have given Taranaki Fringe Festival in your paper on 22nd October.

06 761 7016
23 NAPIER ST, OPUNAKE
 EDITORIAL@OPUNAKECOASTALNEWS.CO.NZ

OPUNAKE & COASTAL
NEWS

Slatted floor barn storage – a good idea?

Popular in Europe, slatted floor barn storage is often a consideration for farmers looking for an efficient means of collecting effluent while feeding and sheltering their animals. As with most things, investing in a slatted floor barn with effluent storage can have a lot of benefits if it's done right. If you're considering slatted floor barn storage read on for some important advice on managing the effluent...



MICHAEL PRESTIDGE

wet periods, combining a feed pad and off-paddock wintering shelter while taking care of the effluent. Rubber matting or straw bedding is often added to enhance animal comfort, and the clear roof allows sunlight in to neutralise bacteria from the effluent.



Investing in a slatted floor barn can have benefits if done right.

emptied once it is around half full. At this point the effluent is often too sloppy to be dug out, so the most efficient option would be to add water (or you could pump additional effluent from your pond) to the mix and suck it out with a slurry tanker.

c. Make better use of nutrients by spreading more frequently – with a slurry tanker you can suck out and spread when it suits you, rather than needing to wait for a convenient time to remove the concrete slats and get a digger to clean out the bunker. Nutrients can lose value the longer they are left sitting.

d. It's a lot less work to clean the bunker out using a slurry tanker than having to clear out the barn and remove the concrete slats in order to dig out solids.

e. With such a high concentration of nutrients it is important to spread using an applicator with low volitisation (like the Nevada RainWave™). This will reduce the amount of nutrients lost to the atmosphere.

4. Allow for multiple suction points for your slurry tanker.

Michael Prestidge / Nevada Effluent Management Specialist

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What are the benefits?

In terms of effluent management, this system can greatly reduce the day-to-day management of effluent while in use. It's also possible more nitrogen will be captured due to the effluent being in covered storage.

Things to consider...

The effluent management component of having a slatted floor barn is important, as this will greatly affect the overall

efficiency and effectiveness of the system. Here are a few important recommendations:

1. Slatted floor barn storage works well to complement your main storage. It is unlikely slatted floor barn storage alone would be enough to be council compliant.

2. Look for a slatted floor barn design that allows the effluent to circulate. This will help prevent the effluent from separating with solids settling and degrading at the

bottom of the bunker.

3. Get a slurry tanker. This is the best and most efficient way of sucking out the underground storage bunker for the following reasons:

a. The effluent in the slatted floor barn bunker contains a lot of added fibre from feed, straw, cow hair etc. This is easily sucked out with a slurry tanker, but could easily block pumps or irrigators.

b. Typically the effluent bunker will need to be

Mixed reactions to grazing rule changes

Changes to winter grazing rules have been welcomed by DairyNZ and slammed by Greenpeace.

Changes announced by Government are that paddocks will need to be re-sown following winter cropping as soon as conditions allow, instead of by a fixed date. Rules about pugging depth in paddocks have been removed and replaced with a requirement that farmers take steps to minimise the effects of pugging on freshwater. Farmers must protect critical source areas, by not cultivating and grazing them during the winter grazing period from May to September. Farmers who carry out winter grazing in paddocks with slopes over

10 degrees will also need to either obtain a resource consent, or include how they will mitigate risks in their certified freshwater farm plan once these are available.

DairyNZ general manager for sustainable dairy Dr David Burger says the changes address farmer concerns that the rules were impractical and unclear and wouldn't improve environmental or animal welfare outcomes.

"Farmers and the community both want to see improvements in winter grazing practices and farmers are committed to delivering that on farms.

"We're pleased the Government has listened to feedback and amended the new rules so they're

practical and informed by good science, so will actually deliver better outcomes."

But Dr Burger says DairyNZ has yet to carry out a detailed assessment of the rules and will request that the Government work with the farming sector on guidance on the new regulations.

"DairyNZ will carry out a comprehensive review of the changes to check they won't create any issues when implemented on-farm, and will keep farmers informed of the assessment."

DairyNZ supports the removal of pugging and resowing rules, which were some of the key changes announced by the Government.

"These were challenging for farmers to implement, for

example weather conditions can delay resowing," said Dr Burger.

"The focus on critical source areas will help protect our waterways. These areas have a higher risk of nutrient loss and avoiding cultivating and grazing these areas during winter makes sense.

"By setting 1 November 2022 for the regulations to become operative, farmers can now start planning for winter 2023. However, we also need to see further guidance from the Government on freshwater farm plan regulations, so that farmers have all the information they need to meet the new regulations."

Dr Burger says the dairy

Continued page 24.

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He Waka Eke Noa-an alternative to ETS

DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb NZ (B+LZN) say they are taking farmer feedback on board and working hard to improve the agricultural emissions pricing options, including driving down the administration costs.

The sector has listened to farmers' views on the two options developed by the Primary Sector Climate Action Partnership, He Waka Eke Noa, as alternatives to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

"The Government has made it clear that if the sector can't deliver a credible alternative, agriculture will go straight into the ETS. But that's not the only reason we need to act," says DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel.

"We want to ensure farmers can continue running sustainable businesses while meeting the expectations of our communities and consumers that we're working to reduce our emissions. It's also hugely important the sector and Government continue investing – and invest more – in R&D to develop new technologies to achieve this."

The feedback from DairyNZ and B+LZN's roadshow show 99 percent of farmers don't want agricultural emissions to be priced through the ETS. They want a system that is cost-effective, fair and will recognise and reward the actions they're taking to reduce emissions behind the farm gate.

"We're focused on doing everything we can to minimise costs to ensure farmers' businesses remain viable, profitable and our rural communities continue to thrive. We're working to make sure what's eventually introduced is practical and sensible, and works on the ground for farmers," says B+LZN chair Andrew Morrison.

The He Waka Eke Noa partnership includes



BLNZ chair Andrew Morrison.

B+LZN, DairyNZ, Dairy Companies Association of NZ, Federated Farmers, Foundation for Arable Research, Horticulture NZ, Irrigation NZ, Federation of Māori Authorities, Deer Industry New Zealand, Meat Industry Association and Apiculture New Zealand.

The He Waka Eke Noa options recognise and reward

farmers' on-farm actions, reduce emissions and will invest more in R&D.

"Farmers have expressed a strong preference for the farm-level levy option, so they are recognised and incentivised for on-farm actions. They want control over their farm emissions and farm management," says Mr van der Poel.

Farmers had different opinions on what pathway should be taken to reach farm-level pricing. Forty-seven percent want to move straight to farm-level pricing in 2025, followed by 40 percent supporting a transition to farm-level pricing from processor-level.

Farmers also support the recognition of a wider range of on-farm vegetation not eligible in the NZ ETS. Many farmers said they didn't like the proposed 2008 sequestration baseline and wanted to see soil carbon included once the science is robust.

"Farmers want the sector to have a seat at the table when levy prices are set and price setting should be science-based, not influenced by politics. The pricing setting criteria needs to be transparent with industry bodies involved," says Mr

Morrison.

"Farmers deserve a far better deal than the ETS. In the consultation, there was strong support for split gas pricing and the use of better metrics for setting methane reduction targets. Alongside work on He Waka Eke Noa, DairyNZ and B+LZN will continue to speak up strongly on behalf of farmers for methane reduction targets that are scientifically robust and fair," says Mr van der Poel.

In February and March, more than 2600 dairy

farmers and sheep and beef farmers attended 55 engagement events hosted by DairyNZ and B+LZN to discuss the HWEN options. These included in-person regional roadshow events and online meetings.

DairyNZ and B+LZN will meet with the other He Waka Eke Noa partners to discuss all the feedback received, work through the practicalities and further strengthen the final recommendation to the Government, which is due by 31 May.

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The case for Three Waters



The “three waters” reforms would shift responsibility for managing drinking, wastewater and storm water from 67 local councils to four large water management organisations..

As part of transforming how the three waters services are managed, the government has responded to a working group, taking up almost all its advice.

A key move – to address concerns – has been to confirm public ownership, through allowing local councils to be share-holders in the new entities.

An overarching principle of Te Mana o te Wai – the health and wellbeing of our waterways and waterbodies – is a new change, to apply

across the water services system.

Professor Troy Baisden from the University of Auckland said there was a clear need for change.

“New Zealand’s performance on the Three Waters has been poor by the standards of peer nations: for every success that can be pointed to as a case to retain the status quo there are multiple failures”, he said.

“The news is full of water main bursts in our cities and accidental discharges of raw sewage into freshwater and harbours around population centres.

He said about 20% of drinking water is lost to leaks which exceeds half the supplied water in

some areas. Other reasons for reform, according to Professor Baisden, are the impacts of climate change and “the once-in-a-generation disasters such as the Havelock North drinking water incident that sickened most of a large town”.

Dr Lokesh Padhye, also of Auckland University, agreed the status quo is no longer an option, saying the working group had made some “excellent” suggestions.

He wanted the new system to be reviewed in depth earlier than signalled, after five years rather than ten.

“Ten years is too long of a timeframe if the system is not working for such an important issue related to our environmental health.”

Mixed reactions to grazing rule changes

Continued from page 22.

sector has made significant improvements in wintering practices over the past two years.

“Last season, 80 percent of dairy farmers had a wintering plan at the start of the season and 89 percent also had a contingency plan to protect their animals and the environment in bad weather.”

Greenpeace Aotearoa lead agriculture campaigner Christine Rose, says “the intensive winter grazing rules were supposed to address the adverse impacts of mud farming, but have been weakened and delayed after submissions from the dairy industry.”

“Allowing mud farming to continue puts the interests of the intensive dairy industry ahead of cow welfare, the health of soil, the climate,

freshwater and estuaries,” says Rose.

“Minimising muddy pugging, and encouraging timely resowing were key components of the proposed new rules, but have been dropped in favour of undeveloped, unproven and unenforceable ‘special duties’ provisions.”

The changes also remove protection of subsurface drains from intensive grazing, despite these

being a known pathway for sedimentation and pollution.

“While the Government has stuck to its guns on a couple of matters - such as restricting the angle of slopes that can be grazed intensively - the fact that critical parts of the rules have been stripped back means we’ll continue to see more intensive farming than the soil, climate, rivers and cows can withstand,” says Rose.

“The amended rules will do little to avoid overstocking and overgrazing, and undermine the Government’s freshwater reforms. The implementation timeframe has also been delayed, meaning another season of mud farming with more environmental damage and more cows living and calving in mud.

“Mud filled paddocks are not only bad for cows and rivers, the soil becomes

compacted, lifeless and depleted. The mud that’s left can no longer naturally sustain life and runs off into rivers and groundwater, carrying pollution with it. That in turn requires more synthetic nitrogen fertiliser - also a destructive polluter of rivers, the climate and drinking water - to grow grass in the ruined soil.”

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Angela's upcoming fight is unique in many ways

Angela Hapeta (40) of Opunake is looking forward to her first boxing contest, which will be held on May 13 at TSB Stadium in New Plymouth. "I've always wanted to do this," she comments. Her opponent will be Kylie Northcott (43), with the fight scheduled for three rounds of one and a half minutes each.

Angela is preparing for the New Plymouth corporate fight at Barbwire Boxing & Fitness gym, Domett Street, Opunake. James 'Batman' Langton is her coach and Tricia MacKenzie her trainer/coach, sparring partner and friend. She speaks highly of Tricia and Batman, "Both are very experienced."

What will training entail? "Treadmill, running, pad work and bag work." Angela will be in the gym four times a week for sessions



Tricia Mackenzie (left) and Angela Hapeta at Barbwire Boxing & Fitness gym, Opunake.

lasting about ninety minutes. Tricia comments that Angela has shown "massive improvement" in terms of

"speed, fitness, power and technique." "I want to be able to go out there and be confident,"

explains Angela. Angela has had a number of (earlier) challenges which she has bravely overcome

to enable her to be able to train for this fight. Firstly, she had some past issues with excessive weight, but has managed to shed 65kg. Secondly, she seriously damaged her achilles tendon in a social netball game and needed major surgery. For a while the future looked a bit bleak: "I'm lucky I'm not in a wheelchair." Along the way to recovery she had an adverse reaction to the painkilling medication she was prescribed: "A year ago I was quite sick." Thirdly, Covid struck with "flu like symptoms including bad headaches." However, now fully recovered there is not

even the trace of a limp (or headache) and she is in great shape.

Pausing from her sparring session with Tricia she comments, "I'm excited and not nervous yet, but I'm sure the nerves will begin closer to the scheduled date." She also said, "I've got lots of support." However, the burning question is will she win? "Yeah, I'm going to win," she replies with a smile. We wish you well Angela and appreciate the inspirational nature of this challenge you have set yourself, with the help and guidance of Batman and Tricia.

Sandfords Manaia Golf results

April 23. Saturday Men. 1. Colin Koch. 2. Grant Gibbs. 3. Gary Wallis. 4. Logan Symes. 5. John Oliver. 6. Wayne Baker

Juniors. 1. Jayden Poole. 2. Nixin Laing. 3. Jude Poole. 4. Caleb Bird. 5. Ash Laing.

April 30. Saturday Men. 1. Gary Wallis. 2. Greg Elliott.

3. Jamie Johnson. 4. Matt Laing. 5. John Oliver. 6. Craig Jones.

Juniors. Gross. 1. Carter Symes. 2. Jayden Poole. Putting. 1. Carter Symes. 2. Jayden Poole.

Putting. 1. Luke Norris. 2. Jude Poole. 3. Jack Gargan. Gross. 1. Luke Norris. 2. Jude Poole. 3. Jack Gargan.

Opunake Board Riders Club 2021-2022 season

Thanks to our Opunake Board Riders Club Committee and surf coaches. Thanks to Muzza Weir, Dean Portia, Sheree Flanagan, Simon Ripia, Paddy Flanagan, Rachael

Ruakere for your awesome commitment.

Also thanks to our many sponsors and supporters including parent helpers and all surf School students.

Lastly, I have thoroughly

enjoyed coaching and working with you all. Hope to see you all next season and keep surfing, it keeps the bugs away. *Harry James*

President of the Opunake Board Riders Club

Opunake Board Riders prizegiving

2021-2022 Season.
Most Improved Girl: Waikawa Ruakere. Most Improved Boy: Joel Becroft. Junior of the Year: Brady O'Sullivan. Intermediate Girl of the Year: Ocean Baylis. Intermediate Boy of the Year: Ben Gasson. Intermediate of the Year: Scarlet Helms. President's Trophy: Ben Helms. Generous George Trophy: Sherrie Flanagan.



Opunake Beach at sunset, taken recently.

PHOTO: Bernice McKellar



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The Cockies Club is a group of members from the rural community who donate a cull cow(s) to their chosen meatworks with proceeds going to support the development of the local rugby talent in the region. In return of a cull cow, donors receive a Cockies Club Membership Pack for the 2022 Taranaki Bulls NPC Season.

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Phone: 06 761 8084

Beatles Museum now open for business

With the February downpour just a damp memory, the Beatles Museum at 71 Domett Street, Opunake is now open for business. Although the flooding caused a lot of damage Graeme and Marilyn McPherson were not going to allow that to stop their long held dream. As far as they know this is the only museum of its nature in New Zealand. As you approach the house a colourful sign featuring the fab four greets you.

Booking are by phone number (021 169 7264) and email (thebeatlesDOWNunder.com) only and the viewing times are restricted to 10am to 3pm. The couple would like visitors to restrict their visit to one hour if possible.

More detailed information is available on the website www.beatlesDOWNunder.co.nz

There is also a very informative pamphlet available, which tells you some more about the museum and what you can experience. As the pamphlet explains: Our private museum will take you a sensory journey of the Beatles. A visionary masterpiece coupled with the sweet sound of music that shaped a generation.



Just part of the memorabilia on display in the Beatles Museum in Opunake.

The counter at Opunake and Coastal News has a supply of the pamphlets and Graeme and Marilyn invite you to uplift one.

And what awaits you when you visit the Beatles museum? You name it; nonstop Beatles music,

DVDs featuring Beatles concerts, Beatles footwear and clothing, magazines, brooches, pictures galore, mugs, record sleeves, guitars, memorabilia of all kinds – and so much more.

There are many photos of Graeme and Marilyn

pictured in places with Beatles connections such as the one of them outside Abbey Road Studio, as well as several shots of them standing outside childhood home of each of the Beatles.

There's even a handwritten note to their fan club in

the UK. Welcome to the fan club. Hope our efforts continue to please you because that's all that really matter to us. Thanks for the fab way you've treated us since the beginning of 1963.

I guess that says it all.

Make sure you come and see this outstanding collection of information and music pertaining to the Beatles, surely the foremost band in history.



'The Fab Four' on display at the Museum

Latest exhibition at 'from out of the blue'

More Than A Feeling. At 'from out of the blue studio gallery' until May 23rd

Jess Moughan weaves her delicately crafted art using ethically sourced materials and many handspun elements. Her interest is in using creativity and handcrafted making to restore both the maker and the receiver to wholeness and wellness. Jess expresses her own life progress in her works -for example, looking at what it was to become a first time Mum at the start

of the global pandemic, how communities work to support each other, the impact of broken sleep on how the mind works. All these are topics we can respond to from our own experiences. In this collection of works, a personal response is expressed in a way that reaches out to the viewer to enable them to engage at their own personal level.

Atmospheric landscapes, stunning sights in nature, the colours and textures of Taranaki inform how Jan Macneil works with colours



and textures when creating her wonderful 3D knitted works. Combining up-cycled sari silk waste with wire into vessels of differing sizes and shapes is the way Jan reaches into the natural world to contemplate situations in her life - for example, aging, separation, happy times, memories, loss of loved ones. Healing happens in the process of making these vessels and this is

passed into the power of the created form.

The combination of these two artists and the differences in how they look at the passages of life has created a very interesting exhibition with something for everyone to appreciate and enjoy.

'from out of the blue studio gallery' is open Thursdays - Mondays 1-5pm or by appointment. Phone viv on 021 407 424.

18 Halse Palace, Opunake. 4616. Free Entry. <https://fromoutofthebluestudiogallery.com>.

Left: Jess Moughan's 'We've got You'.

Taranaki urged to take action this Pink Ribbon Breakfast month

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ is gearing up for a huge month of May, with two awareness and fundraising campaigns launching: #GiveUsOurMammograms and Pink Ribbon Breakfast.

#GiveUsOurMammograms, which began on May 1, is a new initiative, calling for urgent action on restoring breast screening after Covid-19. The campaign urges New Zealanders to join the charity in sending a strong visual message to the Government: "Give us our mammograms." People are being asked to take a photo of themselves holding a #GiveUsOurMammograms

poster and upload it to www.GiveUsOurMammograms.nz. Breast Cancer Foundation NZ will collate as many photos as possible and deliver them to the Government.

Over 50,000 women are overdue for their mammograms. Breast screening could not happen during the COVID-19 lockdowns, potentially leaving 300 breast cancer diagnoses going undiagnosed and untreated among Kiwi women and without urgent action, the catch-up will be too late for many.

The Foundation hopes to rally the New Zealand public to demand action to prevent avoidable deaths from breast cancer in Aotearoa. Riding this wave of solidarity, the Foundation will call on the Government to commit \$15 million to urgently clear the mammogram backlog and prevent women being diagnosed late. The later patients are diagnosed, the lower their chance of survival.

Ah-Leen Rayner, chief executive of Breast Cancer Foundation NZ says, "Breast cancer is already the leading cause of death

for New Zealand women under 65, with Māori and Pacific women most at risk. Mammograms are one of the most effective ways to reduce deaths from breast cancer, so it's absolutely vital that women can access timely mammograms. That's why we're asking New Zealanders to join our call to the Government – please act now to stop more women from being diagnosed with breast cancer too late."

Coinciding with #GiveUsOurMammograms will be the Foundation's biggest annual fundraising campaign - Pink Ribbon

Breakfast. Throughout May, tens of thousands of Kiwis will get together with friends, whānau and workmates to raise awareness of the topic in the public lens, as well as raising vital funds to support the Foundation's life-saving work.

This year, the Foundation is facing a 50% drop in Pink Ribbon Breakfast registrations on last year – a huge blow after two years of Covid-19 crushing their fundraising efforts. The charity desperately needs to increase registrations to hit its \$2 million fundraising target.

"Covid has not only sent New Zealand's world-class breast screening programme spiralling backwards, it's also harmed our ability to serve the women impacted by this upheaval. The money raised from every Pink Ribbon Breakfast – no matter how small or simple – will help to support these women. The funds will also go towards our work to restore and transform breast screening in NZ, in our mission to reach zero deaths from breast cancer," adds Ah-Leen Rayner.

Go Local with SOS business with a share of \$20,000 to be won

Customers wanting to help support Taranaki businesses through the pandemic challenges can now win a share of \$20,000 in business vouchers.

SOS Go Local is a campaign that recognises the challenging time businesses are facing, aiming to make the coming months a bit easier.

SOS Go Local has been launched as a partnership by

Venture Taranaki, Taranaki Chamber of Commerce, Mediaworks, BARA and the district councils of New Plymouth, Stratford, and South Taranaki.

Until the end of June, anyone who purchases an SOS business voucher worth \$25 or more will go in the draw to win even more vouchers. Five \$150 vouchers are up for grabs each week, as well as one

\$3,000 voucher each month.

This campaign is about encouraging people to continue supporting local enterprises, like the region did so well after the 2020 lockdowns.

Customers can go to the SOS website to purchase vouchers from Taranaki businesses that can be redeemed at a later date.

“For businesses that are struggling, this really

helps with cash flow,” says Taranaki Chamber of Commerce CEO Arun Chaudhari.

In Hāwera, This + That owner Grace Hornby says it’s been amazing seeing how locals have helped and supported small businesses

“The community support is fantastic and we all have to adapt to these changing times. It’s the little things that go a long way.”

Businesses are encouraged to sign up to the SOS platform and those keen to support local enterprises

can head to sosbusiness.nz to purchase a voucher - and also be in to win.

Techweek 2022 is back in Taranaki



Techweek 2022 is on in Taranaki from May 16-22.

New Zealand’s technology and innovation event Techweek 2022 returns to Taranaki for its fifth year from May 16-22, with

various events on offer to spotlight and celebrate Taranaki and Aotearoa tech innovations.

An annual nationwide

festival of innovation, Techweek is a platform for people to meet, share ideas and create connections to enhance our future world, and connect for a better tomorrow.

Techweek Taranaki 2022 is curated by Venture Taranaki, the region’s economic development agency.

“Taranaki is no stranger to the innovative and entrepreneurially minded” says Natacha Dunn, Venture Taranaki General Manager Enterprise.

“Techweek highlights tech that does good in our community, and is really looking at showcasing each region, and their story of innovation and technology. It also gives the community the opportunity to engage with this tech and innovation that they may otherwise not have the chance to.”

“Technology and innovation in Aotearoa are quickly developing. Techweek is the perfect chance to raise the sector’s profile and provide the platform for the community and enterprises to collaborate and connect.”

“With a diverse mix of events each year, there is sure to be something to pique the interest, from the headline event for Venture Taranaki, the AgriTech Expo and Conference: Farming our Future, to Tech for Good: Using Technology to make a positive impact. Both events focus on showcasing the role of technology in making a positive impact in our communities. Other events in the line-up focus on the future energy landscape, a zero-carbon future, electronic music and digital transformation for business performance.”

“We’re thrilled to bring Techweek back to the Taranaki region once again. With technology being an essential part of our lives and economy, Techweek gives an opportunity to connect with the latest technology, enterprises and people that are searching for a better tomorrow. We encourage everyone to check out the events on offer for the week and register through the Techweek website or Eventbrite to avoid missing out” says Natacha.

Venture Taranaki is a connector and curator, and proud to facilitate Techweek 2022 in Taranaki, supporting and sharing the stories, innovations, and entrepreneurial spirit of the region.



*Visit sosbusiness.nz for terms and conditions.

Coastal Junior Rugby Auction night

This Friday night will see the major fundraising event for Coastal Junior Rugby take place at the Rahoitu Clubrooms.

As part of the fund raising to get the U11 & U13 Junior rugby teams on their Thames

Valley Tour this season, they are having an Auction Night, which is set to be a huge and fun evening this Friday 6th May. There will also some money put aside for an end of season fun day outing for our U6-U10 grades.

The night will start with two pre-season games for our U11 and U13 Coastal teams against Kaitake. Kick off will get at 5.30pm, followed by the Auction event, which will kick off about 6.30pm

“Those wanting tea... Don't worry, we will have burgers available, and the bar will be open said Coastal Rugby Junior Convenor Wayne Taylor.

“Kids. Bring them along as

well. We want it to be a fun family evening where we can raise plenty of cash for our Juniors,“ said Wayne

We have plenty of items that have been donated already and more are coming in.

Some of these include a Silver Ferns top signed by the entire team thanks to our very own Taranaki Silver Fern Kelly Jury.

We also have a All Blacks Training Jersey signed by

the Team that did the recent Northern Tour thanks to our newest Coastal All Black Josh Lord.

Thanks to the Barrett Brothers. We also have a signed All Black Jersey up for grabs.

What about this one: Thanks to Taranaki's own Black Fern Iritana Hohaia, we have a signed Black Ferns Training jersey up for auction.

You will want this on your

wall - a beautiful painting donated by Brenda Cash, which includes a Coastal theme, caravan and the mountain etc. This was painted for the auction and a huge thanks to Brenda.

We appreciate the generosity of the many sponsors.

Don't miss this night - it's going to be a fun evening. So mark This Friday 6th May 6 on our calendar and we will see you there.

PIHAMA
Lavender
MARKET DAY
SUNDAY MAY 15 10am - 2pm

Coastal Junior Rugby Auction Night
Friday May 6 at
Rahoitu Clubrooms
Auction to fundraise for our
U11 & U13 teams tour

- Starting at 5.30pm with two pre-season games vs Kaitake
- Auction starts at 6.30pm

COASTAL RUGBY
BRILLIANT ITEMS UP FOR AUCTION
THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Albi & The Wolves coming to Kakaramea

They carry the folk label but this is folk that someone has tinkered with under the bonnet.” - The Hook, Ian Thomas

Albi & The Wolves set fire to stages and fill hearts with hope with their energetic and relatable alternative indie folk songs.

Chris Dent, the proud albino frontman Albi, Pascal Roggen and Michael Young have crafted a stage show that's brimming with energy and moments to pause for reflection.

The trio has a huge sound that is simply created by an acoustic guitar, electric violin, double bass and their



Albi & the Wolves.

three voices.

Since 2014 they have gone from strength to strength touring in Australia, New Zealand and Rarotonga and in 2018 they took home the Best Folk Artist Award at the NZVMAs.

What makes the band

special is the sense of community that follows them everywhere they go - whether it's connection through dance, laughter or singing, audiences feel radiant after shows and keep coming back for more.

Chris Dent (Lead Vocals,

Acoustic Guitar, Stomp). Pascal Roggen (Electric Violin, Backing Vocals). Michael Young (Double Bass, Backing Vocals).

Playing Thursday 12 May 7:00pm. Kakaramea Hall. \$10 Tickets: Hawera I-site or the Patea Library Plus.

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Carrfields Livestock

Public support needed for Chopper crew after a record year of rescues

New Zealanders are being urged to give generously this Chopper Appeal Month following a record-breaking year for rescue helicopters.

More than 9,500 missions were flown nationwide last year, including 269 missions in the Taranaki region.

This Friday, Westpac staff around the country will be out and about raising funds for their local rescue helicopter service in the annual fundraising street appeal.

Westpac NZ Chief Executive Catherine McGrath says the rescue helicopter crews are working harder than ever to save lives.

"Accident and illness can affect any of us at any time," she says.

"Knowing help could be only minutes away even in some of our most remote locations is so important in a country as diverse as ours. And when we've learned over the last couple of

years that we can live, work and explore from almost anywhere, knowing the chopper crews are there for you when you need them is so important.

"We know that living is getting more expensive, so every dollar donated is incredibly appreciated. All money donated in your region goes straight to your local chopper service, so you know that your donation is supporting your community."

Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust Chairman Evan Cottam says the public's generosity has helped the trust keep improving the capabilities of its aircraft and crew.

"It's great to see people out exploring our own beautiful country at every opportunity, but it does mean we've seen an increase in people needing our assistance," Mr Cottam says.

"We rely on donations from the public to keep

our Taranaki Community Rescue Helicopter in the sky, and we're hugely grateful for everyone who's able to donate over the month of May."

Keen mountain biker Ponty von Dadelszen knows first-hand the critical work the helicopter does, after coming off his bike at speed exploring the "Bridge To Nowhere Trail" on the Whanganui river.

"There was no way I was getting out of there on my own. The bridges were too narrow to get a four-wheeler in, and I was in too much pain to walk to out on my own," he says.

The area had no cell phone coverage, but one of the group continued on and found a jet boat operator who was able to call 111. The group helped the helicopter locate Ponty by stomping a giant "H" into the ground. Soon, he was on his way to Whanganui hospital.

He's still recovering from

breaking seven ribs in his fall and isn't quite ready to get back on a mountain bike, but he is a keen advocate for donating to the Helicopter Trust.

"As a farmer I've got some idea of what helicopters cost to run. They're not cheap toys, so it's the least I can do," he says.

Westpac funds

the marketing and administration costs of the Chopper Appeal, as well as distributing all funds raised back to donors' local rescue helicopter trust.

TOURS & SHOWS

The Wedding Singer

Wellington 11th June 2022

This smash hit musical had Australia in a tizz and is now headed to Wellington!!!

Audiences will be treated to one of the most hilarious, feel-good musicals that celebrates all the fun of the 80's.

\$545.00 (Includes Coach, accommodation, dinner & breakfast and premium tickets to the show)

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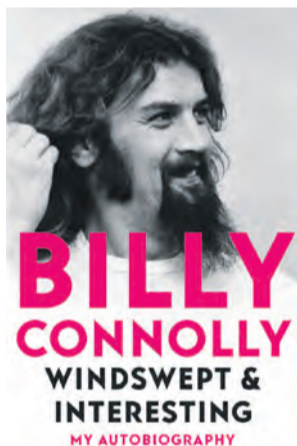


OPUNAKE LIBRARY PLUS BOOK REVIEW

Windswept and interesting by Billy Connolly

Love him or hate him Billy Connolly knows how to write a biography. I have been a fan of his since I was a teenager (a wee while ago) and it is thanks to my grandmother who hated him with a passion and banned him from being watched in our house because of his 'dreadful language.' This enticed me to watch this forbidden comedian in secret whenever possible.

He writes just like he's standing on stage giving you a front row performance. While the main story is stuck to, he also veers off all



over the place making it an even more hilarious read. I laughed all over the place. There are moments in the book where due to his honest writing I felt such empathy

with him because woven in between the fun are some very touching moments and his start in life was pretty dreadful.

My favourite quote of his: "Everything I've achieved in my life has been because of the library."

You can reserve this book at any South Taranaki LibraryPlus branch in person, or call us on 0800 111 323.

You can also visit <https://ils.stdc.govt.nz/>

Maria Brewerton
Kaiārahi Whare Pukapuka - Ōpunakē/Manaia \ Branch Librarian - Ōpunakē/Manaia



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THE UNBEARABLE WEIGHT OF MASSIVE TALENT

Action, Comedy|1hr 45mins | R13: Violence
Fri 6th May 7pm

DOWNTON ABBEY: A New Era

Drama, Romance|2hrs 5mins |M: Language
Sat 7th May 7pm

ELIZABETH

Documentary |1hr 30mins |M: Language
Sun 8th May 1pm|Sat 14th May 7pm

HELMUT NEWTON

Documentary |1hrs 33mins|M:Nudity
Sun 8th May 7pm|Sat 21st May 7pm

THE LAST BUS

Drama |1hr 26mins|M: Sex references
Sun 15th May 7pm

A BUGS LIFE

Animated, Comedy|1hr 35mins| PG
Sat 7th May 1pm|Sat 28th May 1pm

PINNOCHIO: A True Story

Animated, Family |1hr 44mins |G
Sat 14th May 1pm

OPERATION MINCEMEAT

Drama, War|2hrs 8mins | M: Language
Sun 15th May 1pm

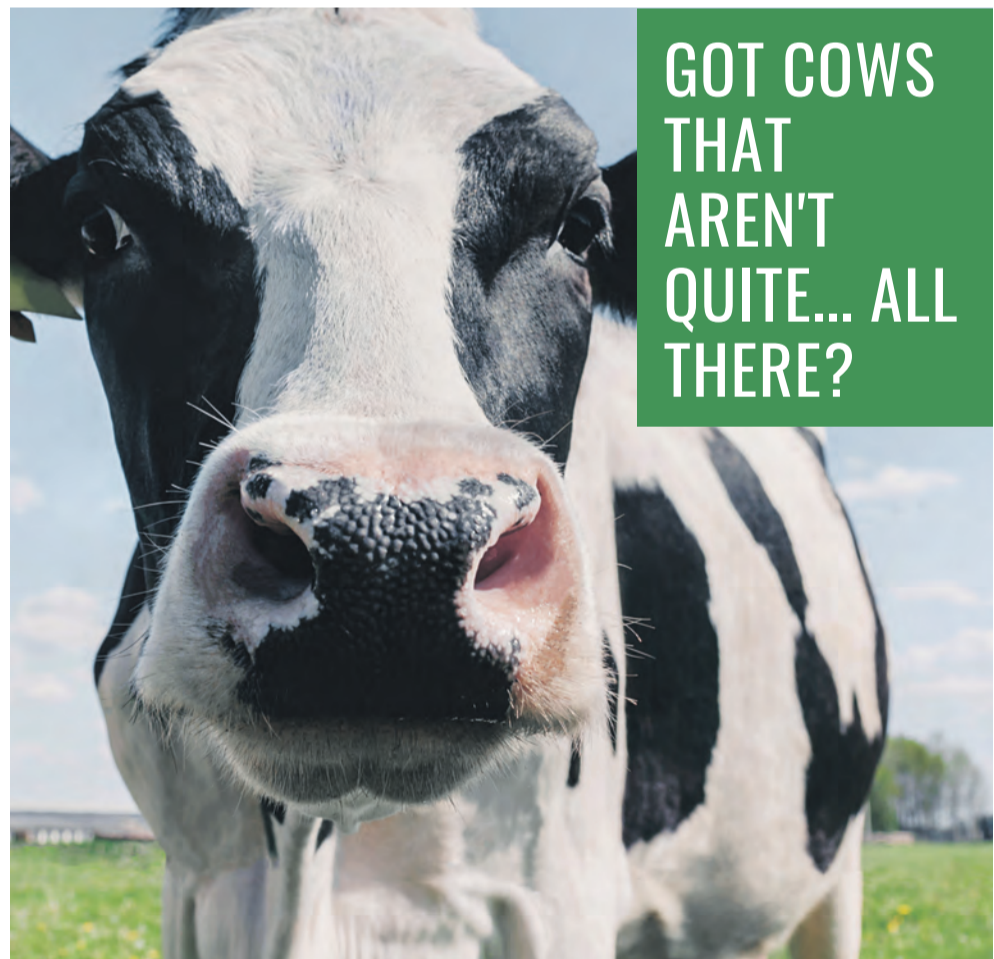
THE VELVET QUEEN

Documentary| 1hr 32mins |M
Fri 13th May 7pm |Sun 29th May 7pm

Special events for Mother's Day

Perfect for the mum who has everything – tickets online from our website.
1pm screening – coffee cake and bubbles available
7pm screening nibble platter and wine/beer/cider available

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MOTHER-IN-LAW BLUES



60

What's On Listings

ONGOING

Movies at Everybodys Theatre in

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

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

WEEKENDS

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

MAY 6

Coastal Junior Rugby Auction Night: At Rahotu Clubrooms from 5.30pm.

MAY 8

Hyway 45 Cruisers Show 'n Shine: Rahotu Domain, 10am-2pm

MAY 12

Albi & the Wolves: At the Kakarama Hall, 7pm.

Cape Egmont Boat Club ANZAC Service and social: 1pm at the Clubrooms, Warea.

MAY 14

Te Namu Iti AGM: In the Boardroom, 23 Napier St, Opunake.

MAY 15

Market Day at Pihama Lavender: The Old Pihama Dairy Factory, 10am.

JUNE 11 TO 25

Mamma Mia: A production by Hawera Rep. At Hawera Memorial Theatre.

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New exhibition at Virtual Tart

A new exhibition on the Virtual Tart website. For May, the exhibition shows the new work of Noniann Lier from Australia. Well worth a look.

We hung my exhibition in Hawera '... still thinking...' and gosh I'm proud.

It looks super. And surround by international collages....happy days.

There's also a lot of new work in the Showcase section of the Virtual Tart website. Have a look at Lee Russell... stunning!

All at the Virtual Tart website.

Cheers, and thanks Dale Copeland.

TRADES & SERVICES



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Te Namu Iti (Ngātitamarongo 6)
 To all Owners and Beneficiaries
Annual General Meeting
 To be held on Saturday 14th May, 2022
 11am
 In the boardroom, ex old Council Building
 23 Napier Street, Opunake
AGENDA
 Karakia timatanga
 Apologies
 Minutes of previous AGM
 Chairman's Report
 Treasurer's Report
 Election of Officers
 General Business: Signage
 Karakia Whakamutunga
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 Ph 06 763 8821

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- 4th Prize: N.Furze \$50 Meat pack

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



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07 SX4 GLX 2.0 **SOLD**

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