



## Inside



**Mastermind** brings back fond memories for Opunake & Coastal News journalist. Page 3



**ANZAC Day** commemoration draws large crowds. turn to pages 6 and 10.



**Coastal Rugby** has started. See pages 18 - 19



**The sustainability** of water supply crucial. Page 14.

**Opunake's** water problems page 5

# All soldiers answered the call of duty and in sacrifice

*In her poignant speech delivered at the Okato RSA sub-branch ANZAC Day commemoration Adair Valentine gives a touching account of one man's experience of war*

I am the proud descendent of generations of men, both Samoan and pakeha, who fought for New Zealand in both world wars. This ANZAC Day, I am 16. I have been thinking about such weighty matters as my Year 13 exams....university enrolments for next year.... and this year's ball dress. But in 1914, and in 1940 my forebears, barely older than me, were marching to war. Their lives were forever changed, and in many cases, ruined. When our soldiers finally sailed home many were battle smashed, weary from war, injured of body and mind. I ask you all; did we honour every soldier for the sacrifices they had made?

Let me take you on a journey of one Johnny Enzed, Whose ANZAC experience, was equally the story of thousands.

*Private Jack Joseph Condon.* Not a decorated war hero, but my beloved great, great uncle. Born in the tiny town of Kurow, North Otago, population 300. He was a handsome lad. Athletic, confident, and proud. Greatly admired by the local girls.



**Adair Valentine-Robertson** who attends New Plymouth Girls High School, delivered a riveting speech at the Okato RSA sub-branch ANZAC Day commemoration.

But when the call went out to help the British Empire in World War One; 19 year old Jack, his coppers, and 100,000 more; were fired up and raced to enlist. Off they sailed to war.... straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.

October 12th 1917. Jack's regiment went 'over the top' in the muddy, bloody, Flanders's fields. Only five minutes into the battle of

Passchendaele, Jack was devastatingly wounded. A shell smashed into Jack, ripping a hole in his leg... and his life too. Athletic, confident, proud Jack suddenly became a 'dependent.' Dependent on stretcher bearers and nurses, dependent on the surgeons who amputated his gangrenous leg. Always and forevermore dependent.

Jack was eventually cleared to sail home on the hospital ship the Maheno. But, the colonel on board had no bouquets for the shattered men. Instead he issued the invalided soldiers this stern warning...". Remember when you go ashore you are not heroes. The heroes, lie, in, France".

When Uncle Jack finally got back to his beloved North Otago, no joyful chorus of welcome greeted him. Instead, heads bowed with pity. The reality of the war had finally come home. Jack was no longer the athletic farm boy that the girls of his town remembered. He was a struggling amputee.

Farmer. Shepherd. Shearer. Farmhand; the humble occupations he'd aspired to from birth. The humble occupations that were no longer within his grasp. So Jack was retrained as a shoe repairman, a trade he quickly grew to loathe. Excluded from the physical, masculine world he once knew; Jack Condon,

slipped into a lasting depression.

Jack was not killed in some corner of a foreign field. Back in North Otago, under his pale blue dome of heaven, tortured by his limitations, Jack shot himself. His torment had ended. He was only 23.

Thousands of our ANZACS returned from War physical and emotional wrecks like Jack. They received fleeting attention from the government, and society. But then the men were sent off to 'man up' and drink a cup of the hard stuff. Some of these men adjusted successfully to civilian life, but thousands didn't.

Of the energetic boys who had innocently marched to war with such high zest.... how many returned as amputees? How many returned blind, deaf, struggling to breathe, or plagued by mental illness. Robbed of the wild honey of their youth, many considered their lives after war as 'the living, death'. They were left estranged, isolated... unheard. The real

heroes lay elsewhere.

Jack Condon. Soldier, son, brother, uncle, friend. Jack, an invalided soldier who did his duty, but like so many others was never truly honoured in the fashion that he deserved.

They were not buried in foreign fields or row on row. Nor are their names writ large on our honour boards. This ANZAC day, I will look for the name Jack Condon, on the cenotaph, knowing I will not find it. Though I now know, a century on, that we must honour these men, **just** as we honour the fallen. We rightly memorialize those who died to keep us free, but we must never, never forget those who endured *the* living death. Their sacrifice **too** was great. Their legacy **too** is our freedom. They too served **their** life contracts in the most honourable fashion.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them

*Adair Valentine-Robertson*

**Jayeta Valentine (Adair's mother) writes:**

My father (recently deceased) was Dr John Valentine who lived at Oakura. He wrote a biography of his early life called 'Hell Bent for Life'. In the book is a more detailed coverage of Jack Condon's life (the subject of Adair's ANZAC speech). They would possibly appeal to older people who will remember rural life in the 30s etc.

*Copies of the books will be available at the Opunake and Coastal News counter if anyone is interested in reading further about his life.*



**Private Jack Condon**

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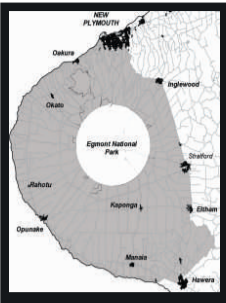
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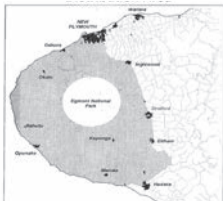
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## Letters to the Editor

### Pedestrian crossings

We are currently teaching our six year old the road rules, and building up her confidence around cycling on the road, and using pedestrian crossings. To our disappointment, not one, but six cars failed to stop for her at the crossing between the Club Hotel and the old post office. All were driven by locals, and I have to admit I have been guilty of missing people at the crossing between the Library and Sugar Juice as well. Even worse, I have seen cars fail to stop at the

third crossing by Allison Street, which has no visibility issues whatsoever. The question I have is, are we missing people due to inattention? Or is there a visibility issue for the two crossings in town?( I don't see an issue with the other two). Either way, there has been a few near misses over the past couple of years, and it's only a matter of time before something happens unless we all pick our act up. Who wants to bury a family member due to somebody else's mistake?

Mike and Lorna Roach



The pedestrian crossing near the Club Hotel.



## Marilyn Monroe a fallen woman

Apparently Marilyn Monroe has sadly fallen off Everybodys Theatre. But Debbie Campbell, president of the Everybodys Theatre Trust says she has been in touch with the artist Dennis Lattimer and hopefully the screen goddess can be reinstated on the frontage of the theatre.

## BBC: PENTECOST

Forty days after that first Easter Jesus went to heaven and left the disciples.

There was a lull, a waiting period. After three years of the most amazing and miraculous ministry 120 people were still believers, including eleven of the disciples. They had been told to wait in Jerusalem until they were given power.

Ten days later, in the feast that was called Pentecost, it came.

Tongues of fire fell on

each of them. There was an incredible roaring noise and suddenly all received special, miraculous gifts. They were able to preach, teach, evangelise, work miracles, heal, speak in languages that they had never learnt and much more.

Not everyone received the same gifts. Some had the knowledge to know who were in need, some were great speakers, some could pray for hours in languages they had never learnt. Others

could heal or do miraculous things. Each person had one or more gifts. Those were parts, facets of Jesus Christ. And with those gifts the church of Jesus Christ was born.

3,000 people heard Peter preach and joined the church that day. The church grew and eventually affected the whole world. But it was also constrained, over the centuries, and became a shadow of its original self.

Oh, there were cathedrals

and churches built around the world; the people of Africa, South America and the Solomon Islands heard of Jesus Christ, but there was little of those original church gifts on show.

It says it best in Judges 6 v13. "If God is with us where are all the miracles?"

The church is supposed to be a miraculous thing.

In a westernised world of science and logic we have lost the fact that Christianity is a life of miracles, of spiritual truth and of a living God.

Sure we have doctors who, as I well know, can work wonders and help us live full healthy lives, but in the end all will die. And when medical science can do no more, what is next? Even now, where can I turn when I need a miracle?

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# Quiz series revival brings back memories

The revival of Mastermind has brought back memories for Opunake & Coastal News journalist Bryan Kirk who came third in New Zealand in the event.

Bryan entered the competition in 1983, his specialist subject was New Zealand politics since 1945.

He was beaten by Ida Gaskin from New Plymouth in the final who became New Zealand's first female Mastermind.

Described as one of the most rigorous and intellectual quiz shows, Mastermind returns to the screen after a hiatus of 20 years. It screens on Sunday night on TVOne and premiered on May 1 7:45 pm. Contestants are judged on their specialist subject and general knowledge.

He's a mine of information. Bryan admits to a keen interest in politics.

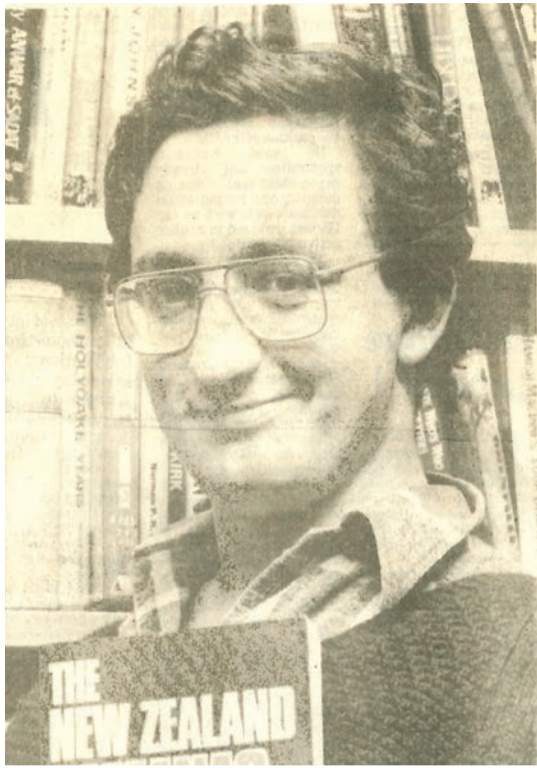
He attended Otakeho Primary School and Opunake High School and returned to Taranaki several years ago after living in Wellington. While at Massey University he was also on University Challenge.

He's a self confessed history nut.

Other interests include The Wave Church Opunake and the Normanby and Districts Lions Club.

Bryan will be watching Mastermind. He's also a keen fan of quiz programmes such as The Chase and Eggheads.

Bryan's recounts his experience on Mastermind below.



Quiz contestant Bryan Kirk in 1983



Bryan Kirk today

on Mastermind and made it through to the semifinals. I had always wondered how I would have got on, so I decided to give it a go, nominating as my specialist

New Zealand party politics and general elections since 1945.

That year over 200 people from around the country vied for the series' 32 slots. The

show's producer Max Cryer travelled around the country meeting all of them before making the final choice. As Big Max also produced University Challenge it was good to catch up with him again. Some time later I got a letter telling me I had made it through.

Until that year, Mastermind had been mainly a male preserve, but in 1983, there was the highest number of female contestants they had had up to that point, eight, one for each heat.

Everything was filmed in Auckland. My heat was the second in the series. The first had been won by Ida Gaskin of New Plymouth, a former national president of the Post Primary Teachers Association, whose specialist subject was the Plays of William Shakespeare.

In my heat, I was first in the chair, setting what Peter Sinclair described as a "cracking pace" with a score of 19 on my specialist subject. The closest was Dawn Persson of Auckland on Jeeves and Bertie Wooster with 12. I had a bit of a meltdown in general knowledge with only six points, while Dawn with 12 points almost caught me. Having got through, it was on to the semis.

Among the many interesting people I got to meet was an advertising executive from Christchurch who had once been a horse guardsman at Buckingham Palace. His specialist subject was Orchestral Music 1750-1950. He told me wherever he shifted to, he always made a point of reading up on the history of that place. An admirable attitude, which to my shame, I have not always followed.

It was the age of Muldoon

and Think Big and I remember him telling me, "you New Zealanders have the greatest country in the world, but you can't bugger it up fast enough."

Meanwhile, four of the heats had been won by female contestants, meaning each semifinal would have two male and two female contestants, with the first and second finishers in each semifinal making it through to the final.

I was in the first semifinal against Ida Gaskin, a doctor from Auckland whose specialist subject was the 1947 New Zealand trotting season, and an Auckland University student on Rasputin, so it was two Taranaki contestants and two from Auckland. Ida ended up with 25 points, while I finished second on 23, edging out the two Aucklanders.

"Who says Taranakians are as thick as cowpats?" exulted a letter writer to the Hawera Star.

Meanwhile Jennifer Haworth from Waihi on Queen Elizabeth I and Joan Lees from Stoke on the History of the Girl Guide

movement in New Zealand had swept aside their male opposition in the other semifinal, making me the only male finalist.

I had a bad first round. I was asked, who was the first New Zealand-born leader of the Labour Party?

"Norman Kirk," I said immediately realising I had forgotten about Arnold Nordmeyer.

In the end I finished third, with Jennifer second and Ida becoming New Zealand's first woman Mastermind.

I met Max Cryer at Wellington Airport a few years after that. He suggested I have a crack at writing the Quiz Book of New Zealand Politics. Moreover he said he would write a foreword. So I put something together, and Big Max was as good as his word. Unfortunately I never found a publisher.

I did have another crack at Mastermind in 1988, with United States presidents as my specialist subject, but didn't get past the semifinals. When filming finished I shared a taxi back to the airport with Peter Sinclair. I never saw him again. He died of cancer in 2001.

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## COUNCIL COMMENT

## This is Election Year

Tena koutou katoa. Over the past 18 months Council has been reviewing the District Plan, the document which sets out the rules about how land is used, developed, protected and sub-divided within South Taranaki.

Rules like how close a piggery can be established

to houses people live in (and vice versa), the minimum size of rural subdivisions, protecting special areas of significance and notable trees, how businesses can be set up in residential areas, zoning of land for different uses, the establishment of papakainga and a huge document full of other things that will help us shape the future of our district. This is the document which determines if the house you want to build, the sign you want to put up, the business you want to extend, or the hill you want to bulldoze needs a resource consent or not.

This review of the District Plan is a 10-yearly activity and consumes thousands of hours of staff, councillors' and submitters' time, such is its significance and importance to South Taranaki. Importantly though, there are some rules in the proposed plan that



Cr Bonita Bigham

came into effect immediately when it was publicly notified in August last year. Rules around indigenous vegetation, heritage buildings, historic sites, notable trees and waterbodies already apply as a safeguard against a hasty rush to beat the new rules

before the proposed plan is adopted - a really good thing.

Hearings started last week and will continue through to the end of June, giving submitters the opportunity to present their responses to myself and other councillors who are qualified Resource Management Act commissioners. We then deliberate on all the information we have read, seen and heard, and finally decide what will and won't be included in the final plan, scheduled to be made public in about September this year. Thanks to all who have submitted and had your say.

Further to having your say,

the local body elections are happening again in October this year. Places on district and regional councils, community boards and the district health board need filling with passionate community-minded people. It's important to have good communication skills, to be able to take in lots of different and often conflicting information and come to your own, well-informed conclusions, and to maintain your community voice but appreciate the impact on the whole district. You must have the time and energy to commit to Council meetings and activities, and probably most importantly to have the

courage to make decisions that may be unpopular with your own friends and whanau.

If you can do that, please think about standing for election. If you know someone who can do that, please encourage them to stand. If not, you still have the most power in the process by ensuring that you vote. You may not think your single vote is important, but when nearly seven out of every 10 eligible voters thinks that same way, as the numbers showed in the 2013 elections, then none of us really get the representation or the participation that we all deserve. Vote 2016.

Cr Bonita Bigham

## Mastering a Plan

On April 30, there was a chance to see what could be the future shape of Opunake's most well known asset, it's beach.

It was a day for people to come to the Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club and get some idea of what the Opunake Beach Master Plan is all about.

South Taranaki District Council staff and plan designers were on hand to answer questions about the Plan, as were representatives of the Egmont Community Arts Council to show examples of what the sculptures being planned as part of the Opunake Walkway could look like.

"We haven't brought any of our own ideas to the table, we're just here to help visualise people's own ambitions for this place," landscape architect Brad Dobson from planning consultants Boffa Miskell said. "It's not set in stone, so people can have their say and influence how it shapes out."

The closing date for



Rhonda Crawford (left) was on hand to talk about the Egmont Community Arts Council's vision of what Opunake Beach may look like.

submissions is May 16.

Brad said what the beach has lacked is a coherent plan for its longer term future. He is no stranger to Opunake and its beach. Although he currently works in Wellington, he grew up in Hawera.

"People here recognise the special character of the beach which makes it distinctive from anywhere else in the country."

Similar sentiments were expressed by South Taranaki District Council property and facilities manager John Sargeant.

"We are planning today for an exciting tomorrow," he said.

Special concerns included the state of the cliff tops with the Council budgeting \$100,000 for this in the coming year.

"There's been a history of slips and slides through the years," he said. These have included the slip that blocked the Goat track for a time last year. John said the track was seen as an asset to the beach, and he was keen to hear

whether people wanted to see it opened up or to retain its familiar enclosed feel.

Another concern was the state of the dunes and build-ups of sand, which included the one which had to be cleared away by local contractors a couple of years ago to reclaim a popular picnic and barbecue spot near the Surf Club building.

The Opunake Surf Lifesaving Club has had its own issues with a sand buildup obscuring the line of sight between their building and the sea.

Sitting in the club's control room, club president Michael Debique said this is a particular problem at the height of the swimming season when young families are in the water.

"A lot of the time at high tide, we can't even see our own flags from here," he said.

John Sargeant said as much as possible they wanted to work with nature rather than against it to address these issues. Possibilities being looked at included having pedestrian boardwalks on to

the beach, similar to those used on Gisborne beaches.

Also there was Rhonda Crawford, Walkway project co-ordinator for the Egmont Community Arts Council with illustrations of the kinds of kinetic and living sculptures which may one day be on or near the beach as part of the Opunake walkway.

The kinetic sculptures take on a life of their own when moved by the wind, while the living sculptures may have plants growing through or moss growing on them.

"It's a way kids can look at plants in a natural environment but in a different way, and expose their imaginations to thinking about nature," she said.

She said the Arts Council was looking forward to working with artists and sculptors as well as local people interested in making it happen.

"It's all pretty exciting and we are looking forward to going through the formal process," she said.

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# Stopping flooding in Opunake

Flooding in Opunake and how to avert it in future was discussed at a public meeting on Wednesday April 20 in Opunake.

Brent Manning, Engineering Services Group Manager from the South Taranaki District Council, Tracey Mitchell Development Engineer with the STDC and John Philpott Rivers Manager with the Taranaki Regional Council all spoke at the meeting.

Brent said they had identified properties in Opunake affected by the flooding and remarked that

drains have been identified as part of the problem. "Overgrown drains are becoming a problem," he said. He added they had checked drains, making repairs where necessary, made them safe and cleaned them.

But this was clearly only part of the problem.

Clearly further measures however were needed to address the flooding that occurs after a big rainfall.

Two proposals were outlined with the cheaper of the two options considered the most viable.

Rain comes off the mountain and streams into the lower lying land which is how the flooding occurs explained Brent.

There are two main stream channels which cause the flooding in Opunake.

The main channel is down Ihaia Road with a 242 hectare catchment. A second minor channel has a 50 hectare catchment.

The two options were outlined.

The first involves three stages: a diversion channel on farmland either side of Ihaia Road just outside the township to Otahi Stream which is estimated to represent 25 percent of the surplus water.

A second open channel on farmland in the same area crossing Ihaia Road via a box culvert and diverting the water into the Waiaua River is hoped to absorb a further 55% of excess water. And finally a diversion channel behind the houses in Gisborne Terrace in front of the current detention pond was anticipated to divert 80% of the water in Allison Street to the main channel.

The second option involves the same diversion to Otahi Stream as in option 1 and also construction of a channel from Whitcombe Road diverting the water via the railway reserve to the Waiaua River with the same diversion in Allison Street mentioned in the first option.

The estimated cost of the first option is \$550,000, the second \$710,000.

The first option is the preferred one. Getting water flow around the corner at the end of Ponderosa Place could pose problems and also there could be difficulties with the flow under Whitcombe Road and the subsequent right angled flow, explained Brent. "It would be tricky getting this to work."

The Taranaki Regional Council is prepared to put in \$250,000 towards the scheme John Philpott said.

The open channels would be fenced off and would be maintained by the Regional Council. Flax would be kept away from the channels.

Tracey Mitchell said they had considered changes to the detention pond to improve its efficacy. This included ensuring debris doesn't clog the exits. Also altering the channel shape and widening it where there are sharp bends. The culverts near 66 King Street and the waterway through 49 Fox Street also need attention, and details had been given to consultants



Among those attending the public meeting discussing measures to stop flooding in Opunake.

to come up with a solution. The culvert in Deiffenbach Street also needed reinstating.

There were other minor fixes. Brian Vincent who was at the meeting said that one of the

culverts in Gisborne Terrace was too small. He said the drains needed to be kept clear

and properly maintained. He added that all sorts of things ended up in drains and said they once recovered a motor mower in one.

He asked whether the Council accepts responsibility for the drains.

Brent told those present that there was a district wide policy which served to clarify any confusion about who maintains what drain. It was also used to define a 'public drain' and what is a 'private drain.'

The policy also stipulates rights of access and maintenance obligations for public drains

There is still follow up work to be done, said Brent, such as the initial clearing and removal of debris for Hihiwera Stream and its western tributary, and the installation of black-flow preventers, the CCTV of storm water pipes, the removal of blockages from pipes and additional drain cleaning.

## Stormwater Policy 2016

High rainfall events which the South Taranaki District experiences regularly are expected to increase in frequency and intensity with climate change, predicts the South Taranaki District Council in their Stormwater Policy.

The Stormwater Policy 2016 says the Council's stormwater systems include some urban streams and rivers, and the urban stormwater reticulation system, which consists of pipes and drains.

The policy states that where the Council has constructed drainage systems, or taken ownership or maintenance

responsibilities of drains, the Council has an obligation to maintain or renew them.

The Council's responsibilities extend to provide channels to drain stormwater and rain runoff from roads and properties in the built up areas namely the eight towns in the South Taranaki District. Individual properties are required to discharge stormwater either to onsite soakage and/or the road channel as part of the primary drainage system.

In rural areas a reticulated system is not normally provided by the Council.

The Taranaki Regional Council is broadly responsi-

ble for management and water quality of natural streams, rivers, wetlands and water courses within Taranaki.

Confusion arises in urban areas as to the responsibility for some drains. That is whether the Council, TRC or the private land owner is responsible. The answer according to the policy depends on the status of the existing drain, based on various other factors.

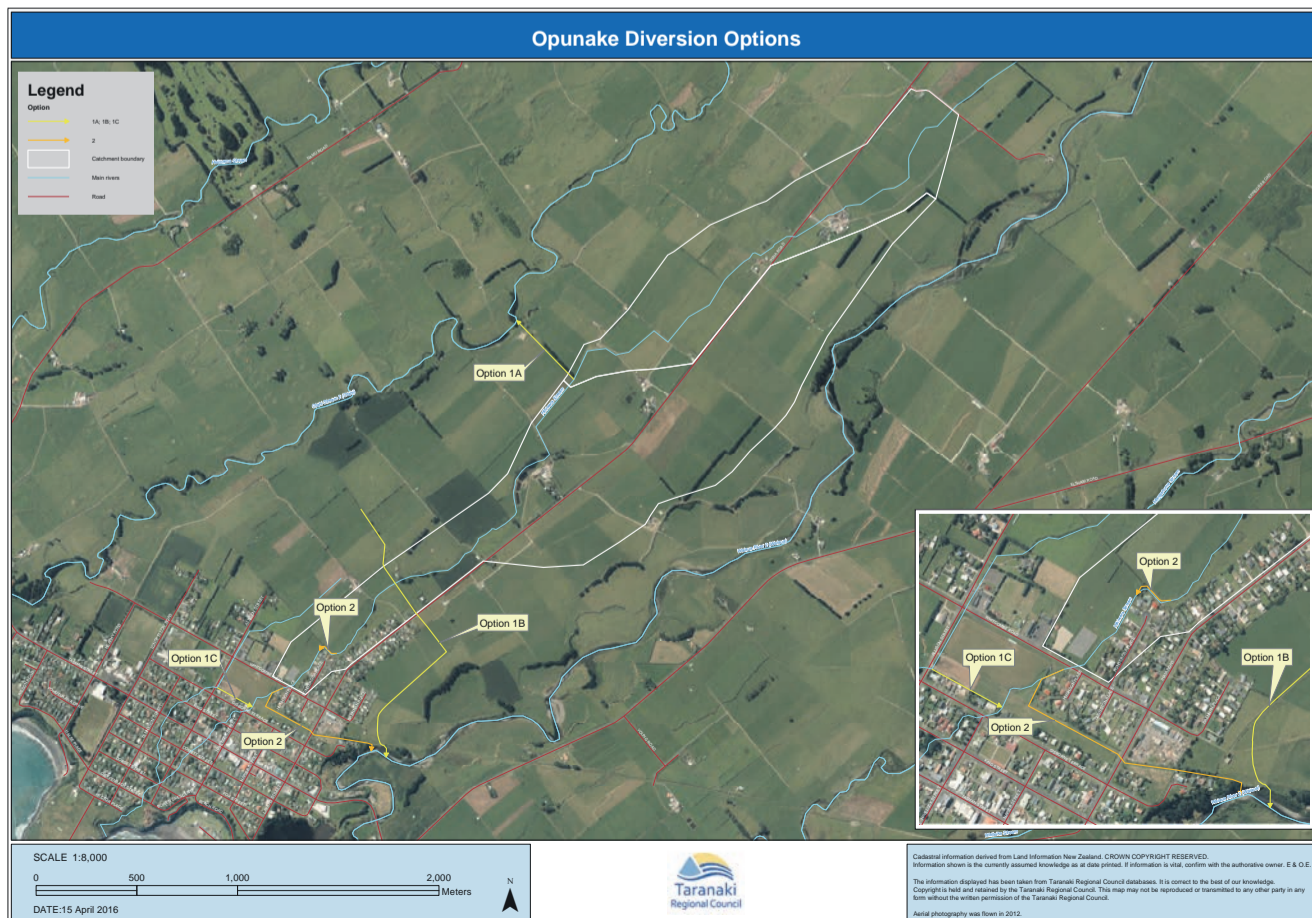
The policy states that residential properties are encouraged to use soak holes for stormwater disposal if soil conditions are suitable. If not then the Council may

permit connection to the kerb and channel.

Public drains are generally those built by the Council. Customers should not in any way interfere with the public drains without permission from the Council.

Regulations concerning blockage and restriction in public drains, contamination and spills and building near and over drains are also stipulated in the policy along with diversion or alteration of existing public drains.

Definitions of public and private drains, watercourses, soak holes and other such terms are also given in the Policy.



The two proposals discussed to deal with stormwater flooding Opunake township. The first option is preferred by the South Taranaki District and Taranaki Regional Councils.

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# Manaia remembers the ANZACS

It's been a hundred years since the first ANZAC ceremony was held in the Wairarapa settlement of Tinui. A century later, people in Manaia, like others throughout New Zealand and Australia stopped to remember those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

With the Manaia Town Hall being unavailable this year, Manaia's ANZAC Day dawn parade began at the Robert Gibson Memorial Hall. To the sound of pipes, and under the watchful eye of parade marshal and Malaya veteran Kane Hamon, the parade made its way to the band rotunda shortly after 6.15am. The first of the wreaths was

laid by ninety five year-old former Otakeho farmer, local identity and World War II veteran Jim Washer on behalf of the Manaia RSA. Others then followed with their wreaths.

With last year marking 100 years since the Gallipoli landings, this year being the centenary of the first commemoration, and other major World War 1 centenaries coming up, memories of the War to end all wars were always going to be to the fore.

"These men signed up to prevent the domination of a continent," Hawera High School student McKayla Cadman told the gathering, referring to who had served in the First World War. "New Zealand lost over 18,000 brave soldiers who served their country. Yet we commemorate them for only one day a year. The other 364 days they are forgotten."

McKayla had recently finished second in a speech contest against contestants from Taranaki, Manawatu, Whanganui and Wellington. Her speech included extracts of writings from frontline soldiers.

Petty Officer Sarah Ngere of the Royal New Zealand Navy said a hundred years on it is difficult for people living



Ninety five year old Jim Washer lays the wreath for the Manaia RSA.

today to imagine what the serviceman serving in World War I went through.

"We are privileged, from the fresh air that we breathe, the cars that we drive, and the freedom to make the choices as to how we live our lives."

Petty Officer Ngere, daughter of Jim and Ria, grew up in Manaia and has been in the navy for 11 years.

"My career has been colourful and I have been privileged to serve on many of Her Majesty's ships, and in many different countries," she said.

Her most recent deployment was in Dubai, assisting with sending troops to Iraq. She said the New Zealand Navy is continuing to play important roles helping fight terrorism, piracy, and human and drug trafficking. Most recently they have been involved in relief work, after cyclones in Fiji.

Originally hailing from the Bay of Islands, her father Jim had come to Manaia as the town's sole charge police-



Standing to attention

man. After nine years in that role, he left the police, but not the town, and has remained ever since, now working as a manager at Yarrows.

Rev Phillip Woodmas quoted the scripture "Greater love

hath no man than that he lay down his life for his friends."

"At Gallipoli the Anzacs set the standard that has inspired two countries for generations," he said. "Most of us have not had to live through

war, with its rationing, black-outs and news arriving after the event. Gallipoli gave New Zealand pride, not in war, but in the knowledge that we New Zealanders when put to the test will not fail, and that spirit must sustain us today. Let us once again look out for each other."

The Ode to the Fallen was read out in Te Reo and English, and the service concluded with a number of items from a Maori choir, including an acknowledgement to those killed on both sides in the Taranaki land battles.

It was then back to the Robert Gibson Memorial Hall to the strains of the New Zealand World War II favourite

Maori Battalion.

Manaia RSA president John Graham said he believed this year's service was "on a par" with last year's one, and he was pleased with how everything went.

## Malaya veteran leads ANZAC Day parade

Kane Hamon served three years in the New Zealand army. Two and a half of these years were served in Malaya.

Originally from Gisborne, Kane now lives in Manaia. On ANZAC Day, he was parade marshal at the Manaia dawn parade.

The New Zealand troops had been in Malaya combating insurgents. Kane was 2IC of a 10 man section, and he recalls being on the trail of a group of 40 well armed terrorists for 30 miles, without catching them.

"We knew where they had been," he said. The insurgents had left their calling



From left, John Graham (President Manaia RSA), Kane Hamon (Malaya veteran and Parade Marshal), Petty Officer Sarah Ngere, Jim Washer (World War II veteran).

cards with messages lodged under pumpkins in tapioca

fields.

"You didn't know who the

terrorists were. They looked like everybody else, like these wood cutters out in the bush. They didn't wear a badge saying, I'm a terrorist. They could have been anybody. If you shot somebody, they could claim you shot a civilian, so you had to be very careful."

In 2007, fifty years on from the Malayan Emergency, Kane returned to Malaya, along with his wife and a "whole lot of other ex-navy, air force and army," who were hosted by the various state leaders of the nation that now makes up Malaysia.

## On this month in history Florence Nightingale born

On May 12, 1820 Florence Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy. She is remembered as the founder of modern nursing. She was

shocked at what she saw during the Crimean War and instigated reforms. Using new techniques of statistical analysis she plotted the inci-

dence of preventable deaths of soldiers. She developed the 'polar-area diagram' to dramatise needless deaths linked to unsanitary conditions.

She was known as the 'Lady with the Lamp' because she conducted her nursing rounds in this manner. She died in 1910, aged 90.

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# Maria is South Taranaki's first Filipino JP

Recently Maria Cashmore became South Taranaki's first ever Filipino Justice of the Peace (JP). Maria, was nominated for the honour after her extensive voluntary work was noticed. She received a phone call, informing her of the nomination from Jan Beccard of the Justice of the Peace Association late last year.

"My reaction was mixed, although I was delighted." She added, "I had a lot of questions?"

Maree is currently a planner for the South Taranaki District Council, but later this month takes up a new position as Environmental Policy Analyst for Ngati Ruanui.

What followed was quite an involved process including checking that Maria had no criminal record. Her nomination had to be endorsed by at



Maria Cashmore JP

least two voluntary organisations, as well as having the backing of the local MP

the Hon Chester Borrows. Filipino Association Coastal Taranaki and the Taranaki

professional course for intending JPs culminating in an examination (50 questions), in which she scored 100%. She had to learn about procedures and the relevant legislation.

Finally on April 5 at Hawera's District Court, with Judge Roberts presiding, Maria took her Oath of office. "I'm ready to fulfil my duties," she commented.

Maria is one of the youngest people chosen as an JP which is good in terms of dealing with younger people.

Maria has an interesting background. She arrived in NZ in 1996, already qualified as a medical doctor. She also has a Bachelor of Science (medical technology) and is currently studying extra-murally (Massey University) towards Masters in Environmental Planning,

which should take three years to complete.

Does she miss the Philip-

pinos? "No. This is my home now, but I miss my family."

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# Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade news and hints

We were called to a Kawera Road property on April 19 when a farmer was bucked from his farm bike and landed on the cattle race. Luckily he was wearing a helmet and only sustained moderate injuries. Once we ascertained everything was under control and our services weren't required, we were soon home-ward bound.

Our brigade members once again attended the Dawn Parade and placed a wreath at the Cenotaph in memory of all of our Countrymen who lost their lives fighting for our freedom. After the parade,



Chief Fire Officer Rodney Woods pinning a Life Honorary Medal on Bell's jacket.

we all made our way back to the fire station for a special ceremony for one of our own.

Bell Phillips, our training officer, was made a life member of the Opunake Volunteer Fire Brigade and was presented with a Life Honorary Medal and an embroidered Fire Service jacket. His wife Carol, was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers to mark the occasion. This honour was bestowed on Bell for all of the after- hours of training his has put in with new recruits, for the training programme he arranges and for his services to the New

Zealand Fire Service. The barbecue was then fired up and a wonderful breakfast was cooked by our resident chef Mossy, for our RSA guests, our members and partners and Bell's whanau. Congratulations Bell.

You may have read where an elderly lady died in a house fire in Whanganui on the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month. The sad point in this case is that the lady phoned the fire service from inside her home instead of getting out and phoning from a neighbouring property. Fire can spread at an alarming rate and sadly, she was caught out

and consequently lost her life.

If you are ever in a shopping complex and you hear the fire alarm ringing, get out as quickly as you can. Don't look around to see what is happening. Look after yourself and stroll to the exit and vacate. Don't think because others aren't moving, you don't need to. If there is a small fire somewhere in the building and it intensifies, panic will set in with other shoppers and everyone will be aiming for the exit.

*The Handy Helmet.*

# On this month in history Everest is in the news

On May 10, 1996 Mount Everest was the scene of eight climbers deaths due to poor weather including 75 mph winds. One of those dead was Rob Hall who had climbed Everest five times, guiding 39 clients between 1990 and 1995.

With his climbing companion Gary Ball, Rob Hall had been the first to climb the highest peak in every continent in seven months. Gary died during an earlier climbing venture on another Himalayan peak.

Just before Rob died he re-

fused to abandon his American client who was incapacitated.

His last act was to say goodbye to his pregnant wife Dr Jan Arnold on a phone call his fellow climbers 'patched' through. (His client died).

**On this month in history oldest man to climb Mt Everest**

On May 22, 2003 Yuichiro Miura of Japan became the oldest person to climb to the top of Mt Everest. He was aged 70 years and 222 days. He was pictured - his

neck festooned with floral garlands - giving the victory sign at Kathmandu Airport after scaling the 8838 metre mountain.

Here are a few facts about Mount Everest:

\* It is possible that George Mallory and Sandy Irvine

climbed Everest in 1924, as they were seen climbing near the top before clouds set in. They were never seen alive again although Mallory's body was discovered. However there was no sign of a camera which could have solved a mystery.)

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# Decent place to live at heart of kiwi dream



**Andrew Little MP, Leader of the Opposition**

By the time you read this Parliament will have had the opportunity to support my Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill which will ensure every rental home in New Zealand is warm and dry.

Remember Emma-Lita Bourne? She died last year from causes the Coroner attributed to the appallingly "unhealthy" state house rented by her family.

Children's Commissioner Russell Wills says the effects of cold, mouldy and damp

housing on kids contributes to 42,000 hospital admissions and 15 deaths each year.

My Bill is about preventing any more cases like Emma-Lita's, setting strict guidelines around insulation and heating which all landlords must comply with before they can legally rent out their properties.

It's about doing what an increasingly callous government has failed to do with its continued protection of slum landlords, rather than looking after those in need. And it's not just our most vulnerable - more middle New Zealand families are renting, locked out of the housing market by soaring prices.

A recent Facebook comment from a Lower Hutt retiree whose 65-year-old relation "crawls around the walls [of her state housing unit] with a mop and a bucket of Janola to keep the mould away," is a poignant and timely reminder of why it matters.

A previous Labour Bill that would have ensured every

rental home was warm and dry was rejected by the Government last year. Housing Minister Nick Smith argues he's doing all that's needed to improve the "deplorable" state of rentals.

Not so. The Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill requires rental homes to be retrofitted with ceiling and underfloor insulation. It comes into effect in July for state houses, but not until 2019 for other rental - read private - housing.

Nick Smith believes his Bill is a pragmatic and efficient option to the problem, and that alternatives are too expensive and will not prove to be beneficial.

But hang on. There is nothing in it about minimum standards of heating. A 2014 Household Income Report shows the majority of kids living in poverty live in private rentals. Those are the families who can least afford to heat their homes.

So, once again it's a half-measure from a Government

that wants to look like it's doing something to address substandard rentals when, in reality, it's doing very little.

National has accepted the need to regulate private rental properties by requiring insulation. When temperatures plummet, insulation only isn't going to keep you warm. Why not finish the job and require efficient heating too?

No child, no pensioner, no struggling uni student, no New Zealander, should be living in a hovel. Sadly, some are. It's inexcusable in this day and age to be renting out something that is so poorly maintained that it becomes a health hazard.

I make no apology for standing up for the simple idea that everyone deserves a decent place to live. A decent place to live is at the heart of the Kiwi dream.

The Government has the opportunity to do something about that. Not supporting my Bill is not an option. All 121 MPs must vote for it.

*Andrew Little MP*

# Christianity in action

Recently I was driving between Palmerston North and Whanganui and I picked up a hitch-hiker on the outskirts of the city. He was a young American from Tennessee on his first trip overseas. He decided he wanted to visit New Zealand after meeting Kiwi's in the States. So three months of hitch-hiking around our country's islands, climbing the odd peak and *tramping* - they call it 'hiking' because *tramping* has a whole other after-dark urban meaning anywhere else but New Zealand.

I bought him coffee and real-fruit ice cream in Whanganui. We visited a couple of beaches and Dawson Falls then he spent the night in the spare room before being breakfasted and dropped off at North Egmont to climb Taranaki. There is a real satisfaction in showing our country off to foreign tourists. I was pleased to note he was staying three months and not just catching his breath on a trip to Australia like so many. I had a similar feeling when picking up French hitch-hikers in Tekapo who were spending a year in New Zealand, in-



**Hon Chester Borrows MP**

cluding walking the Te Ara-roa Trail. The overwhelming impressions and lasting memories the people have of our country are of its natural beauty and the friendliness and hospitality of the people.

The ANZAC 'season' is an interesting time to reflect on this. Last year, I represented New Zealand at the ANZAC Day commemorations in Berlin. It seemed unusual to be celebrating with the Germans, the Turks, the Italians as well as countries who had fought with the allies in World Wars One and Two. The Turks have fond regard for New Zealanders in spite of the incredulity of us celebrating a massive loss and in a battle where

we were the invading force. Yet they pledge to guard and protect our fallen soldiers who lie beneath their soil.

We visited Arras in Northern France where Kiwi tunnellers from the mines in Waihi had been sent to extend underground caverns that would hold 27,000 troops for a surprise attack on the German offensive line. Each portion of the tunnel named for a New Zealand town because the tunnellers could easily identify their location in a map they carried in their heads. Palmerston North was north of Wellington and west of Napier etc so they could make their way around the maze of tunnels in the dark.

In Caterpillar Valley we visited a memorial New Zealand soldiers not far from a spot where my great uncle was killed by machine gun fire. The water-tower position of the machine gun still stands. But the memorial is erected in commemoration of kiwi troops who liberated the village from German soldiers. New Zealanders don't have to buy a drink in the local pub, so I am told, 100 years after the battle.

It is not just the courage, fighting prowess, tactics and skills we are renowned for. It is the humour, friendliness and easy-going, mickey-taking personality, which has become the hallmark of the New Zealand character that wins over other nationalities to think warmly of our countrymen and women.

My hitch-hiking house guest was very taken by the proliferation of war memorials and their condition. It was the record of sacrifice village-by-village and the huge toll the First War particularly took on such a young country. Remember one in ten of our young men served overseas and 20% were killed. For a war on the other side of the world and being driven by a sense of loyalty and kinship, that is hard to quantify today.

The young fella left New Zealand at five on the morning of ANZAC Day. One hundred and one years after the battle for Gallipoli which it commemorates. He won't get to a dawn service, but he tells me he has truly witnessed the ANZAC spirit.

*Chester Borrows, MP for Whanganui, 021 722 636*

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ClearAz Coastal Taranaki Spring Water is merely a statement and description of the crystal clear as water that is drawn from the Patua spring aquifer. The Diary Factory which houses this well was established around 1915. In the past this aquifer has been utilised by Maori

and European for cultivation purposes as well as drinking water. Currently The Plant Factory owner Tania Brown continues with this practice. The space at the old Cheese Factory is also shared with K & M Gallery who offer a cultural walkway down by the Timaru stream, making the ClearAz bottling facility a pleasant environment to be producing their water.

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Greg and Sharron Skipper have established ClearAz



Angler on the Waimakariri River

## Environmental degradation forces closure of North Canterbury’s treasured winter fisheries

Winter trout fishing will be closed in the lower reaches of North Canterbury rivers from the end of April after approval from the Department of Conservation’s Director General.

The closure is aimed at preserving the valued fishery which has suffered from years of environmental degradation.

The new rules will be effective from midnight April 30, and apply to all trout and salmon fishing in waterways east of State Highway One within the North Canterbury Fish and Game Region.

The Chairman of North Canterbury Fish and Game, Trevor Isitt says the decision has the overwhelming backing of the region’s

anglers.

ad a public meeting in March to discuss this move – more than 110 people attended and gave their unanimous support. They understand that the fishery is under threat thanks to environmental degradation and poor water management policies, and this is something constructive they can do to help protect what they love,” Mr Isitt says.

“I want to thank all anglers for their overwhelming support for the closure, and their determination to protect our fisheries resource.”

Mr Isitt says the new rules are straightforward.

“No person shall attempt to fish for or take any sports fish including salmon and trout east of, or downstream of,

State Highway One anywhere in the North Canterbury Fish and Game Region between 1 May and 30 September.”

Following the March meeting, North Canterbury Fish and Game asked the Department of Conservation to approve the closure, and DOC head Lou Sanson has used his authority to do so under the Conservation Act 1987.

North Canterbury Fish and Game is now making sure all anglers know of the closure, something Trevor Isitt says is a big job.

“We’ll be running newspaper ads to alert people about what has happened and our staff will be out and about adjusting signage in the affected areas in coming

days,” he says.

Fishing licence retailers will also be contacted so that anyone purchasing a fishing licence will be made aware of the changes.

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# ANZAC commemoration in Okato attracts a large crowd

A large crowd was present in Okato for the ANZAC Day commemoration on April 25.

Firstly, the parade set off down Carthew Street at 9.45am in the direction of the Cenotaph upon the command of the Parade Marshall SSgt Grant Edwardson of the Royal NZ Artillery (RNZA). The parade was led by a sole lady piper, Raewynne Lawn. As well as returned soldiers, members of the Okato Volunteer Fire Brigade marched in the parade. At the very back were young students from Coastal Taranaki School.

At the Cenotaph a solemn ceremony was held and wreaths laid. These included ones by the Royal NZ Air Force, the Mayors, Councillors, Community

Boards and citizens of the New Plymouth district and the Okato RSA sub-branch. Children came forward and attached poppies.

Members of the New Plymouth Cadet brigade stood in silent remembrance, their weapons reversed, with a lowered flag fluttering nearby. RSA sub-branch president Graham Chard gave an address as well as the Very Reverend Michael Bent who concluded, "Help us to remember them with respect and gratitude, may they rest in peace."

The Last Post was played by bugler after Bruce Gray, after which Graham Chard recited Binyon's Ode. The NZ flag was then raised. After the parade was dismissed by SSgt Grant Edwardson a commemorative service



From left, Lucinda Moorby (7), Eloise Moorby (5) and Hayley Sulzberger (6).

was held in nearby Hempton Hall.

Present in the crowd were Kelly and Glenis Ogle. Kelly wore medals earned by her late grandfather who served in World War 2 in the Pacific Islands (army and air force).

On the stage were several distinguished people including Deputy Mayor Heather Dodunski, Rev Barry Houia, Very Rev Michael Bent and guest speakers FLTLT Mark Pearson and Adair Valentine-Robertson of New Plymouth Girls High School. Past president of the Okato RSA sub-branch Ivor Ellis was also present; Graham paid tribute to his presence despite some recent ill health.

After a welcome by Graham Chard, both ministers spoke.

FLTLT Mark Pearson gave a very comprehensive address. "While we look

to the past, we must take the lessons of history and must adapt ourselves. We must look to the future." He stressed the importance of "commitment and comradeship in the armed forces. He concluded

expressing pleasure at the number who had turned up, "There is no better tribute to the men and women who came before than to learn about them."

Student Adair Valentine-Robertson gave a most

thought-provoking address, featuring her great uncle Jack Condon. Her plea was for the remembrance of forgotten people like Jack who returned seriously injured from World War 1 battlefields (an amputee) in body and mind (depressed) - he committed suicide aged just 23. "I look for his name on the Cenotaph (in North Otago) but I know it is not there."

Graham Chard recited the poem 'In Flanders Fields', concluding "We shall not sleep though poppies grow in Flanders fields."

During the service the hymn 'How Great Thou Art' and the national anthems of both New Zealand and Australia were sung with expert piano accompaniment by pianist Sarah Foreman.

A pleasant morning tea was organised by the Okato Lions Club to conclude the commemorative service.



Kelly (with medals) and Glenis Ogle.

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## Wedding bells



On April 16 at Haruru Falls, Paihia, Morehu Ratahi, a former pupil of Opunake Primary and Opunake High School married Michelle Burns-Taurua. Back row. From left. Jason Moore, Jason Ratahi, Morehu Ratahi, Michelle Burns-Taurua, Haze Birch, Josephine Taurua, Jen Burns.

# A celebration of 80 years

Seventy seven sat down to a roast meal at the South Taranaki Club recently to celebrate 80 years of Women's Institute supporting our communities in South Taranaki. Mayor Ross Dunlop opened our meeting.

Guest speaker, Colleen Dryden, gave an interesting account of her time and travels with our Movement. President Leonie West cut the birthday cake ably assisted by Ruth Merrigan, who has over 70 years WI service, Carlyle. The delicious cake was made by Pauline Clough, Te Kiri WI and beautifully iced by Janice Walsh, Manaia WI.

After lunch, The Hawera Women's Club Music Circle entertained. Congratulations to our two new Good Service Badge recipients - Elizabeth Brown, Rawhitiroa and Doreen Matthews, Riverlea. Executive members for the ensuing year are Helen Cameron, Kapuni; Dorothy Hughes, Kaponga; Bev



Ruth Merrigan and Leonie West cut the cake. Photo by Fiona Nicholson.

Hawkes, Turuturu; Lynette Hurley, Riverlea, Robyn Leach, Rawhitiroa; Teresa Roberts and Margaret

Broomhall, Kaponga. Nicola Ashley, Manaia is our new Historian. I'm sure they will do their best and with your support we will continue to inspire and encourage the women of South Taranaki.

Competition Results. Annual Reports (U18) 1st Riverlea; 2nd Kapuni; 3rd Carlyle. Annual Reports (over 18) 1st Turuturu; 2nd equal Manaia and Rawhitiroa. Program. 1st Manaia. Jubilee Bell - Most

new members: Pihama Cameron Trophy - Highest percentage members receiving H and C: Carlyle. Floral - 1st Phyllis Malcolm; 2nd Jo Jones; 3rd equal Val Kerr and Maureen Meyer. Cooking - Three Afghans: 1st Gill Campbell; 2nd Marion Smith; 3rd Pat Miller. Handcraft. Knitted socks: 1st Gill Campbell; 2nd Bev Marx; 3rd Doreen Matthews. Felted Scarf: 1st Val Kerr.

Cushion Cover: 1st Dorothy Hughes; 2nd Joy Collins. Recycled from a pair denim jeans: 1st Christine Corrigan; 2nd Gill Campbell. Baby's mat: 1st Christine Corrigan. Photo: 1st Doreen Matthews; 2nd Val Campbell; 3rd Phyllis Malcolm. Grocery Raffle winner Doris Hall

Leonie West

## Te Kiri WI host Friendship Club

Members were welcomed to a very happy and busy meeting as we welcomed the Friendship Club to a light luncheon hosted by our W.I.

A delicious salad meal had been prepared by Sue and Pauline with all members helping with delicious cooking for an after lunch snack. Congratulations to Sue and Pauline for the thought and preparation they had put into a wonderful meal. Little things made our tables look very pretty with small vases of flowers.

A small social hour was

held with "what cake am I" competition, and "all about the sea," that kept us thinking and amused and three games of housie were enjoyed. We were thanked by a member of the Friendship Club, Rosalie Drummond.

Institute business was discussed with Rita Kaiser going to the conference meeting.

Our Relay for Life Walk for Cancer was well supported. For our May meeting, we will lunch with our friends at Idea Services. We always

look forward to this. Competition Results. Shrub: 1st Heather Radford, 2nd Pauline Clough and Merle Clement, 3rd Joy Collins.

Handcraft. 1st Joy Collins with a lovely cushion cover. Afternoon tea was served by the committee. A big thank you to Sue and Pauline for a lovely day and lunch, and thank you to the committee for the afternoon tea. A great day enjoyed by us all.

Mavis West

## Mangatoki WI celebrate a birthday

The Mangatoki WI held its AGM on March 3 in the Mangatoki Hall. Ten people were present with seven apologies. Secretary Olwyn Duthie read the minutes of the past three meetings. President Robyn Roberts then read the newsletter from the South Taranaki Federation followed by a discussion on the election of members for officers. The Treasurer Cathy White gave her monthly report, Subs are now \$25.

In general business, there was discussion on The Mangatoki Church at the Pioneer Village, and where the possessions should be kept. The election of officers took place after the secretaries, treasurers and presidents reports were read.

President: Karen Joblin, Vice President: Jenny Brown, Secretary: Helen Whyte, Treasurer: Cathy White, Overseas Link:

Cathy White, Committee: Karen Joblin, Olwyn Duthie, Helen Whyte, Cathy White, Jenny Brown, Marlene Henn, Competition Steward: Bev Marx, Hostess Governor: Marlene Henn, Reporter: Lucy Moger, Hall Committee: Helen Whyte and Robyn Roberts.

Competition results. Overall : Lucy Moger. 2nd Cathy White. 3rd Bev Marx. On April 6, we celebrated our 86th. Birthday by enjoying lunch at The Midhurst Tavern. 17 members were present and apologies were received from four members. After lunch we had a gift exchange. Several of the members wore birthday hats, and the raffle was won by Helen Whyte.

President Karen Joblin laid a wreath on the War Memorial, Kaponga, after The ANZAC Day service in the Memorial Hall, Kaponga.

Lucy Moger

## Manaia Women's Institute

The May meeting of the Manaia Women's Institute was held in the lounge of St. Cuthberts Church Manaia on May 3.

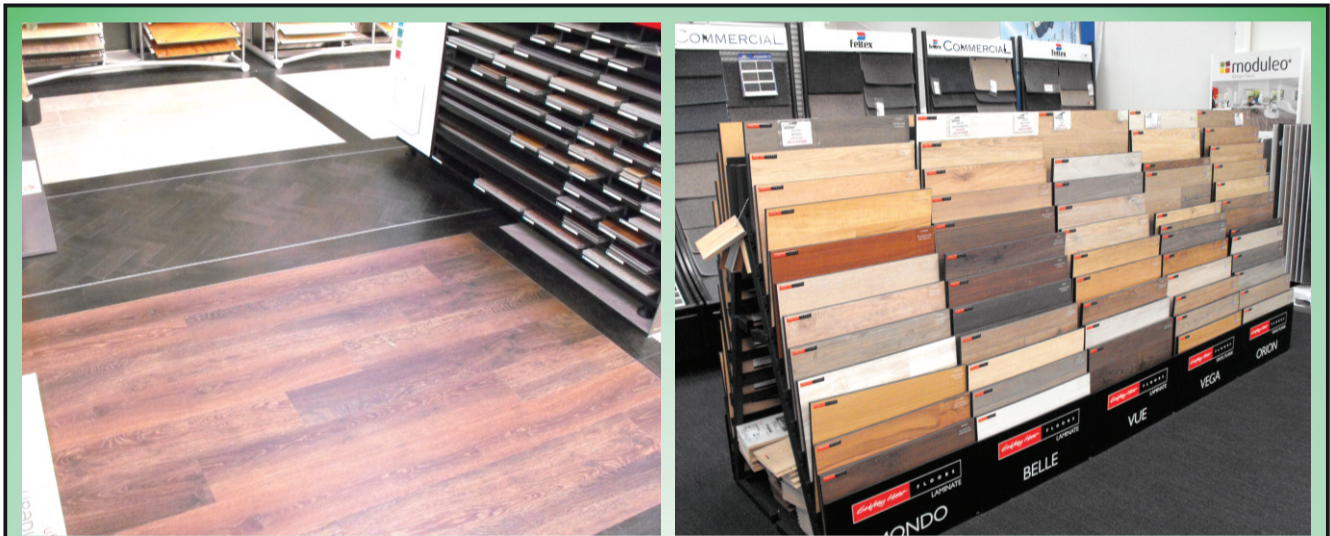
President Phyllis Malcolm reported on the recent Federation AGM.

Members are continuing to help at the Manaia School with Discovery time. Nicola Ashley demonstrated card making and members enjoyed making a card for themselves.

Shrub. 1st Phyllis Malcolm, 2nd Marion Smith, 3rd equal Daphne Ashley and Ann Chisnall. Other Stem 1st Ann Chisnall, 2nd Daphne Ashley, 3rd Phyllis Malcolm. Craft 1st Ann Chisnall, 2nd Janice Walsh, 3rd Daphne Ashley. Homecraft 1st Daphne Ashley.

The wondering coin was won by Nicola Ashley and the Mary Hutton Trophy was awarded to Meg Kelly.

Competition Results.



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# High country adventure

The Mahindra 4WD double cabs retail for just \$30,000.

"It's bloody good value," says Trent Hall, the owner of AgTraction in New Plymouth who is the agent for the Mahindra Eaton vehicles which are imported from India.

You can use it on your farm, to launch your boat like utes should and it's under half the price of mainstream utes, says Trent who says he has sold a few round and up the coast to farmers who are using them as general farm vehicles and are very happy with them.

"They have an Eaton differential locking system which locks all four of the wheels which means it's a true 4-wheel drive. This is unique to the Mahindra and means there's less chance of getting stuck, explains Trent who took one out hunting at the back of Whangmomona and said it was very impressive.

"It's a good all round vehicle."

He urged anyone interested to check out the vehicle on Youtube. Just type in Mahindra Eaton. "It demonstrates how the differential works."

John King from Upper Pitone Road owns a Mahindra

double cab and took it on the ultimate test run – a high country adventure.

He went with his friend Bill Honeyfield from Okato, his brother-in-law Hugh Forsyth and another friend from New Plymouth ex-farmer David Marsh.

The four, in two vehicles, joined up with 8 other 4wds meeting at Omarama in the South Island. In all they were away 8 days.

His unusual vehicle aroused some interest however among the others. "No one on the tour had seen them," said John.

They were an interesting and diverse lot and included a train driver from Picton, a couple of townies from Auckland and "an IT guy who was the least experienced in off road driving," said John.

"We had a lot of fun," says John who clearly loved the whole experience.

There was a choice of five escorted trips. They chose the Southern Lake Tour which took in most of the major Southern Lakes. The scenery was fabulous says John - adding they were generally on high country looking down on the lakes though would also travel down to them.



Spectacular views.

The trip also took in some high country stations including Bendigo, Northburn Station and Morven Hills Station, once one of the largest

sheep stations in New Zealand.

Pretty much everything they saw was accessible by 4WD only.

"The tour guides, husband and wife Connie and Robert Crickett were great," said John. Though in convoy they would sometimes be

quite distant from each other were all connected by RT Radio and they gave a running commentary of all the  
*Continued page 11*



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# a fabulous experience

Continued from page 10

sights as they drove along. Driving over mostly farm tracks - "Some hadn't been bulldozed for years" - a 4WD was essential with 80-20 tyres with 80% tread," says John "not one of those toy ones".

Often steep, ill maintained with huge 2000 foot drops on the side, the tracks were not for the faint-hearted. He mentions three point turns around hairpin bends. He recalls at one point travelling "900 metres straight down" in "low, low ratio." Though John was clearly unfazed by the challenging terrain, not all - he won't mention who - were quite so enamoured of it, he admits. Their hearts were in their mouth. But not John. "It was fabulous. I loved every minute of it," he says.

The highest point they reached was 5986 foot Mt Pisa on Locharburn Station which had some stunning

views overlooking Lake Dunstan and The Remarkables, as well as Mt Cook.

They also traversed the Dunstan Mountains in central Otago. "We were in snow for two days." The Old Man Range near Roxburgh is a place of significant early European history.

A highlight was visiting some of the high country stations. John particularly enjoyed meeting the station owners which was "fascinating." He added "It was pretty

tough and in the middle of a drought, they couldn't sell their lambs." Sometimes mustering was done by helicopter.

They would usually ford rivers, but on day two found the Mataura River in flood was unfordable so they had to do a round trip.

The last day they went from Arrowtown up to Macetown, an old gold mining town accessible by 4WD or walking only. The old mining gear is still where it was left when



One of the old mustering huts. This one was built in 1873.



Bill Honeyfield (second from left) and John King (second from right) relaxing with fellow adventurers.

the last mine closed in 1914. A few remained on and it was finally abandoned in the early 1940s. They also visited the old Lindis Pass Hotel site.

That day they did 26 river/creek crossings, says John.

At one point they drove over the Race to the Sky track near Cardrona where Possum Bourne was sadly

killed.

All accommodation which included two nights at the famous historic Cardrona Hotel and meals were included and were "excellent" says John. They also drove up Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown where they stayed a night and spent a night at Gore which has benefited from the huge expansion into

dairying and now has one of the largest milk processing facilities in the world.

They were long days - up at 5:30am and on the road by a quarter to eight.

A rolling pin was awarded at the end of each day to the person who made "the biggest cock up," says John.

Continued page 15



The woolshed at Morven Hills Station. Built in 1880, the historic stone woolshed was originally built with 34 shearing stands. It now has just 8, and the home-



Putting the Mahindra through its paces - typical of the rivers they often forded.



Polson's Hut has a poignant story. John Polson was a shepherd on Morven Hills and lived in the cottage with his wife Christina. Heavily pregnant in the winter of 1869 due to the heavy snow and freezing weather Christina was unable to leave the cottage. She gave birth prematurely to twins and despite their parents attempts to keep the babies warm, both succumbed to the cold and died only a few days old. A memorial has been erected by the descendants in their memory.



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# Farmers praised for looking after the environment

New Zealand's dairy farmers have been given a collective pat on the back when it comes to protecting the country's streams and rivers.

The Sustainable Dairying Water Accord had been launched in July 2013 to set standards for the dairy industry in improving water quality in the country's waterways.

Among the areas targeted were riparian planting, effluent management, bridging or culverting stock crossing points, and more efficient water and nutrient use on farms.

The Accord Now a report Two Years On shows that significant progress has been met in meeting the targets laid out back then.

The target of 100 per cent regular stock crossing points either bridged or culverted by May 31, 2018 is well on track, with 99 per cent of crossing points now

having bridges or culverts. Ninety six per cent of dairy cattle are now fenced off from waterways.

Riparian planting was another area where the Accord set targets, including having 50 per cent of dairy farms with waterways having riparian management plans by May 31, 2016.

"Taranaki is way ahead in terms of the riparian aspect of the Water Accord," says Dairy Environment Leaders Forum member Jody McCaig. "A lot of Taranaki farmers had been doing riparian planting for a long time, long before the Water Accord." She and husband Charlie milk for Ian and Judith Armstrong of Te Kiri, and were New Zealand Sharemilkers of the Year in 2014.

"Our farm owners have been doing riparian planting since 1990," Jody said. "They have done almost 20 kilometres of fencing



Taranaki farmers have been longtime supporters of riparian planting.

and planting along riparian areas. That represents a huge investment of finance, time and energy into these projects."

Jody said riparian planting could have been a factor in the improvement in water quality in local streams recently noted by the Taranaki Regional Council.

"The Taranaki Regional Council may have been very forward thinking working with farmers on riparian management plans," she said.

Jody had attended the Dairy Environment Leaders Forum in Wellington last year, which encourages dairy farmers to be environment

leaders on their farms, in their communities and for the industry.

"The most important actions which can be taken to protect the environment happen at the farm owner level, but as sharemilkers there's all sorts of operational things we can do on a daily basis to minimise

water use and discharges to soil and nearby waterways."

The Accord had been developed by the Dairy Environment Leadership Group, which brought together representatives of farmers, dairy companies, central government, regional councils and the Federation of Maori Authorities.

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## Waikato forum to unlock secrets to \$3/kg MS farm systems

Dairy farmer Gary Rowlands says running his farm at a cost of under \$3/kg milksolids (MS) is thanks to a simple system.

Gary and wife Debra's farm is among the 10-15 per cent of New Zealand farmers who operate below \$3/kg MS FWE (farm working expenses).

The Rowlands put their \$2.21/kg MS FWE system down to simple farming – including an all-grass focus,

basic machinery, doing their fertiliser application/silage/topping themselves and looking after their cows well.

"It's a simple system. We just do the basics well and don't spend if we don't have to," says Gary. "Every aspect comes into it."

Gary is among a line-up of speakers presenting to dairy farmers at the DairyNZ Farmers' Forum, May 17-18, at Mystery Creek in Hamilton.

During the workshop, he and two other farmers will give their perspective on the key ingredients to operate a farm at \$3/kg MS FWE and how they have set up their systems to run at a consistently low FWE level.

"Some of it is gut feeling – knowing your farm and cows, and making your own decisions," says Gary.

Gary winters 270 cows on their 83ha Whakatane farm and buys in 24-36 tonne of palm kernel extract (PKE) each season. A 13ha support block is used to graze young stock. Their Friesian-Jersey herd averages a 6-8 percent empty rate, through attention to the basics of tail painting and heat identification.

Pasture eaten last season was 16.5 tonne DM/ha, higher than the Whakatane average of 13.8 tonne DM/ha.

"We make the most of our grass. We put on no more than 120 units of nitrogen a year and some whey from the dairy company. We put lime on every year and sulphur too. It just works for us, the pastures are older pastures but they're still good."

The farm also goes once-a-day milking every Christmas, something Gary

says contributes to good cow condition and health.

The farm's 395kg MS/cow production is on par with other farms in the region, but Gary's cost efficiencies has set the farm's operating profit at \$5515/ha (Whakatane's three-year average is \$2919).

DairyNZ senior consulting officer Wilma Foster is organising the Farmers' Forum workshop, which she hopes will inspire farmers to find cost-saving opportunities in their own businesses.

"Farmers that are low-cost tend to spend money on things that will make them money. They manage costs really well and don't tend to change their system," says Wilma.

Continued on page 15

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# Turning things around at Te Pohue

After a checkered past, a Hawkes Bay dairy farm is back in the green in more ways than one.

Ken and Karen McLanachan bought the Te Pohue Dairy at a mortgagee sale four years ago, and said the farm was run down to the bone.

"The farm had been overstocked, sapping it to the point where there was only old pasture, heaps of weeds, low soil fertility and bad animal health issues."

The couple and their Sharemilker, Craig Davey, have spent the last four years working on improving the property which is now up 100,000kgs of milk solids since they arrived. Something they say they couldn't have done without the help of Ron Burt, their Ravensdown Senior Agri Manager.

"Ron's the most helpful guy I know. He can't do enough for me and is always on the end of the phone if I need advice or help with anything," Craig says "he's great because he

communicates between Ken and Karen and I and it makes things work really well. His advice is right up there and he's a trusted member of the team."

From the beginning the team set out to get the soil fertility back to optimum levels, get rid of the ragwort and thistles and re-grass the farm.

Using soil test results as their guide, they started out with a capital application of 2 tonnes of Aglime and a tonne of Superphosphate. Three years on they're now only applying small amounts of Potash Super to the Non-Effluent areas with pH levels up from 5.3-6 to 5.7-6.2, Olsen P levels up from 8-31 to 18-41 and potash levels up from 2-6 to 7.

The ragwort and thistles that were reducing the farm's productivity have now basically been eliminated "We used to have paddocks of yellow and you could see stripes where the choppers had missed, it was pretty bad, but after applying 1,000 litres of

pasture guard 24D yearly for the first 2 years we're only spot spraying now, which is a welcome relief."

With these two issues in check the ultimate goal is now to re-grass the whole farm at 10% a year. Ron says the cropping plan currently uses a summer crop of Marco turnips for the milking herd, which also helped with weed control, and in the autumn a high performance dairy mix is planted in the turnip paddocks.

"We've replaced 30% of the pasture so far," Ken says "We've still got a way to go but it just looks heaps better than it did. The colour of the pasture looks like we could be in the Waikato! It is what makes all the difference between high producing cows and low producing cows."

Ron adds "It was about 3 years ago I recommended putting together a cropping plan and wintering on farm. Back then all the cows were wintered off farm and it was costing them about \$25 per head a week and they were losing condition. Now all the



From left, Ken & Karen McLanachan, Ron Burt and Craig Davey.

cows are wintered on farm, on silage and proteor kale and in those 3 years they've gone up 100,000kg/ms/yr, with cows coming back onto the milking platform with the same if not better condition score."

After the kale has been eaten, the paddocks are then planted in blade Italian ryegrass which is used for silage and grass for younger replacements.

When it comes to the farm's success, Craig says that between Ron, Ken Karen and himself they've all

played a big part in getting the property where it is today. "It's really important to have people on your team that are reliable, I've found Ravensdown to be just that. They have good products that are delivered directly to the farm, which is a big thing for me because we live so far out of town."

Reliability being a key quality for Ken also "Ron has taken more of a long term policy when it comes to our working relationship. He's really conscientious and has his finger on the pulse the whole time. He actually

phoned me the other night to check that I'd done my homework on a seeding job because time was running out, which is great for me because I need chasing up as I can't be everywhere at once."

Looking ahead Craig says they'll keep trying to re-grass 30 ha a year and after talking to Ron and Cropmark's Agronomist Neville Atkins, they may look at using some chicory instead of the summer turnips, which is a slightly better quality for milking on.

# High country adventure a fabulous experience

Continued from page 13

Bill won it once for having to answer the call of nature in less than ideal conditions. "The wind was blowing on a 45 degree slope," says Bill.

John was effusive about the Mahindra which survived unscathed except for a few scratches.

It was the second he had owned. He initially bought a single cab Mahindra and then after a year upgraded it to a double cab.

"It's got everything," said John indicating the intrepid Mahindra. Air bags, carpet, plenty of head room. Interestingly the head room is higher than usual to accommodate the Sikhs with their high turbans. There's also a huge amount of room at the back in the double cab at the back. It also has a self-locking device which John self-activated with his keys

inside. This was when they were still in Christchurch. "We hadn't even got there," says John with a grin. It wasn't a great start.

John was also pleased that though the terrain was often "bloody dusty - it was the middle of a drought" - none came inside the cab. And no water despite fording some pretty big rivers.

"It was fabulous - I loved every minute of it," said John.

Bill concurs. "I enjoyed it all as I do any off road activity and the challenge of the driving."

In fact it was Bill's idea to go on the trip. It was the second off road trip he'd been on.

They both wanted to drive and thus took two vehicles. Each had a co-pilot.

"It was good to have a second driver," says Bill. There was no way his wife Diane

would come though.

Not after taking her over Skippers Road, he says laughing.

The previous off road trip Bill went on was in 2012. He was to go with an old mate Philip Dark. Fifty years ago they had done their OE to-

gether shearing sheep in North Wales. At the last minute Philip's wife asked if she could come too.

There was a conflict of interests.

"She wanted to socialise and visit pubs," says Bill which clearly grated. Things

reached a bit of a climax at the end.

They got a flat tyre one icy morning on the last day of the trip. They changed the tyre, threw their tools in the back and set off. "After some time driving we thought it was fairly quiet," says Bill. He looked in the back seat and realised that Phil's wife

wasn't there. They returned to get her and she wasn't happy. She was "fairly savage" recalls Bill who has one piece of advice on such a trip. "Be careful who you take." They're separated now adds Bill saying I can print the story as long as the paper doesn't get delivered to Tauranga way.

# Waikato forum to unlock secrets

Continued from page 14

"For them, operating at \$3/kg MS FWE is the norm - it is attained every year."

Wilma says these farmers also do the fundamentals of farming well - pasture management, cow health and feed budgeting tend to be key focus areas.

The Forum workshop will feature a Q and A session with the three farmers.

The two-day DairyNZ Farmers' Forum at Hamilton's Mystery Creek Events Centre is expected to attract over 700 farmers.

Keynote speakers include Deputy Prime Minister Bill English, Fonterra CEO Theo Speirings, Rabobank head of food and agribusiness research and advisory, Tim Hunt.

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# Junior shooters take centre stage

Junior shooters had their moments of glory at the Eltham Smallbore Rifle Club last week, with their grouping cards featuring the only 100's on the club night.

Best of the senior shooters was Adrian Clark who scored three cards of 96 to lead the night's competition.

Adrian and Paul Tidswell lead the way during Friday night practice with a brace of 99's, with Adrian managing an unusual

score of 99.0

Clare Bramley continues to improve and scored her personal best so far of 97.5.

On the grouping cards, Cameron Symonds scored 100; Stuart Hicks 100; Isaac Bluett 100.

Scores on the full cards were: Adrian Clark 96.4, 96.2, 96.4; Kat Mischefski 96.4; Murray Chinery 92.1,93.3; Alan Drake 94.3, 96.4; Paul Longstaff 92.0, 94.4, 98.3; Heather Symonds

89.2, 86.0, 91.0; Cameron Symonds 89.1, 86.1; Bob Bramley 96.5, 92.2, 96.2; Clare Bramley 93.1, 97.5, 93.3; Matt Sulzberger 96.5; Stephen Hicks 89.2; Brian Hicks 95.3, 92.4;

A week earlier, School holidays reduced the numbers available to shoot at the club's weekly meeting. The top score was from Garry Rowlands who managed the only possible of the night.

Scores were; Garry Rowlands 99.5, 97.4, 100.4, 98.7; Paul Tidswell 95.3, 98.5, 99.5, 99.5; Paul Longstaff 91.3; Bob Bramley 91.0, 91.3, 92.1, 97.5; Clare Bramley 94.3, 93.1,95.3; Alan Drake 94.1, 95.5, 94.3; Murray Chinery 90.1, 92.0, 91.1; Bijin Paul 81.1; Brian Hicks 90.2, 90.1; Stephen Hicks 96.5, 89.1;

Alan Drake



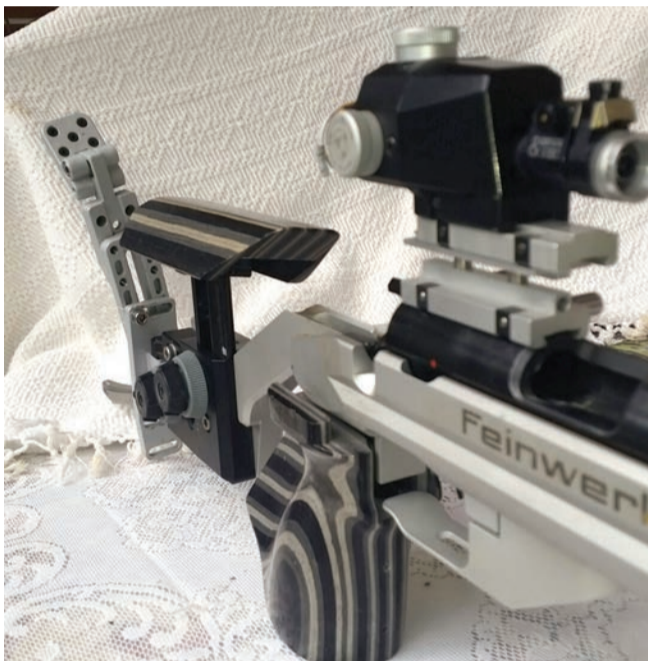
Paul Tidswell preparing his rifle to shoot.

# Target shooting brings out family rivalry

Jason Cameron who has been on form this season has laid down the challenge to his father, Bruce at the Hawera Target Shooters held at the Hub on April 20. Once again Jason was the top shot, scoring the only two hundreds of the night. It is a long way to go to the end of the season and it will be a big ask, as Bruce has been club champion for a good number of years. Frank Eustace had a good night with three 99s, as did Sam Gooding with two 99s. Some good grouping cards were shot, the best was by Llewellyn Farr with 99gr. and 98gr. Fast improving Dylan Farr had a PB OF 94.3. At the recent Bulls Open

Champs, Sam Gooding had a great shoot with 297.20 to win A Grade a great effort by Sam to back up from being second at the Colyton Open. In Master Grade Bruce Cameron was 9<sup>th</sup> and Jason Cameron 19<sup>th</sup>. Weekly scores were: Llewellyn Farr 99gr, 98gr, Dylan Farr 92.2, 88.1 94.3, Joe De Costa 92.1,89.1, Aidan Kelsen 96gr,95gr, Dwayne Rang 89.1, 86.0,92.3, Hayden Andreoli 92.3,93.1, 98.7, Bruce Cameron 99.9 198.13, 197.14, Jason Cameron 100.5197.7, 197.9, Frank Eustace 99.7,99.5, 193.8, Sam Gooding 99.6, 194.10.

A week later, Llewellyn Farr was the only one on the grouping cards to score



A .22 target rifle.

a 100, and in the ,rue the only two hundreds of the Cameron had a combined night. Scores were: Dylan total of 29923, and scored Farr 100gr,83.1, Llewellyn

Farr 96gr,84.1, Jackson Keonte 99gr,99gr, Tyler Jennings 89.3,95.2, Alex Waitere 91gr, 99gr, Hayden Munro 91.2, 92.1, 93.1, Andreoli 98.4,93.2,96.4, 95.3, Bruce Cameron 100.7, 99.9, 100.7, Jason Cameron 80.0, 76.0 74.0, Christina 98.6, 98.5,98.3, Frank Starr 81.1,74.0,87.1,80.0, Eustace 98.5, 96.5, 99.6, Paterson Symes 93.3, 89.1, 95.3, Sam Gooding 97.5, 99.6,96.5. Costello 78.0, Ngatai

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# Shooting team named

The Taranaki Target shooting team was announced for the North Island Teams of Ten on April 28. From the top seed down, the team is: Bruce Cameron, Dave Fake, Doug Gibson, Jason Cameron, Garry Rowlands, Paul Tidswell, Sam Gooding, Kevin Bocock, Hayden Andreoli, Trevor Jupp and Emergency Frank Eustace. The shoot will be held at Petone on May 13-14. Bruce Cameron is right on form, being 4<sup>th</sup> at the recent Rangitikei Open with 297.28 and at the National District Champs(NDC), top scoring with 300.26. Sam Gooding was second in the N.D.C. with 298.16, and Junior shooter Matt Sulzburger from Eltham shot well with 191.05.

# Otakeho team wins again

The Taranaki Indoor teams qualified for post Bowls Centre played their section play - D.Semple Open Fours on May 1. Six (Otakeho) T.Bourne (Car-

diff) P.Midgley (Otakeho) W.Cameron (Turu-turu) K.Hughes (Normanby) M.Rowland (Midhirst)

The eventual winner was the Otakeho team of Don Semple Gordon and Jenny Hamley and Jane Augustine who convincingly beat Trevor and Sue Bourne, Arthur Podjursky and Kim

Mahupuku 15 - 5 in the final. This win was the third consecutive in this event for Semple's team.

Third equal teams were Paul and Christine Midgley, Richard Bartley, Lucy Midgley, and Wayne Cameron, Colleen Reynish, Vera Glass, and Kane Weir.

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# Spreading the health and wellness message

On April 23, an entry level triathlon event called the Taranaki Toa Mounga Tri Series was held in Opunake. The event was the brainchild of organiser and Taranaki Toa founder Alf Robson and others.

The events have a particular focus on engaging Maori in exercise activity to reverse a trend of Maori over representation in poor health statistics. Although Maori are the target audience, anyone could enter.

The first event had taken place in Waitara last month. The group now has a

following of more than 800 members on their Facebook page, and has gained both regional and national recognition for the work they do in driving health and wellness in Taranaki communities.

The Opunake event had sold out in less than two weeks, with people travelling from across the region and as far away as Perth in Australia to take part.

People from all walks of life registered. Organisers say they were pleased to see the Opunake community get

behind the kaupapa and turn out in great numbers. Local businesses also supported the event, providing several spot prizes. The intention was to provide a low cost event that would physically challenge people, with the emphasis being on participation and completion rather than competition.

Alf said he was very proud of the people who crossed the finish line on Saturday. Now that the event is over, the challenge is for whanau to continue to exercise regularly and not lose all the work and effort that



Participants of the triathlon event.



Participants at the Opunake Community Baths.

gave them the success they enjoyed in the weekend.

“There are great things happening in Opunake and there is a great local group of people working to improve the health and wellbeing of whanau in the area led by locals Julie Morgan, Lisa Ison and Marama Ratahi,” Alf said.

“Taranaki Toa will continue to look to build opportunities to grow their kaupapa around the Mounga and engage whanau to join them on the hau ora (health and wellness) journey.”



Taranaki Toa founder Alf Robson.

## Taranaki vs Manawatu Curtain Raiser Announced at Yarrow Stadium

The Taranaki Sharks will go head to head against the Manawatu Mustangs in an all-out rugby league battle in front of a crowd of thousands at Yarrow Stadium on Saturday 21 May.

The curtain raiser between the two provincial teams will kick-off a full night of action before the first NRL game ever played in Taranaki between the Vodafone Warriors and cross-Tasman rivals the Canberra Raiders.

Says New Plymouth District Council Venues Lead Nelita Byrne: “It’s a fantastic opportunity for our local rugby league

heroes to play in front of a capacity audience and be part of a significant event in the history of Yarrow Stadium. Securing the Vodafone Warriors has meant that not only have fans benefited by being able to see their favourite players without leaving the region, but that our local league fraternity have the opportunity to showcase their abilities and experience an NRL-delivered event.”

Vodafone Warriors managing director Jim Doyle welcomed staging a contest between the neighbouring provinces as an appetiser to the main event between the Vodafone Warriors and the

Canberra Raiders.

“Having Taranaki facing Manawatu will add to what is already a big occasion for the region,” he said.

“We’re presently committed to playing one NRL game each season outside Auckland, so coming to Taranaki is a perfect fit, especially with Hawera’s favourite son Issac Luke joining the club. ‘We’d really encourage fans from Taranaki and Manawatu to come along to support their provincial teams in the early game as well as the Vodafone Warriors.’

Manawatu got a close 36-32 win when they met last

year, so Taranaki will be determined to claim victory.

The squads for each team will be announced on May 9.

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**Division 1 sitting second on the table**

Coastal Division 1 have begun the season well with lots of enthusiastic players and a few new faces. We have made a pleasing start with four wins and one loss. Our first game was against Stratford at Rahotu with an impressive 35-5 win. Player of the Day was Daniel Doyle.



Jimmy Ellis breaks from a maul to score for Div 1 against Clifton.

Game 2 was at Okato against Clifton, played in very hot conditions. With the squad starting to play well together, we managed a convincing win 43-0. Richard Beckett was Player of the Day.

Next up was Southern in Hawera. This has been our toughest game so far against a very skilled opposition. We suffered a few injuries, but despite this, the boys never gave up, and we lost 48-24 but came away with a valuable bonus point. Player of the Day was Bryn Chard.

Week 4 was against Spotswood at Rahotu. The boys played really well, with excellent lineouts, a dominant forward pack and great backline moves

resulting in a impressive 17-5 win. Player of the Day was Jared Waite.

Last week we played Tukapa in New Plymouth. This was a hard fought game with Coastal leading 12-5 at halftime. A hard earned 22-12 win was secured through some great possession, and has us now sitting second on the table. Tries were scored by Ben Brophy, Jarrod Davey and Jimmy Ellis. This week we travel to Vogeltown to play NPOB at 1.00pm. Gerard Kalin (Manager)

**Three out of three for Division 2**

With coach Klein on leave it was left to Farmer Fran and the Water Boy to come up with the plays. First up was Inglewood on April 16, at Rahotu in fine conditions with a favourable breeze at our backs in the first half. We were set for a good day of footy. The forwards ripped into their work and fairly soon tries began to flow, 40-0 at halftime. We thought we had a good start, but turning into the wind against a very strong team on paper, things would not be easy.

Inglewood got the better of the first 10 and scored two tries. A couple of subs on, and we were away again. Final score 80-10. Tries to Checko(3), Chris(2), Potsy, Phil, Matt, Kayne, Nick and Sharpy. Conversions to Potsy(7) and one penalty try. Next up Okaiawa at Oki. These guys are having a great season and travelling to the valley short on numbers was never going to be easy. We scratched

Continued over page

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Continued from page 18

up a starting 15 and kicked off with the breeze at our backs. A penalty to Potsy and the nerves were settled a little. We scored some tries and they scored a couple. Halftime 29-10 to us. Oki as always came back strong and got the better of the second half. A very tight finish, but we held on to win. A great effort. Final score 34-29 to Coastal. Tries to Nick, Laney, Potsy, Burmy and Shaan. Conversions Potsy(3) and one penalty.

On Saturday April 30,

it was NPOB at Rahotu. With the day starting with some sad news, there was no lacking in motivation for this game. Armbands on, and a minutes silence in respect, the 15 men in white jerseys were up against it. A few mistakes at the start, and then the gates opened. Not even Ivan could save them. Eleven players scored tries, to a total of 16. A great 60 metre burst by Sharpo to score earned him Player of the Day. Final score 96-3.

R.I.P Sonya.



Mitch Campbell upends a Clifton player and Dylan Juffermans is there to lend a hand.

## Some good results for Coastal Colts

We struggled early with numbers and ended up defaulting our first game. However the boys finally came out of the woodwork and played Clifton at Okato on April 9 with a few reserves. Displaying great courage, and considering the lack of practice, playing superbly as a team, we had the fancied Clifton team at 17-17 well into the second half. However being down to 14, their fresh subs got on top of us, and the score blew out to 47-17. A similar result to Southern the following weekend, as we faded late to go down 49-17.

The boys were amped to play on No 1 field at Rahotu

on April 23. We were assisted by a few Uni boys home, but were up against a much older and more experienced team. It was an even battle, up until half time, and after the half they came out strongest. However the boys really knuckled down, and even this early in the season are getting a reputation as a team with real heart. We took it to them, opened the game up, scored some cracking tries, and towled up the previously unbeaten Spotswood 53-19. A real morale boosting performance.

The following week we travelled to Tukapa to take on a squad about 10kg per



Matty Hooper busts upfield for the Colts as they take on Clifton

man bigger than us. That didn't worry the boys, and in a seesawing and free flowing game, we conceded a try in the final minute to allow them to draw a fantastic game 32-32.

Once again a real gutsy

performance from a team that is really starting to gel and play with pride and heart. We expect to see some good results in the coming weeks. Practice is Thursday night 6:30 at Rahotu and we welcome any new players.



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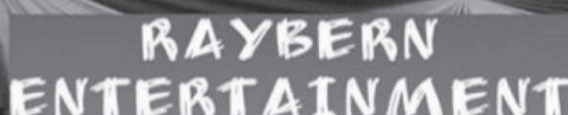


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Baobab trees in Madagascar

## Take the kids on a Madagascar 'move it, move it' Family Adventure

A fun family adventure that will delight your children. Variety – the Children's Charity is looking for families to join the 'move it, move it' family adventure in Madagascar in late September.

Together you will take the 'paths less travelled' over 11 days, exploring the wonders of Madagascar. This family adventure doesn't have to be with your kids – it could be with a niece or nephew, a cousin or perhaps

grandchildren. This is a great experience for families to enjoy together.

The trip includes day walking and a wildlife safari. Whilst you may not see Alex and friends from the animated movies,

you will experience some of Madagascar's unique wildlife. In fact, this large island nation is home to over 100 species of lemurs alone.

The aim of this special trip is to support Kiwi kids back home through Variety's Kiwi Kid Sponsorship programme. Many children are going without the basic essentials so many of us take for granted – things like warm clothing, bedding, shoes and the school equipment they need to get a good education. By booking to go on this adventure, each member of your family will contribute enough to sponsor a New Zealand child in urgent need for a whole year. You'll also have the chance to get your family, friends and colleagues to

support your efforts through a specially created family online fundraising page.

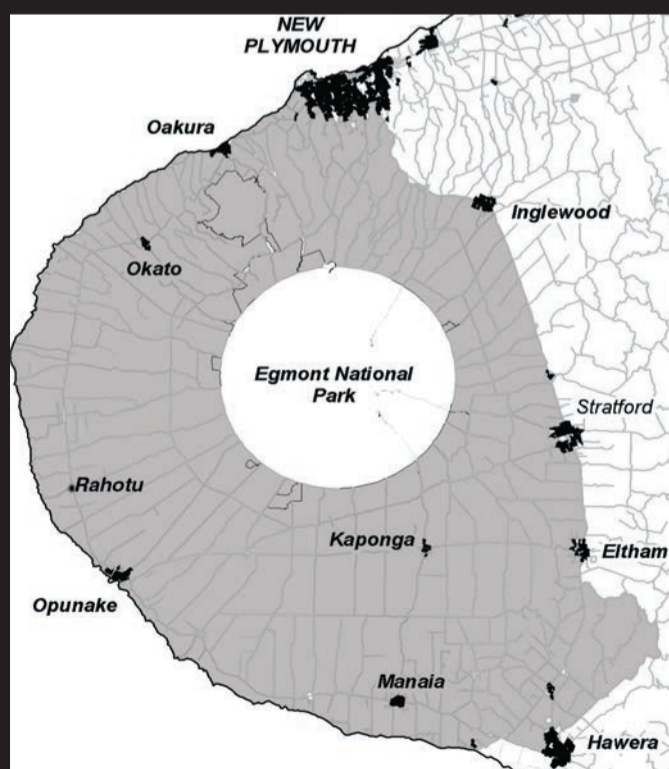
The tour cost is \$5,890 per person, which includes return airfares with Air NZ/ South African Airways to Madagascar, comfortable twin-share accommodation, expert bilingual guides, most meals and a \$500 donation (per traveller) to Variety's Kiwi Kid Sponsorship programme.

"Not every child – or adult for that matter – is lucky enough to visit a fascinating destination like Madagascar," says Lorraine Taylor, CEO of Variety. "Many of the children that Variety helps never get the opportunity to travel out of their suburb or town. Taking your children on this

special trip will help them understand how fortunate they are, and provide the chance for them to make a real difference to a child's life back home."

The trip is a fun trip that will involve and delight your children every day with lots to see and do, with a Pangalanes Channel cruise, and a visit to the Pereiras Reserve and wildlife centre. They can experience the wildlife and rainforest of the Perinet Reserve, discover the Vakōna Reserve, go on an Antananarivo city tour including Queens Palace and local markets, have a farewell dinner with Malagasy folk group performance, and try to spot the real life versions of King Julian, Maurice and Mort!

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Waxeye on Cherry Blossom by Jocelyn

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# Exhibition with a difference?

'Daring to Differ', a new exhibition at the Village Gallery opens May 9 and runs to June 3.

This latest exhibition features Jocelyn and Lyal Barrett, photographers, of Stratford, who are well known in that town and beyond. Their own words describe their work.

We like to photograph quirky things when we see them, but will photograph anything that appeals to us. We have been amateur photographers since 1967. We used to process black and white prints in a workroom in the house, but now make digital images, so much easier and less

costly. We are members of the Photographic Society of NZ and have had various successes nationally over the years. Jocelyn was awarded the Anderson Memorial Landscape Medal from the Wanganui Salon in 1992 and we were awarded jointly a Service Medal from PSNZ in 1993. Jocelyn has recently had a Merit award with an Audio Visual entered this year in the PSNZ Jack Sprosen Memorial Trophy for Audio Visuals. We have been members of camera clubs since 1967. Accompanying artists are Mark Bloomfield, sculptor, Ngaere, Tracey Bourke, potter and photographer,

born in Eltham, currently living in Auckland, and Bernadette Ballantyne, painter and printmaker, born in Eltham, also living in Auckland.

Mark held a very popular solo exhibition at the Gallery in 2009, which he called "A Bloke in his Shed". He uses wood (sometimes driftwood or recycled native timber), stone, hebel (aerated concrete), glass and metal to make his sculpted creations. He is still having fun in his shed.

Tracey will have several examples of her pottery on display, and also some cards printed from her own photographic images.

Bernadette has a degree in Fine Arts from Whanganui UCOL. She has recently been working on a series of small prints, and will show a small selection of these in the *Daring to Differ* Exhibition.

The Village Gallery is open daily, except Sundays from 10am - 3pm. We encourage new and emerging artists, and for a small subscription artists can become 'Members of The Village Gallery'. This entitles artists to submit work for three exhibitions a year, and also display works in our 'Gallery Shop' area. Enquiries to Lorna Davies 7658121.

Maree Liddington

Opunake Players Inc. present....

## Inspector Drake & the Perfekt Crime

A comedy by David Tristram  
Showing 24th - 28th May 7.30 pm, Sunday 29th May 2 pm  
At The Lakeside Playhouse

Tickets \$20 at Sinclair Electrical Opunake  
Ph: 761 8084  
from 9th May

# Opunake Players next production – Inspector Drake and The Perfekt Crime

When a genius commits a murder, the plan is perfect. But is it foolproof? Inspector Drake is back to face his greatest-ever challenge. Who is the mysterious Doctor Short, and why did he marry a warthog? Has he murdered his fourth wife - or did she murder him first?

Wendy Smith is directing this hilarious David Tristram comedy whodunnit for the Players and has an eager young cast ready to entertain. Brody Chapman takes the title role of Drake, ably assisted by Ben Morgan as Sergeant Plod. William Andersen-Gardiner pits his evil genius against Drake as Doctor Short, while Ariana Millar

and Honey Rose Hutchins add glamour and intrigue to the stage. Elaine Spencer makes a brief yet striking appearance as the short-lived Mrs Short. Opunake Players have produced several of Tristram's plays in the past, and they never fail to raise a laugh. This production boasts an Alan Love designed set and an abundance of peculiar plot particulars. Come and see if you can solve the mystery before the intrepid Inspector makes his own conclusion.

The season will open on Tuesday May 24 and run through to finish with a matinee at 2pm on Sunday 29th. Tickets are \$20 available at Sinclair Electrical from Monday May 9.



Tickets for the Opunake Players production 'Inspector Drake and The Perfekt Crime' are available at Sinclair Electrical from May 9.



MONDAY 9 MAY  
NETSAFE

Do you know what your children do online?

Young people today are growing up connected.

The Rahunu Home & School feel there is a lot we could explore to have a better understanding of online challenges facing our children today.

We have invited Lee Chisolm from Netsafe (Auckland) to visit our school and share an evening informing us how we can keep our children as safe as possible, what we need to be talking with them about, boundaries in the home, their digital tattoo and cyberbullying and harassment.

"The things I talk about relate to adults as well as young people and the feedback I get is that everyone learns something new".  
Lee Chisolm

Rahunu School HOME AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
"Keeping the flames of learning alive"



An evening for all parents on the Coast.

It doesn't matter what school your children attend this event will be of value to all.

Our BOT will kindly be providing supper.

We are asking for a gold coin donation to help cover travel and accommodation costs of our speaker. (This does not apply to Rahunu School parents).

7.30pm  
Room 7

Rahunu School  
Please RSVP by Fri 5 May  
If you have any questions, please contact  
Melanie Thompson on 027 3088048  
melsta3@hotmail.com

TRADES & SERVICES

HomeWays LBP The Repliners - Ph: 06 215 7227

**RAHOTU PANEL & PAINT** for plastic welding phone 06 763 8462

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

**HEARTLAND CONSTRUCTION** for concrete work. Ph 027 236 7129.

**AGRIMEC AUTO** Hydraulic hose repairs. Call at 38 Ihaia Rd, Opunake. Ph: 06 761 8999

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**HEARTLAND CONSTRUCTION** for all kitchens. Ph 027 236 7129.

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

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**027 630 9922 or email: paulflems@gmail.com**

CHURCH NOTICES

**Opunake & Okato Co-operating Parish CHURCH SERVICES**

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

**Opunake Catholic Church**

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

**Other areas**

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

**ALL WELCOME**

**THE WAVE**

Pentecostal Church 64 Domett Street, Opunake  
**Sunday Services 10.30am**  
**Women's Group 10.30am Tuesday**  
**Men's Group 7 pm Wednesday**  
**Youth Group 7pm Friday**  
Come along or contact Pastor Murray  
027 688 7378

**ST. BARNABAS**

Anglican Church 141 Tasman St, Opunake  
**Sunday Services 10.00am**  
**Communion 1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday**  
**Prayer & Praise 2nd Sunday**  
**Every 5th Sunday** all 4 churches gather for a Combined Service

FOR SALE

**HAIR ANALYSIS**, shows vitamin, mineral and amino deficiencies, if any bacterial or viral infections, food intolerances, etc results back within the hour. \$90 at Hardys the health shop in Centre City. 7587553

**PROTECT YOUR IMMUNE** system and help fight off bugs. Viral ex 60 caps \$29.90 savings \$15.50 at Hardys the health shop in Centre City 067587553

**FISH OIL** 1500 mg 200 caps, \$19.90 at Hardys the health shop in centre city. 7587553 Hardys the health shop in Centre City 067587553

**FIREWOOD** \$60 cube delivered or pickup Ph: 027 280 5331

**NEW AIR RIFLES** from \$79 at Collins Sports Centre.

**SYSTEM WELL** covers all immune areas, ie respiratory, digestive, skin, etc, buy 90 caps receive free 45 caps, \$49.90 Hardys the health shop in Centre City 067587553

WANTED TO BUY

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

GARAGE SALE

**GARAGE SALE** 7<sup>th</sup> May, 65 Ihaia Road, 8.30am - 12 o'clock. Beds, 2 seater lounge suite, table & chairs, house hold items.

PUBLIC NOTICES



**OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**  
Meeting 1st Monday of each month at 5.30PM  
Hughsons & Associates Boardroom at the Opunake Business Centre, 23 Napier St, Opunake

**OUR NEXT ISSUE IS DUE OUT May 20**



**OPUNAKE LIONS CLUB**

**BEACH CARNIVAL MEETING**

at Sandford Events Centre MAY 10 - 7.00pm  
Public invited to show interest in participating in the Opunake Lions Beach Carnival 2017

Bryce, Renee and team would like to thank the Opunake community for their support over the years.



**OPUNAKE HIGH SCHOOL**

Te Kura Tuarua O Opunake

and

**OPUNAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION**

Nominations are invited for the election of five parent representatives to the Board of Trustees. A Nomination form and a copy of this notice will be posted to all eligible voters.

Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office.

Nominations close at noon on 20th May, 2016 and may be accompanied by a signed candidate's statement. The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

There will also be a list of candidates' names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school.

The poll closes at noon on 3rd June, 2016.

*Lynette Collins & Judy Walker - Returning Officers*

PUBLIC NOTICES

Promote your events in the

**OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS**

**LIKE ONE OF OUR PHOTOS?**

Did you know that photos that are published in our paper are available to purchase?

**Call in and see us today.**

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

Prices from:

Postcard size \$7 - Medium size \$10 - A4 size \$18

**Order your riparian plants now for 2016 and 2017 and get 10% discount on 2017 plants**

(discount applies to first 80,000 riparian plants ordered for 2017)



**Farmers committed to riparian protection**

Taranaki farmers are leading the country in their commitment to riparian protection.

It's encouraging to see how the region's farmers continue to show consistent support for, and commitment to, Taranaki's world-scale and award-winning streamside fencing and planting programme.

*Riparian plans now cover most of the region's intensively farmed land, including all of the region's dairy farms. 84% of streambanks are fenced and 70% are protected by riparian vegetation.*

Great progress has been made to date. Farmers are continuing to fence and plant their waterways, and order plants for next season, even though these are challenging times for many.

Working with people | caring for Taranaki

Good environmental management is fundamental to sustainable farming, and helps to meet increasing public and industry expectations. Protecting and further enhancing water quality future-proofs the region's farms and the future of Taranaki's lifestyle and economy.

The 2020 target for landowners to complete riparian fencing and planting on intensively farmed land is achievable. Almost four million plants have already been planted but millions more are still needed. Farmers need to plan and order in advance to make sure they secure the plants to finish the job on time.

**Contact your Land Management Officer now to make sure you will meet the 2020 target for riparian fencing and planting.**

**Phone: 0800 736 222 or email: riparian@trc.govt.nz**

**Taranaki Regional Council - Phone: 06 765 7127**

**Fax: 06 765 5097 Email: info@trc.govt.nz www.trc.govt.nz**

PUBLIC NOTICES

# Opunake Beach Masterplan

Tell us what you think about the draft plans for the future development of Opunake Beach

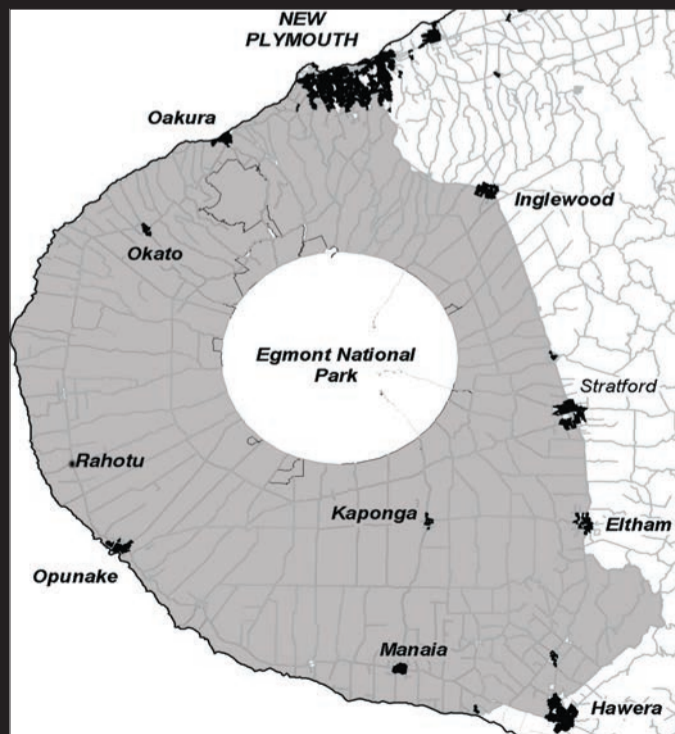
To view the plans visit:  
Opunake LibraryPlus, Dreamtime Surf Shop or go online [www.southtaranaki.com](http://www.southtaranaki.com)

Feedback closes 5.00 pm Monday 16 May 2016

For more information, contact John Sargeant on 0800 111 323 or email [john.sargeant@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:john.sargeant@stdc.govt.nz)



## WANT TO DO BUSINESS IN OUR AREA? TALK TO US



Opunake and Coastal News is distributed free to every home and business within the rural area, bounded in the north by the New Plymouth city border, extending east to Egmont Village, and around to the edge of Stratford, south to the Hawera city border and inland to Kaponga and through Eltham.

We are an independent newspaper based in Opunake, which is targeting both the towns and rural communities and we aim to have news coverage within all the areas of our distribution.

We want to be involved with your business call today and discuss your marketing options with the team.

COVERING THE COAST

Promote your business or event in our area call us on (06) 761-7016



• 23 Napier St, Opunake • Ph/Fax 761-7016  
• email: [ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz](mailto:ads@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz)

# What's On Listings



**JONATHAN YOUNG**

MP for New Plymouth. Need to speak with your local MP? Monthly clinics being held in Opunake, 3rd Monday of each month. 10am-12pm at the Opunake Business Centre. Please email or phone to book a time.

**OPUNAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Meet on the 1st Monday of each month.

**OPUNAKE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB**

First Sunday of each month at the Opunake Town Hall, 1-4pm. All welcome

**SCHNITZEL NIGHT**

Every Wednesday at the Stony River Hotel, Okato

**COASTALCARE – LISA KEEN AUDIOLOGY**

Wednesdays 9am - 5pm, for an appointment call 027 591 4222 - 0800 555 676

**SURF INN**

Every day free pool. Every Friday free sausage sizzle from 5. Every Sunday afternoon.

**COASTAL YOUNG FARMERS**

Meet 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Okato Bowling Club.

**TARANAKI COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MANAIA**

Running every Thursday night from 7.30pm, 11 Surf Highway, South Road, Manaia.

**EGMONT EUCHRE CLUB**

Meets every Thursday 1pm at the Opunake Bowling Club

**CAPE EGMONT HISTORIC LIGHT & MUSEUM**

Open 11am – 3pm weekends, Bayly Road, Warea.

**TODD ENERGY AQUATIC CENTRE**

Family fun times 10.30am to 4.30pm.

**COASTAL SINGERS**

7pm every Thursday night. Contact 761 8654

**ELTHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FRIDAY MARKETS**

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

**OPUNAKE BOAT AND UNDERWATER CLUB \$100 SNAPPER FISHING COMPETITION**

22nd April - 8th May inclusive

**PERCY THOMSON GALLERY**

Stratford Art Society Members Exhibition. April 29 - May 22.

**THE VILLAGE GALLERY, ELTHAM**

Daring to Differ - 9 May - 3 June 2016. Refer advert for full details

**NEW PLYMOUTH REPERTORY SOCIETY presents**

How the Other Half Loves. May 2 - May 14 at 7.30pm

**VAL DEAKIN DANCE THEATRE TRUST presents**

Alice in Wonderland. May 6 - May 8.

**NETSAFE**

Keeping watch with what your children do online. Monday May 9, Rahotu School, Room 7 at 7.30pm

**OPUNAKE LIONS CLUB BEACH CARNIVAL MEETING**

At Sandford Events Centre, MAY 10 - 7.00pm. Public invited to show interest in participating in the Opunake Lions Beach Carnival 2017

**OPUNAKE PLAYERS INC**

Present Inspector Drake and the Perfekt Crime. A comedy by David Tristram. Showing 24th - 28th May 7.30 pm, Sunday 29th May 2 pm at The Lakeside Playhouse

**RAHOTU PLAYCENTRE 50th JUBILEE OPEN DAY**

Thursday May 26, 9.30am - 12.30pm at the Rahotu School.

Meet & Mingle, Friday May 27 at 6.30pm at the Coastal Rugby Clubrooms.

Refer advert for full details.

**NEW PLYMOUTH GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**

Scotlands Hostel, OPEN DAY & Interviews for 2017, Friday 27th May 2016 - 9am - 3pm.

**TARANAKI BRIDE OF THE YEAR 2016**

Saturday May 28, accepting entries now



**Pondering Pigeon by Lyal Barrett**

'Daring to Differ', a new exhibition at the Village Gallery opens May 9 and runs to June 3. This latest exhibition features Jocelyn and Lyal Barrett, photographers, of Stratford. More details on page 21.

The Ice18 collage exhibition is now on its permanent home on [www.outofsite.co.nz/Ice18](http://www.outofsite.co.nz/Ice18). It's been great. The exhibition for May is pink plane in blue landscape - political art by Roger Morris. Victor Hugo wrote: "There is no more supreme eloquence than that derived from outrage based on truth". Read the texts that accompany Roger's art and you'll see why he's so driven. On [www.tart.co.nz](http://www.tart.co.nz) In Taranaki on the weekend of June 11-12, you'll be welcomed into as many artists' studios as you can manage. All the details are on the website [www.taranakiartstrail.co.nz](http://www.taranakiartstrail.co.nz) and on beautifully-printed folders. Enjoy. Open call to exhibit in the Ship of Fools online show. Any interpretation of the theme. Details on [www.tart.co.nz/ShipFools.htm](http://www.tart.co.nz/ShipFools.htm)

Dale Copeland

## Long running club is open to all

Percy Thomson Gallery is exhibiting more than 200 works from the Stratford Art Society's first exhibition for 2016 which runs until May 22.

There is a wide variety of subject matter and medium, from mountain photographs to ceramic beach babes.

One of the longest-running clubs in New Zealand, the Stratford Art Society was established in 1948, and has continued to be a large presence on the Taranaki art scene ever since.

With more than two hundred active members, most of whom are based within the Stratford area, and some from as far away as Australia, the Society's intention is to support and educate artists of all disciplines and from all levels.

This means that any creative

individual is accepted, and has the opportunity to exhibit and sell their work in the exhibitions that they put on at the gallery.

To their members the society offers workshops, classes, social events, a website to showcase work online, and twice a year an opportunity to exhibit up to four different pieces of work in the Percy Thomson Gallery.

There are several new members exhibiting this time round.

"We are excited to have them on board. It is always such a spirited, lively and warm exhibition which showcases local talent. It always makes me feel good!" said SAS committee member and Gallery director Rhonda Bunyan.

New members are always welcome.



'Worker in blue', a ceramic piece by new Stratford Art Society member, Russian-born Katerina Smoldyрева

**STRATFORD ART SOCIETY**

**MEMBERS' EXHIBITION**

APRIL 29 - MAY 22

Stratford District Creative Communities

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY

MIRANDA ST. STRATFORD

art education inspiration

TSB Community Trust

PERCY THOMSON GALLERY.ORG.NZ

06 765 0917

## Ali Harper sings to Doris Day on her 92nd Birthday

Ali Harper's one-woman play 'A Doris Day Special' has opened in Christchurch at the Court Theatre to sold out houses and is coming to the 4th Wall Theatre for a three day season on the May

20.. Ali Harper is no stranger to the stage, at home in both musical theatre and straight drama, she is never more engaging than when combining dramatic and musical possibilities. The freshness and hallmark spontaneity of this immensely gifted performer are a charmed match for the music and personality of the fabled Doris Day, and the lighting and stage set up agrees. A bright al fresco / patio arrangement, as part of a television studio mock up, a large screen at centre where appropriate images and titles are displayed, for we are the studio audience of a seventies Doris Day television show.

We take a trip through the early days, including an account of the accident which ended her dreams of becoming a professional dancer but opened the way to her musical life and stardom, her four failed marriages which involved abuse and financial ruin along with her personal connection with Charles Manson.

Big Band accompaniment, a recorded performance led by the acclaimed Rodger Fox, vocal backing by the Musical Theatre students from NASDA, and some classy choreography by Kirsty Allpress-Goudie ties together the exceptional life story of Doris Mary Ann von Kappelhoff

To get her truly in the mood to play that famous girl next door, Ali and her director Stephanie McKellar Smith made a pilgrimage to California's Carmel by the Sea to visit and celebrate Doris's 92nd Birthday.

Ali's weekend in Carmel was more than she could

have ever imagined. Chatting with Doris's co-stars at the VIP evening held in Doris's hotel, the Cypress Inn was a wonderful experience. She got to meet Bernie Kopell who played Dr Adam Bricker on 'The Love Boat' and Jackie Joseph who starred in The Doris Day Show television series.

But the icing on the cake was when Ali got to stand on the golf course in Carmel Valley below Doris Day's balcony and personally sing and chat to that very private star.

After introducing herself to Doris, Ali sang Doris's iconic song 'Secret Love' from 'Calamity Jane.' Doris's immediate response was "Wow! You sound good! Oh my gosh. You make that song really so good. Oh

my goodness. You sound so good."

"It wasn't so much her response to my singing, it was more that I actually had a one on one conversation with her. She heard me speak and she reacted. That for me was incredibly special."

Doris Day's aspiration to be joyous and to make others happy too is outstandingly well served by Ali Harper's own interpretation and personality. Add this to her glorious vocal ability and there is the recipe for a highly successful evening's entertainment.

A Doris Day Special. 7:30pm Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May, 3:00pm Sunday 22nd May. \$35.00 adults \$30.00 Seniors/Groups 6+ [www.4thwalltheatre.co.nz](http://www.4thwalltheatre.co.nz) 0800 484 925

**KICKSTART YOUR CAREER IN AGRICULTURE**

**FEES FREE**

**NEW ZEALAND CERTIFICATE IN PRIMARY INDUSTRY SKILLS (LEVEL 2)**

This fees free programme is an introductory qualification for those wanting to gain a 'taste' of the farming industry. It has an emphasis on the general skills essential for working in the industry and is therefore also suitable for people already working in the sector who need to up-skill.

Skills covered in this programme include Animal Handling, Fencing, Ag Vehicles and Work Safety.

**START DATE:** 30th May 2016  
**DURATION:** 12 weeks rolling over intakes  
**DELIVERY LOCATION:** Rahotu (Transport provided)

**ENQUIRE NOW! 0800 TARATAHI**

[www.taratahi.ac.nz](http://www.taratahi.ac.nz)  
[taranaki@taratahi.ac.nz](mailto:taranaki@taratahi.ac.nz)

**A Doris Day Special**

Its 1971 and Doris is filming her Television Special. You are invited to be part of a studio audience and to celebrate the life and songs of the quintessential girl next door

20th - 22nd May  
 \$35 Adults  
 \$30 Senior/Groups

[www.4thwalltheatre.co.nz](http://www.4thwalltheatre.co.nz)  
 0800 484 925

11 Baring Terrace, New Plymouth

**4th WALL THEATRE**



# A day for Mother

Is Mothers Day a hangover from the annual spring festivals the Greeks held in honour of Rhea, mother of Cronus? Or was it Hilaria, the Roman celebration of the mother goddess Cybele? Or was it the Mothering Sunday celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday in Lent, a celebration which had its origins in 17<sup>th</sup> Century England, but had disappeared by the 19<sup>th</sup> Century?

Does Mother's Day owe its origins to Julia Ward Howe? She is best remembered for The Battle Hymn of the Republic, a song which inspired the Northern troops during the American Civil

War. Yet her 1870 Mothers Day Proclamation called on women to rise against war, and she started a Mothers Peace Day observance on the second Sunday in June.

Generally, Anna Jarvis, a childless spinster is regarded as the true mother of Mothers Day. Her inspiration was her own mother Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis. She began by sending carnations, a flower which she felt symbolised a mother's pure love to a church service in Grafton, West Virginia. She lobbied to have Mothers Day declared an official holiday. By 1911, it was celebrated in almost every state of the union, and on May 8, 1914,

President Woodrow Wilson signed a joint resolution declaring the second Sunday in May as Mothers Day.

And in answer to the question, should it be Mother's Day or Mothers Day, Anna Jarvis trademarked the phrase "Mother's Day," arguing "Mother's" should "be a singular possessive, for each family to honor its mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world."

She died in 1948, aged 84. Mothers Day became popular in Britain when United States servicemen in World War II brought the practice of celebrating Mothers special day with them across the Atlantic.

Today Mother's Day is celebrated in different countries on different days of the year, but the most popular day is the second Sunday in May, with New Zealand and Australia following the lead of the United States. The United Kingdom and Ireland have reverted to celebrating it on the fourth Sunday in Lent, the day the traditional Mothering Sunday would have been held.



Stuck for a gift idea for Mother's Day - these Memory Foam mattresses would go down a treat, available at RJ Eagar, Taranaki.



## Lift Chairs - give your mum a lift!

Power assisted control to sit, stand or recline smoothly and easily. Available with soothing heat and an optional massage feature. Easy-to-use hand-held control for simple operation. Available at RJ Eagars stores in Taranaki.

## Promote your events in the OPUNAKE & COASTAL NEWS

We welcome your contributions  
Please send to  
editorial  
@opunakecoastalnews.co.nz

**Coastal Welders** 027 255 8677  
06 752 8138

**Mothers Day's Coming!**  
Treat Mum, get everything running smooth for calf feeding.

**Book in your shed maintenance now**  
We are a local company training local people.  
Email us at coastalwelders@xtra.co.nz  
WAREA

The Gilbert-Smith Dance Trust and CACI New Plymouth presents

TARANAKI  
*Bride of the Year*  
2016

SATURDAY 28 MAY 2016  
WE ARE ACCEPTING ENTRIES NOW

Visit [www.taranakibrideoftheyear.nz](http://www.taranakibrideoftheyear.nz) to download entry forms

**CATEGORIES**  
Brides - married 2015/2016  
Bride and groom, bridesmaid, mother, flower girl and pageboy  
New section this year - "Rock the frock" - Brides married pre-2006

Web: [taranakibrideoftheyear.nz](http://taranakibrideoftheyear.nz) | Email: [info@taranakibrideoftheyear.nz](mailto:info@taranakibrideoftheyear.nz)

**Spoil Mum this Mother's Day**  
Lots of amazing gift ideas instore now!

**Beautiful Gifts....**  
Call in and take a look around

TSB SHOWPLACE 7:30PM  
Tickets available at Ticketmaster online and TSB Showplace

**PROUD COMMUNITY SUPPORTER**  
THE NEW ZEALAND BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION  
50 from each bottle

**PAK'nSAVE**

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**RJ Eagar**

New Plymouth	Weekdays	8.30am - 5.00pm
Fitzroy	Saturday	9.30am - 4.00pm
	Sunday	10am - 4.00pm
Stratford	Weekdays	8.30am - 5.00pm
Broadway South	Saturday	10am - 2pm

# Project Time at Opunake High School leads to “passionate” learning

During Term 1 this year at Opunake High school the staff have started an exciting and new way of teaching which is called ‘Project Time’. The idea had its genesis last year with the school looking for ways to further invigorate the Year 9 and 10 Curriculum with the most up-to-date ideas in education and aligning it to the school’s vision of ‘Growing good people for a rapidly changing world’. Learning visits in 2015 (by small groups of teachers) to selected schools in Auckland and Wellington yielded some worthwhile ideas.

Sarah Base and Deputy Principal (Acting) James Davidson are the lead teachers

of this innovative learning project, who are delighted about how “passionate” students are about this kind of learning. About 30 teachers at the school are involved.

Project Time involves all Year 9 and 10 students (150) working on projects of their own choice based on a context developed by their teachers. *The theme was think global, act local.* Student’s work on this type of learning occupied 90 minutes in the morning. To facilitate this each class has two teachers working with them. Over the 90 minutes, students work individual or in groups to create projects which address the context.

To help provide future-

focused approach to learning every student has their own designated Chrome book, which are cloud-based laptops which are used to run Google apps (applications). Our students are finding these state-of-the-art computers very engaging. The chrome-books were purchased with a TSB Community Trust grant of \$60,000 and have become an integral part of the school day.

One important Project Time initiative involved environmental re-planting on the Opunake foreshore. Since February this year Opunake High School has been carrying the programme using plants from New Life Nursery. The plants include Grenvillia, Pimelia, Hebe, Ceanothus and Ice Plants. The planting site is on the foreshore in the vicinity of Hickey place, Opunake

One of the teachers involved is Rachel Taylor who commented on the students



Sarah Base and James Davidson, acting Deputy Principal at Opunake High School.

endeavours, “I think they’ve done a really fabulous job and it has expanded their thinking about the community.” She explained that the replanting project was largely student-led. On April 12 the students presented (“showcased”) their learning in the school

hall. Parents were invited and a panel made up of teachers went around and assessed each group’s work. Constructive feedback was given to the students.

While it is early days for this type of learning, some of the learning achieved

by the students has been outstanding. We have groups sending learning resources to Vanuatu, groups promoting healthy foods in schools, groups working with the South Taranaki District Council to examine water quality – and much more.

## NEW LIFE NURSERY

Ph: 06 761 8067 – 183 Tasman St

Time to fill the garden with winter veges and herbs.

**BULB TIME** for spring colour

**HEDGING AND SHELTER TREE’S**

ready now! Including: Banksia, Norfolk Island Hibiscus, Karo and Large grade Pohutukawa.

See us at [www.newlifenuresery.co.nz](http://www.newlifenuresery.co.nz)

## Rahotu Playcentre’s 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee

In late May Rahotu Playcentre are celebrating

their 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee on their leased premises at Rahotu School, through the Memorial Gates.

*On Thursday May 26 (9.30am to 12.30pm) will be an Open Day at their premises on the Rahotu School grounds, through the Memorial Gates. A Meet and Mingle will be held on Friday May 27 at the Coastal Rugby Clubrooms (6.30 till late).*

President of Rahotu Playcentre Kat Newsome has worked hard with Maree Ngaia and the other members of the Jubilee Committee to organise this event. “We are trying to find past presidents. We are hoping that people will call and fill in the gaps,” explains Kat.

At the **Open Day** it will be a great chance to meet

members and past members, as well as also to see what the 28 or so children have been doing, especially their art work. There will be a selection of old photos on display which should bring back fond memories for many past members. Has anyone got a photo of the original premises - a private house on Kahui Road?

A morning tea will be provided and an important event will be the Cake Cutting Ceremony, which will feature Tilly Fleming whose association with the Playcentre goes well back.

Kat is keen to hear stories from past members and (as explained earlier) needs more information on past presidents. There will be a Celebration Book

where people can record information and personal memories.

Outside activities will include planting a Jubilee tree – a fruit tree from New Life Nursery in Opunake. “Future members can pick the fruit,” commented Kat.

The planting of a time capsule is also planned. This will contain a group photo of current members as well as the children’s art work. Kat welcomes any other ideas.

The **Meet and Mingle** will be held at the Coastal Rugby Clubrooms, Rahotu Road, Rahotu. From 6.30pm. This will be your chance to meet present Playcentre members and former ones as well, view photos and share happy memories. It is hoped that photographs from each decade can be taken.

Our Celebration Book will be on hand so people can contribute their thoughts and information in writing. Supper is provided and the Bar is available.

Tickets (\$10) are available from Rahotu Four Square, Rahotu School Office as well as the Rahotu Playcentre. You can also phone the numbers (below).

After a welcome by Marie Ngaia there will be set speeches by Kat and others after which others will be welcome to share their memories. Kat is seeking nominations for Playcentre members (past and present) worthy of becoming Life Members. If you want to know more phone Karen 021 396 158, Jeni 027 420 6354 or join our Facebook page (Type in ‘Rahotu Playcentre 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee’).

## RAHOTU PLAYCENTRE

# 50<sup>th</sup> JUBILEE

## OPEN DAY

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 9:30am – 12:30pm  
Rahotu School, Main Road, RAHOTU

Meet Current Playcentre Families  
Morning tea provided  
Cake Cutting Ceremony  
Bury Time Capsule  
Plant Jubilee Tree

## MEET & MINGLE

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 6:30pm  
Coastal Rugby Clubrooms, Rahotu Road, RAHOTU

Gather with past & present Playcentre members to share memories, view photos & contribute to our Celebration Book  
Supper provided Bar available

Tickets \$10 per head

Tickets available from: Rahotu Four Square, Rahotu School Office & Rahotu Playcentre



Rahotu Playcentre president Kat Newsome.

For more information call:  
Karen Helms 021 396 158  
Jeni Kettlewell 027 420 6354



Join our Facebook Page  
Rahotu Playcentre 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee

Whānau tupu ngātahi - families growing together

# Chris' K9 Dog Treats

Since 2012 Chris Whitmore of Bell Block has been making and selling his dog treats – 'Chris' K9 Krunchies'. He is helped by his parents Jan and Ken who live with him. "I love cooking," he declares.

The product is basically a non-meat type of dog biscuits, which are made from wholemeal flour, rolled oats, peanut butter, with no added salt, sugar or preservative. Dogs love them. The product has airtight packaging with a 'Best by' date and comes in three different sizes.

The dog treats are available for Coastal dogs at Opunake's Coastal Care in Napier Street, using an honesty box system. Otherwise you can make an order by using Chris' email [chrisdogtreats@gmail.com](mailto:chrisdogtreats@gmail.com)

Chris' product has become quite famous with his appearance on television's Seven Sharp back in July 2014. "I had had lots of fun," says Chris. This exposure led to "hundreds of orders" for a while. Actually Chris has travelled quite widely during the promotion of his product – even as far south as Dunedin.

Chris also has a half hour slot on Access Radio Taranaki 104.4 FM where he promotes 'My Kind of

music'. You can catch this at 3pm every Tuesday.

Come along to Coastal Care and buy a packet or two of Chris' K9 Krunchies – you

owe that much to your dog! Chris, Jan and Ken wish to thank Coastal Care for this opportunity to promote and sell the dog treats.



Chris Whitmore with a selection of his dog treat products, Chris' K9 Krunchies.

## EVERYBODY'S THEATRE

Opunake - MOVIES - BOUTIQUE THEATRE – HIRE

For information email: [everybodystheatre@gmail.com](mailto:everybodystheatre@gmail.com) or check facebook- Everybody's Theatre  
[www.everybodystheatre.co.nz](http://www.everybodystheatre.co.nz)

Lollies, popcorn, drinks, ice-creams, chocolate bars, tea/coffee for sale
Adults \$10, Students 4-16 \$8 Under 4 Free Senior Citizens \$8. No Eft-pos

<p><b>The Greenstone</b> A young South African woman leaves everything behind and travels to New Zealand on a quest to find her father. Will she find him? <b>Friday 20 May 7pm</b> <b>Wednesday 25 May 1pm</b></p>	<p><b>Zootopia</b> PG   1hr48   Animation, Action, Adventure A rookie bunny cop and a cynical con artist fox must work together to uncover a conspiracy. <b>Saturday 14 May 1pm</b></p>
<p><b>Divergent: Allegiant</b> Adventure, Science Fiction   121mins   M   Violence The third entry in the series <b>Sunday 8 May 7pm</b> <b>Wednesday 11 May 7pm</b></p>	<p><b>My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2</b> PG13   94min   Comedy Romance A Portokalos family secret brings the beloved characters back together for an even bigger and greener wedding. <b>Friday 13 May 7pm</b> <b>Saturday 21 May 7pm</b></p>
<p><b>Hunt for the Wilderpeople</b> Comedy, 93min, PG13 A national manhunt is ordered for a rebellious kid and his foster uncle who go missing in the wild New Zealand bush. <b>Saturday 7 May 7pm</b> <b>Wednesday 11 May 1pm</b></p>	<p><b>Mahana</b> Drama, Historical   M   Sexual references &amp; content that may disturb The story of a rivalry between two sheep-shearing families set on New Zealand's East Coast in the 1960s. Stars our very own Temuera. <b>Friday 6 May 7pm</b> <b>Sunday 15 May 7pm</b></p>
<p><b>Whiskey Tango Foxtrot</b> 112min Comedy War In 2002, cable news producer Kim Barker decides to shake up her routine by taking a daring new assignment in Kabul, Afghanistan. <b>Saturday 14 May 7pm</b> <b>Wednesday 18 May 7pm</b> <b>Sunday 22 May 7pm</b></p>	<p><b>The Jungle Book</b> PG 105min Adventure Drama Family The man-cub Mowgli flees the jungle after a threat from the tiger Shere Khan. <b>Wednesday 18 May 1pm</b> <b>Saturday 28 May 1pm</b></p>

Wednesday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	6 Mahana 7pm	7 Kung Fu Panda 3 1pm Hunt for the Wilderpeople 7pm	8 Divergent: Allegiant 7pm
11 Hunt for the Wilderpeople 1pm Divergent: Allegiant 7pm	13 My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 7pm	14 Zootopia 1pm Whiskey Tango Foxtrot 7pm	15 Mahana 7pm
18 Jungle Book 1pm Whiskey Tango Foxtrot 7pm	20 The Greenstone 7pm	21 Robinson Crusoe 1pm My Big Fat Greek Wedding 7pm	22 Whiskey Tango Foxtrot 7pm

## CoastalCare Health and Community Centre

CoastalCare, located on Napier Street, Opunake was opened in early April last year. The new building was designed to deliver essential community health and social services now and into the future for all of us living in the coastal area. Please read on to see what services you can obtain from CoastalCare and then take a moment to complete the questionnaire above and return it to us. We really want to hear your ideas about what additional services might be needed. All named returned questionnaires will go into the draw to win a \$100 of gift vouchers. Either drop into the reception at CoastalCare or mail to us, (address on other side) by 25th April 2016 to be in the draw.

### The regular services we currently have running are:

- \* Budget Advice - advice and assistance with budgets and finances - every second Wednesday
- \* Lisa Keen Audiology - Free hearing screening and custom hearing devices and protection - every 2nd Wed
- \* Tui Ora - Haumiri massage koha based - every third Friday
- \* Tui Ora - Alcohol and Drug counselling - weekly one to one counselling
- \* Plunket - coffee morning every second Tuesday - to meet other new parents and share information on parenting.
- \* Taranaki Podiatry - every 3rd Tuesday - specialised foot care for all ages in clinics
- \* Foodbank - Tuesday's and Wednesday's 10am - 2pm - providing basic food parcels for those in need.
- \* Sias Hoffman -one to one counselling for any need, specialising in anxiety, depression and relationship therapy.
- \* Dairy NZ - once a month course - delivers industry training to those in the Dairy industry.
- \* Primary ITO - Milk quality courses - a one day course looking at how to get the best quality milk production.
- \* Community Corrections - weekly - supporting offenders to help them address their offending and gain skills that will help them lead a crime-free life.

### Also permanently residing in the building are:

- \* Opunake Pharmacy - a wide variety of exceptional Pharmacy services
- \* Opunake Medical Centre - a full range of General Practice and Nursing services.
- \* St Johns Ambulance -an ambulance service, first aid training courses and medical alarm service.
- \* Plunket - providing support to parents on childcare and parenting, regularly assess the health and development of children from birth up to the age of five.
- \* Health Board services in a one to one setting please note a number of these services need a Health Professional referral:
- \* Alcohol and Drug service - assessment and treatment services for clients with alcohol and/or drug misuse, or people affected by another's alcohol and/or drug addiction.
- \* Child and Adolescent Mental Health - for age 5-18 with a focus on the more serious mental health difficulties.
- \* Clinical Pharmacist - support and information with medication usage for people with diabetes and various heart conditions.
- \* Diabetes Educator -support with managing and monitoring Diabetes.
- \* Dietician - support and information for nutrition and diet for people with diabetes and various heart conditions.
- \* Paediatrician - diagnosing and monitoring any medical conditions for babies and children.
- \* Public Health Nurse - registered nurse working within the kindergartens and schools for a wide range of concerns.
- \* Social Worker - information and extra support and services for people with diabetes and various heart conditions.

**CONTACT: ARETHA, MANAGER, on 761 8488**



## CoastalCare Health and Community Centre Questionnaire

1. Did you know we have all the services listed?      Yes      No

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

2. How would you like to hear about any new services we have? (select as many as you like)

Email    CoastalNews    Facebook    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

3. Are there any Services we don't provide that you would use?      Yes      No

4.      If Yes what Services would you like see provided?

5.      Any other comments you would like to make

Thank you very much for your input - we appreciate and value your input as this will help us with future planning and services offered.

I wish to be in the Gift Basket Draw

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to be on our newsletter list, please provide your email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to : Coastal Care, Freepost PO Box 101, Opunake 4616

*What's On* **butlers reef**

♥♥ **Bring Mum in for Lunch or Dinner** ♥♥  
and go in the draw to win a **\$300 package!**  
Open Musicians afternoon also on Sunday, May 8

**1133 Main South Rd, Oakura**  
**Phone 06 752 7765 - www.butlersreef.co.nz**

**Calling all Entertainers**  
7:30pm Tuesday, 10th May 2016  
Young, old, amateur, professional.

Are you a musician, singer, actor, poet or dancer?  
Do you have a talent that can entertain?

Colour Conversions (Video, Audio and Graphic Productions) are holding regular performance driven evenings that will result in creating an entertainment platform for covers and original performances.

Join us for the beginning of a new opportunity - be part of future live shows.  
Bring your own instruments, basic amplification will be provided.

Call us on 027 897 8941 for details. The Thirteenth gathering - 7:30pm Tuesday 10th May 2016  
Catholic Church, 33 Whitcombe Road, Opunake.

Web Site [www.colourconversions.com](http://www.colourconversions.com)

**Colour Conversions Limited**  
Video, Audio and Graphic productions  
027 897 8941

# A closet guitarist with a passion for blues

It requires courage to walk into a room full of strangers, but it helps to soothe your nerves when you find there's a relaxed atmosphere and people who share the same passion.

Tony Leatherby, local Opunake resident and father of two, plucked up the courage to play his guitar at the Opunake Music Workshops on Tuesday April 26. At first he was unsure if he should retrieve his instrument from the car, but I assured him that the evening would be fairly informal, so he did.

Having heard positive feedback from parents of children who have attended the sessions, he decided to come along and give it a go after spotting the advert in the local newspaper. Braving the elements, he ventured to the stage area, jamming with regular musicians at the Music Group: Noel Gillie (folk singer/songwriter/guitarist, Bernice McKellar on keyboards, and Dennis Carswell singing lead vocals).

According to Tony, music runs in the family, his mother is a pianist based in New Plymouth, and his uncle a professional singer in Australia.

"As a kid I used to have an old guitar, but I've never played in bands or had any



**Tony Leatherby (left) and Dennis Carswell, enjoying their music.**

formal training. I packed my guitar away for many years, and started playing again about four years ago. I suppose you could say I'm a closet guitarist, because I just play at home," Tony said.

When asked what type of music he favoured, an instant response was "the blues."

Currently studying with

U.C.O.P. (Universal College of Learning) as an adult student, and completing a Diploma in Enrolled Nursing, Tony confided, "It's quite challenging, but I'm determined to graduate in March 2017".

Good luck with your studies Tony, you're an inspiration. Keep up your guitar playing,

you have a special talent which deserves to be heard by the public.

Anyone who would like to develop their talents further and needs a platform to increase confidence, please join us at 7:30PM on Tuesday May 10 at the Catholic Church lounge, 33 Whitcombe Rd, Opunake.

*Anne Montgomery*

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New Plymouth Girls' High School is a school that undertakes to ensure that the young women entering its gates will receive an education that enhances learning and is responsive to individual needs. Our platform of traditional values encourages respect, responsibility and positive relationships. What we offer is a unique opportunity to be educated at one of New Zealand's oldest, most prestigious state girl's schools that is committed to the education of young women.

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We also have outstanding support services delivered by staff out of our Careers, Learning Support and Wellness Centres and our special needs unit, Waimarie.

**Scotlands Hostel**  
**OPEN DAY & Interviews for 2017**  
**Friday 27th May 2016 - 9am - 3pm**

We invite you to join with us on the next phase of your educational journey by making New Plymouth Girls' High School your first choice in secondary education.

[www.npghs.school.nz](http://www.npghs.school.nz)

New Plymouth Girls' High School  
Private Bag 2049  
New Plymouth, 4342 New Zealand  
For Interviews call 06 7573840